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Boston Children Thrive in 5: Connecting Families, Building Community (Presentation Slides)

Donna Haig Friedman

University of Massachusetts Boston, donna.friedman@umb.edu

Mary Coonan

University of Massachusetts Boston, Mary.Coonan@umb.edu

Anne Douglass

University of Massachusetts Boston, anne.douglass@umb.edu

Alice Carter

University of Massachusetts Boston, alice.carter@umb.edu

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BCT

BOSTON CHILDREN THRIVE IN 5:
CONNECTING FAMILIES, BUILDING COMMUNITY

AUTHORED BY

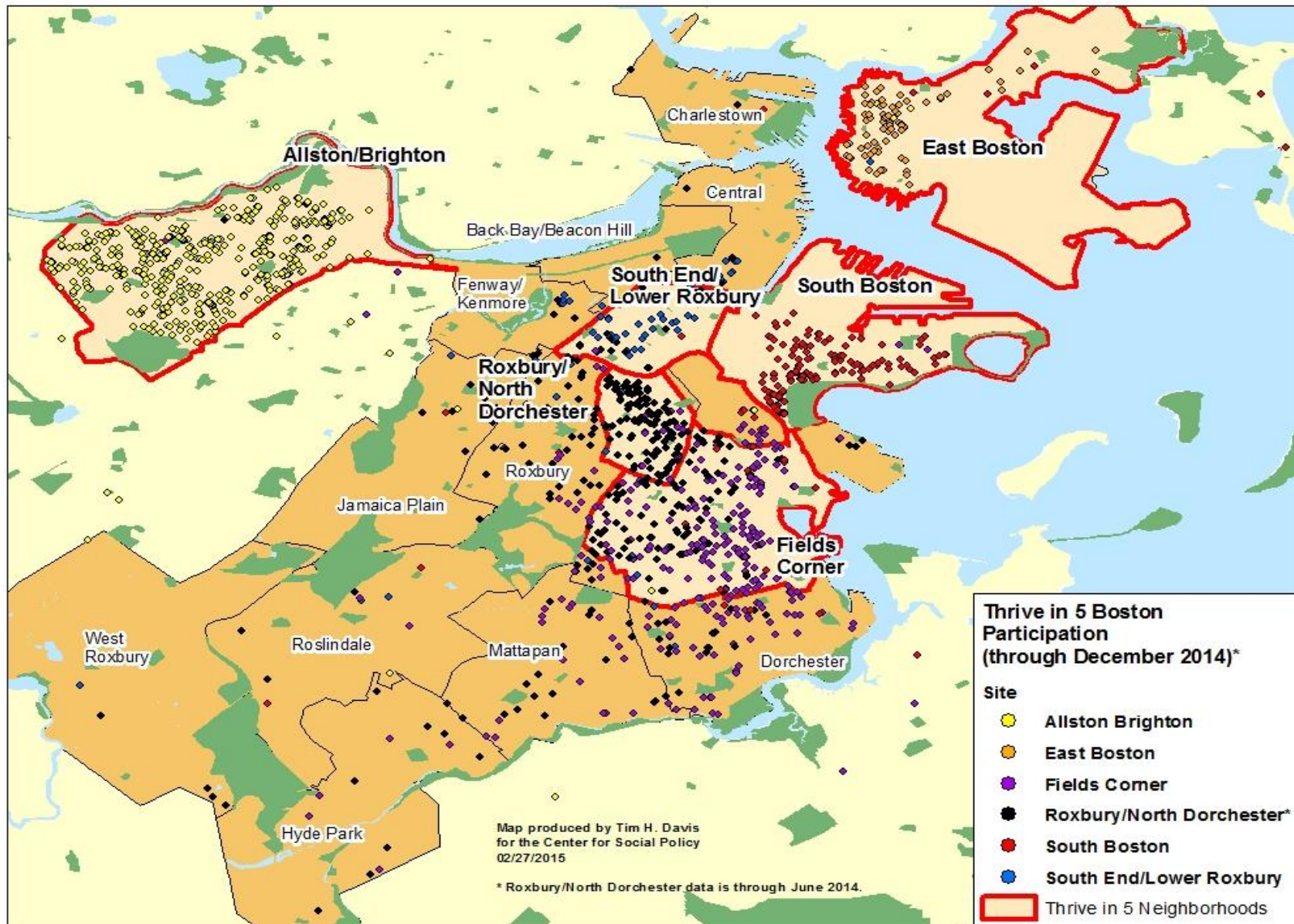
A UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS BOSTON
CROSS DISCIPLINARY TEAM

Donna Haig Friedman, Ph.D., Center for Social Policy
Mary Coonan, M.S., Center for Social Policy
Anne Douglass, Ph.D., College of Education and Human Development
Alice Carter, Ph.D., Department of Psychology

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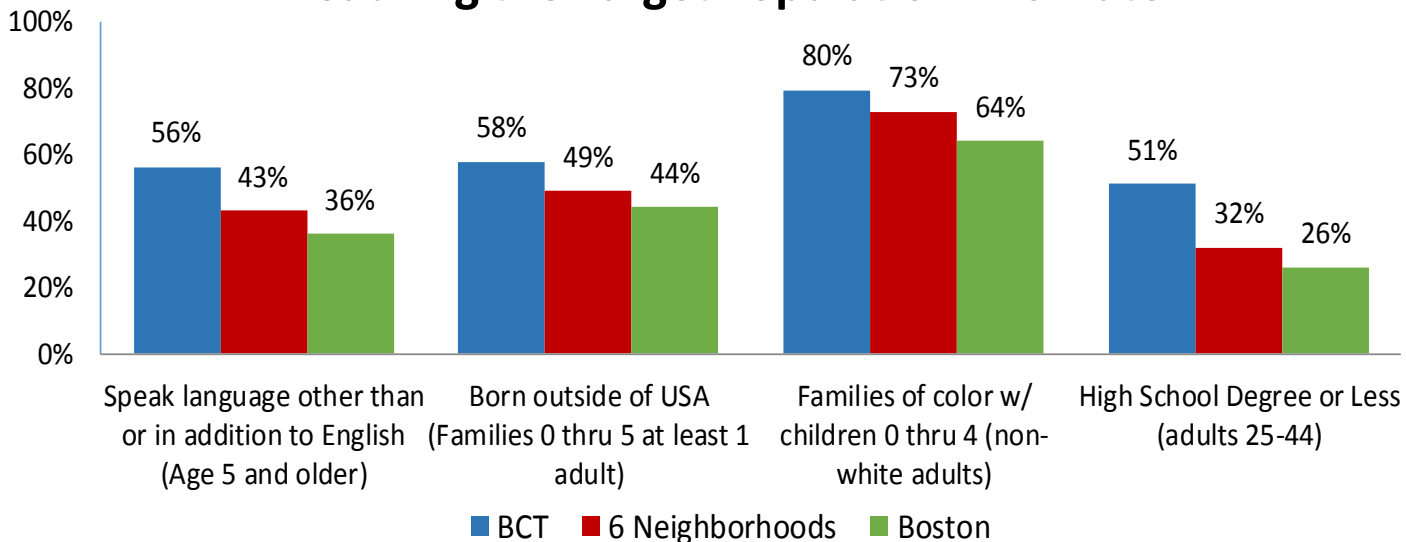
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BCT – Successful at Reaching the Target Population

- BCT is currently reaching 24% of ALL children birth through five and their families across the six neighborhoods.
- 66% of all families across the six sites live in poverty – the population most likely to be affected by the achievement gap.
- 59% of children ages birth through five living in poverty in the original 5 neighborhoods (n= 3351)

Reaching the Target Population - To Date



Key Components

- ***A hub agency*** (lead agency) responsible for convening, organizing, and providing a backbone structure for local efforts to advance children's development.
- ***Parent partners*** (parent leaders) from diverse linguistic and racial backgrounds
- ***School Readiness Roundtable*** (SRR), a leadership board comprised of partnering agencies, parent leaders, and other key stakeholders.
- ***An array of programs for families*** offered by the hub agency and other members of the SRR.
- ***A membership card system*** (launched in 2012), where a membership card with a bar code for each adult caregiver is issued to participating families. The card is designed to be scanned when families participate in planned activities.
- ***A learning community***, comprised of hub agency and parent representatives from each neighborhood convened by ***a citywide convening organization***, enabling each neighborhood to access resources and keep its eyes on the citywide goal.

Key Findings

- The parent partner leadership model worked:
 - fostered social cohesion within the neighborhood,
 - enhanced parenting skills,
 - built a cadre of parent leaders, and
 - reached families least connected to services.
- Participating agencies shifted practices or the way they did their work
- The program fostered cross-site collaboration and encouraged new partnerships (especially with WIC)
- The membership card provided information for ongoing learning and a vehicle for connecting families
- Limited success in building a city-wide campaign

Interview with a HUB Agency

"...The new norm is 'ask the Parent Partners'. Three or four years ago, I would be asking our five main agencies. Now, they even call and ask us....'can you ask the Parent Partners about this or that?'...that's what the talk is all about. We're looking for the parent's perspective. I think that's a huge shift, because it wasn't that way four years ago. Of course, we could always do a survey for parents on what they wanted....but nothing with actual parent representatives..."

Recommendations

- Build upon Boston Children Thrive successes: solidify and replicate across the city
 - *Connection with Boston Family Engagement Network --- Parent Leadership*
 - *Membership Card approach --- use of technology*
 - *Essential Role of Citywide Convening Organization*
- Lots to learn from other cities/jurisdictions:
 - *Financing and Organizational Governance*

Financing and Governance Examples

Jurisdiction	Financing Approach	Organizational Governance Approach
Denver and Colorado	Colorado Child Care Contribution Credit Race to the Top funds	Early Childhood Councils
First 5 California	Tobacco tax -- \$.50/pack	Early Childhood Commission in each county
Florida	Maximum of \$100 per \$1,000 of property tax valuation --- since 1987	Eight Children's Services Council across the state
Louisiana, Arkansas, Maine and Vermont	Each uses some kind of tax credit to advance school readiness initiatives	

Links to Other Jurisdictions

Community	Video
Alameda County, CA First 5 Alameda County	https://www.dropbox.com/s/qrr98u4nvd59xj4/Project%20LAUNCH%207%20minute.mp4?dl=0
Boston, MA Thrive in 5	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQj7P9vDsbk
Denver, CO Denver Early Childhood Council	http://denverearlychildhood.org/ http://denverearlychildhood.org/our-work/child-health/
Hartford, CT Office for Community Child Health Connecticut Children's Medical Center Hartford Department of Families, Children, Youth & Recreation	https://www.dropbox.com/sh/uppkb64rce6idrx/AACdVnCM0tIBJgNcr-iltXria?dl=0 https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9wfdc29ik6b4joi/AAC0Or784vRXEG2oWFuUbrEva?oref=e&n=404010516
Kent County, MI First Steps Great Start Collaborative	https://www.dropbox.com/s/6c7bqlar0j8gprt/15mar12%20sse%20free%20preschool%20english.mov?dl=0
Lamoille Valley, VT Lamoille Family Center Building Bright Futures Regional Council	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8-CNp6ZMnZU http://digital.vpr.net/post/take-photos-and-build-confidence-women-venture-montreal
Orange County, CA Children & Families Commission of Orange County	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNPqootmJU0 http://momsorangecounty.org/changinglives_main.asp
Palm Beach County, FL Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-qgFWF1Gc4&feature=player_detailpage
Ventura County, CA First 5 Ventura County	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nSlbPhmMBZA&feature=youtu.be https://youtu.be/k2ITgJFNr78

THANK YOU!

THE FULL BOSTON CHILDREN THRIVE YEAR 4
EVALUATION REPORT IS AVAILABLE ON THE
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