Promoting Equity in Recovery Services

- Defining Equity Gaps
- Youth Prevention
- Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention
- Criminal Justice Initiatives
Defining Equity Gaps

- Will use community process and partnerships to:
  - Engage communities that are often left out of the conversation about substance use and recovery services
  - Better understand how Boston’s Black and Latinx communities conceptualize substance use, addiction, and recovery services
  - Identify gaps in care and barriers to accessing recovery services for Black and Latinx communities in Boston
  - Identify possible approaches to addressing these barriers to care
Youth Prevention

- Released “Youth Substance Use Prevention Strategic Plan” in summer 2018
  - Partnership with MGH and BCBSMAF
  - Emphasis on ensuring that prevention efforts promote racial, ethnic, and economic equity
  - Majority of BPS students (86%) identify as Black, Latino/a, or Asian, but prevention efforts statewide are often geared towards white, upper-middle class students
Youth Prevention

- Since the launch of the Strategic Plan:
  - **Equity Change Project** with the Network of Coalitions
  - LifeSkills Learning Collaborative to adapt evidence-based curriculum for Boston students
  - Developing recommendations to address substance use for **youth who are currently using**
  - **Skills-based training** for youth-serving professionals across city departments (BPHC-CAFH, BPS, BCYF)
  - **Expanding partnerships** across underrepresented neighborhoods
Harm Reduction & Overdose Prevention

- Received funding from Office of Minority Health (OMH) to **reduce the impact of the opioid crisis in Dorchester, Roxbury and Mattapan**
- Objectives:
  - Partner with **community health centers** to address gaps in care and/or services for persons who use drugs
  - Provide **training and technical assistance** to improve community capacity to respond to the opioid crisis, including harm reduction, safe injection practices, overdose prevention, and engagement strategies
  - Expand **street-level outreach** and engagement to persons who use drugs
Criminal Justice Initiatives

○ **People of color represent three-quarters of those convicted of mandatory minimum drug offenses in Massachusetts** though they make up less than one-quarter of the Commonwealth’s population (Boston Indicators Project)

○ New initiatives focused on:
  ○ Supporting individuals re-entering from incarceration
  ○ Educating key stakeholders on SUD and diversion opportunities
  ○ Increasing diversion from the criminal justice system
A Year in Review: Highlights

• Filed Civil Litigation in Suffolk Superior Courts against Opioid Manufacturers and Distributors
• Launched Long Island Planning Process
• Shattuck Planning Process
• Visit to Toronto and Montreal Safe Consumption Sites
• Joint Strategic Planning Process for ORS and BRS
Thank You!