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Community Research Advisory Board Incorporated: Where the Community and Researchers Meet

HORIZON Center, University of Massachusetts Boston

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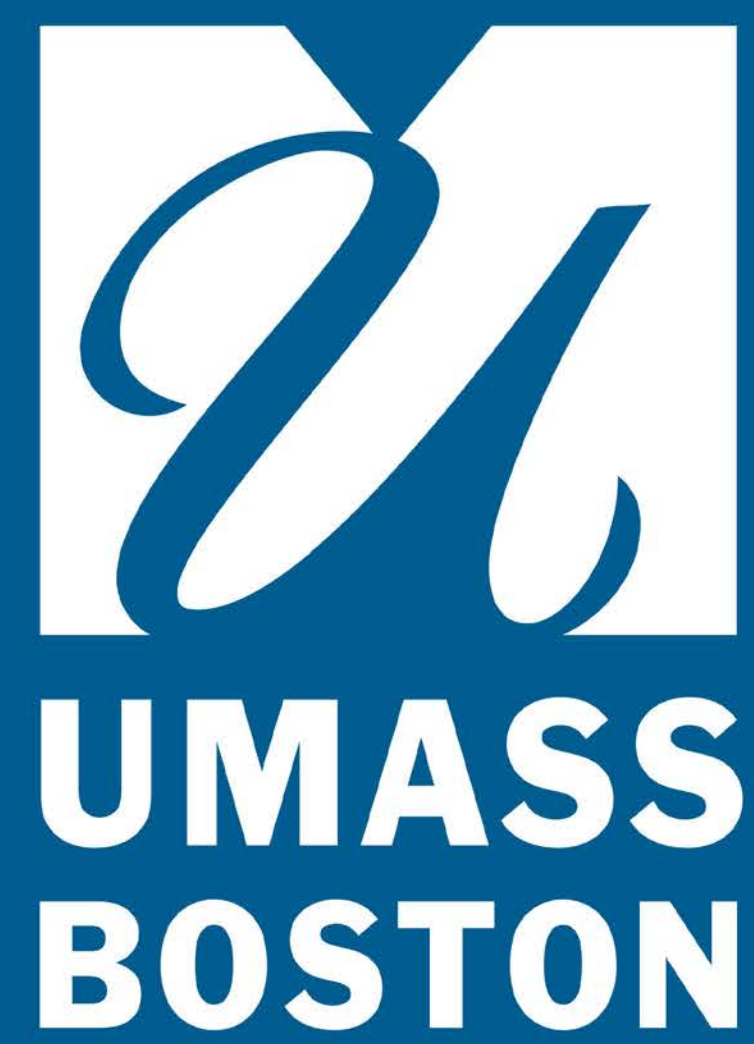
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Community Research Advisory Board Incorporated: Where the Community and Researchers Meet

Affiliated with the HORIZON Center at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Summary

CRAB is an incorporated Community Research Advisory Board that serves as a bridge to connect Roxbury residents and other inner Boston neighborhoods to research institutions in a mutually beneficial effort. These efforts increase knowledge and promote understanding about how community-based participatory research (CBPR) can help eliminate disparities in health and health care, thereby improving the health and well-being of people of color.

CBPR is a collaborative approach to research, in which the research topic is a priority identified by the community. All partners and stakeholders contribute unique strengths and knowledge, and are involved equitably throughout the process.

Goals and Objectives

- ❖ To be a resource connecting the community to research relevant to the health issues facing our community
- ❖ To develop interest in the community to take part in research as participants and future researchers
- ❖ To secure funding and partnerships for educational initiatives in the community regarding health disparities relevant to our community

Results/Impacts

- ❖ In 2012, CRAB received a 501(c) 3 non profit organization tax designation. CRAB Inc. is now a free standing organization eligible and equipped to receive grants and partner with other groups interested in addressing health disparities in local minority populations.
- ❖ Several Board members have attended national Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) Conferences. They received training and certification in targeted Institutional Review Board (IRB) skill sets.

Approaches and Methods

- ❖ Through literature reviews and conferences, we have looked at similar community advisory groups nationally for best practices in working with researchers for meaningful impact in the community.
- ❖ We have had researchers come to the group with questions about how and where to access participants representing the community for research studies.
- ❖ CRAB Inc., working in affiliation with members of the COHS coalition, is also available to develop new research projects with academic partners.



Conclusion/Next Steps

- ❖ Board members are trained to serve as community members of IRB boards and to consult, advise, and consent on academic research projects conducted in the community. One Board member is currently a community representative on a Boston Medical Center IRB and others have been invited to join local IRBs.
- ❖ Hold forums in the community to find out what health issues are of most concern for the community and how to address them in a culturally appropriate method.

References and Resources

For more information visit us at:
<http://horizon.umb.edu/crab>

Additional Information

The HORIZON Center is an Exploratory Center of Excellence funded by 5P20MD002290 from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities ([NIMHD](#)).

The Executive Director of Quincy/Geneva Housing Corp. an active member of CRAB Inc.