Boston Youth Resiliency & Recovery Collaborative

a Program of the Boston Public Health Commission’s Division of Violence Prevention & the Boston Office of Recovery Services

The goal of the Boston Youth Resiliency & Recovery Collaborative (BYRRC) is to support Boston youth and families affected by the opioid crisis and substance use broadly through the creation of a citywide, data-driven, cross-sector collaborative plan to catalyze positive community and systems change.

Key Objectives
1) Community-Driven Data Collection
2) Cross-sector Collaboration
3) Equity-focused Implementation Strategies
4) Sustainability

Draft 2021-2022 Implementation Strategies

Strategy 1) Strengthening Equitable Access to Mental & Behavioral Health Services through learning and support collaboratives for individuals and agencies designed to promote retention and advancement of providers working with youth and families

Strategy 2) Promoting Youth Leadership & Education through funding existing youth peer leadership programs to deliver youth-led tailored substance use prevention education within their sites and communities

Strategy 3) Enhancing Cross-Sector Collaboration through targeted outreach and support to agencies to strengthen referral networks and build data management systems

All activities will be supported by the Task Force, Steering Committee, youth & caregiver advisory groups, ongoing evaluation, and a public awareness campaign to engage residents in our work

For more information, please contact Alyssa Benalfew, abenalfew@bphc.org or call/text (857) 332-6198

Core Values

- Recognizing historical harms, and community resiliency & resistance
- Centering health equity and a trauma-informed approach
- We strive to be participatory, youth-led and to honor, align with and expand upon existing work.

2020 Activities

- 40 agencies engaged, 15 stakeholder gatherings, 14 stakeholders interviews
- Five youth trained in focus group facilitation, ~48 youth participants, 96 youth survey respondents, and 25 caregiver focus group participants
- ~$6000 in direct funds to youth and caregivers since August 2020 with directing funding to the community a key priority during implementation