

Memorandum of Understanding

Boston Promise Initiative

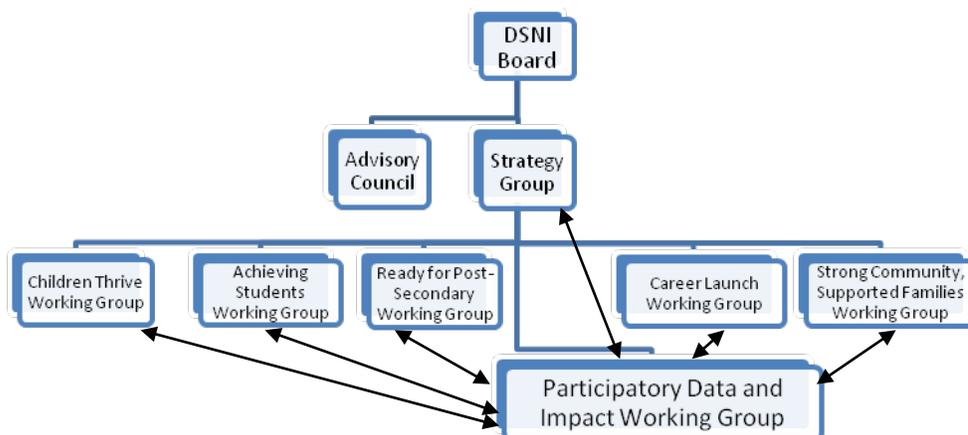
I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlines the agreement between the partners listed below to participate as planning partners in the Boston Promise Initiative (BPI) Planning Year. The overall purpose of the planning year is to plan and support creation of an infrastructure of policies, practices, systems, and resources that supports the continuum of solutions in the proposed Promise Neighborhood and scales up those elements of the continuum that are proven effective.

II. Term

This MOU is in effect from July 1, 2010 and will end upon submission of the Boston Promise Neighborhood Implementation Grant Request or July 1, 2011, whichever comes first. This MOU may be terminated prior to the effective end date upon the full written approval of all the partners or termination of grant funds.

III. Governance Structure



The Boston Promise Initiative (BPI) is accountable first and foremost to the members of the Dudley neighborhood through the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) Board of Directors, a 34-member body elected by members¹ of this neighborhood. Community-wide board elections are held every two years at the DSNI Annual Meeting.

DSNI is the lead agency for BPI, and is accountable to both the U.S. Department of Education (ED) and to the Dudley Community. The DSNI Board of Directors will make all final decisions, approve all budgets and maintain full fiscal and programmatic accountability for all aspects of the project.

The **BPI Advisory Council** is an appointed committee, invited by the DSNI Board of Directors to serve as advisors and supporters for the Planning Process as well as for future implementation and scaling up efforts. The Advisory Council will include members of the broader (Boston) community who oversee institutions and/or agencies which are aligned and partnered with the BPI, including but not limited to elected officials, agency directors, religious organizational leaders, civic leaders and others. The Advisory Council does not make binding decisions, but provides advice and counsel to the DSNI Board on matters related to the BPI.

The DSNI Board of Directors will also regularly rely upon recommendations for action and specific next steps which come from the **BPI Strategy Group**. The roles of the Strategy Group are to work through a strategic planning process, engage a cross-section of key stakeholders, and make the linkages between parts of the continuum. The Strategy Group will be the primary driver for the development of the BPI Implementation Plan, to be designed, drafted and approved by the DSNI Board by June 30, 2011.

¹ A “member” of the Dudley neighborhood is anyone who lives and/or works in the Dudley neighborhood. All members of the neighborhood are eligible to participate in the elections through voting and/or running for one of the seats on the Board.

The Continuum of Solutions will be crafted by six **Pathways Working Groups**. Each group has primarily responsibility for analysis and recommendations to the Strategy Group around a specific aspect of life for children and families in the Boston Promise Initiative. Each Pathways Working Group will have two co-chairs (one resident and one “institutional” partner, i.e. a representative from a nonprofit, school, business or other agency) and will have a lead staff person from the DSNI team to support their work and help connect it to the other parts of the BPI project. The six Pathways Working Groups are as follows:

- Children Thrive Working Group (0-5)
- Achieving Students Working Group (K-8 & turnaround schools)
- Ready for Post Secondary Working Group (high school to college)
- Career Launch Working Group (college and career readiness)
- Supported Families Strong Communities Working Group (family /community support)
- Participatory Data and Impact Working Group (data)

IV. Partners

We, the undersigned, support the goals, theory of change, theory of action and plan for the BPI Planning Year as described in the Boston Promise Neighborhood Proposal for Federal Assistance. Each of our agencies and institutions agrees to participate as outlined in the Proposal and, where appropriate, to offer staffing and support to the various Committees outlined above.

Each of the Partners’ institutional theory of change and action, as indicated through their mission or similar statements, appears above their Chief Executive’s signature.

City Government and Departments

The City of Boston [including the Public Health Commission, Housing Authority, Centers for Youth and Families, Inspectional Services, Transportation Department and other departments needed for the Boston Promise Initiative].

The City of Boston's agencies work together to make Boston a great place to live by addressing the city's fundamental needs, issues of equality, and economic vitality

Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Chief Executive

Date

The Boston Public Schools

Providing effective teaching and learning to prepare all of our students to achieve at high levels, and to engage the entire community to focus on children

Superintendent Carol Johnson, Chief Executive

Date

The Boston Police Department

Dedicated to work in partnership with the community to fight crime, reduce fear and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

Commissioner Edward Davis

Date

Higher Education Institutions

The University of Massachusetts

The University of Massachusetts Boston, one of five campuses of the University of Massachusetts, is nationally recognized as a model of excellence for urban universities. A comprehensive, doctoral-granting campus, we provide challenging teaching, distinguished research, and extensive service which particularly respond to the academic and economic needs of the state's urban areas and their diverse populations

J. Keith Motley, Ph.D
Chancellor

Date

Roxbury Community College

Roxbury Community College, the only Historically Black College in the City of Boston, provides residents of the greater Boston area, "optimum opportunity for access to a college education consistent with their interests and aptitudes and to reduce to a minimum economic, social, psychological and academic barriers to educational opportunity." The college's goals are the result of ideas generated by and from the college community and reflect a response to the needs of the larger Roxbury community.

Dr. Terrence A. Gomes, President

Date

Local Schools and Educational Policies

Orchard Gardens K-8

A Boston Public Schools K-8 pilot school with a "Community Building" theme that provides students the skill and knowledge for success in academics and life through music, art, technology and physical education, during, before and after-school programs in a beautiful state-of-the-art building.

Andrew Bott, Principal

Date

Henry Dearborn Middle School

Provide students the skills and knowledge to read and comprehend a variety of materials at grade level or above; perform at the proficient level on state and district standards and show continuous improvement; develop critical thinking and problem solving skills; and cultivate social maturity and self confidence.

Jose Duarte, Principal

Date

The Boston School Committee

The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools. The School Committee is responsible for establishing the policies, staffing and fiscal vitality that ensures Boston Public School can realize its mission and provide quality education.

Reverend Gregory Groover, Chair

Date

Early Education and Child Development

Thrive in Five

Thrive in 5 works with all the people who support young children - their families, early care and education providers, health and human service providers, and their city - to ensure that every child in Boston has the nurturing early care and experiences that provide a solid foundation for success in school and in life.

John Lippitt, Executive Director

Date

Children's Services of Roxbury

CSR strives to provide high quality services and programs to economically disadvantaged children, youth, families and individuals, thereby promoting and strengthening family life and individual growth.

Pam Ogletree, Executive Director

Date

Boston Children's Museum

Boston Children's Museum exists to help children and families enjoy, understand and become active citizens of the world in which they live. We want children to grow up as successful learners who respect others and the natural world. We encourage imagination, curiosity, investigation, innovation, and play.

Dr. David Ellis, President

Date

High School Transition / College to Career

The Boston Private Industry Council

PIC connects the youth and adults of Boston to education and employment opportunities.

The PIC identifies labor and skill shortages, then crafts innovative initiatives that respond to the needs of employers and local residents.

Neil Sullivan, Executive Director

Date

Artists for Humanity

Our mission is to bridge economic, social and racial divisions by providing underserved youth with the keys to self-sufficiency through paid employment in the arts.

Susan Rodgerson, Executive/Artistic Director

Date

Boston Museum of Science

The Museum's mission is to play a leading role in transforming the nation's relationship with science and technology.

Joannis (Yannis) N. Miaoulis, Director and President.

Date

Family and Community Support

DotWell – Partnership between Codman Square Health Center and Dorchester House Multi Service Center

Provides integrated clinical and community services that addresses health disparities, build social capital, and meet the complex needs of our communities.

Bill Walczak, Co-Chief Executive Officer Date

Joel Abrams, Co-Chief Executive Officer Date

Action for Boston Community Development, Inc.

Boston's antipoverty agency, serving more than 100,000 low-income Greater Boston residents through the development and delivery of innovative and highly accountable programs; these range from Head Start and early education through afterschool , alternative high school, adult education, workforce development and college transition programs, as well as youth and adult employment services, housing assistance, health services, elder services and comprehensive asset development. ABCD's consumer Board and neighborhood-based structure allow for a high level of flexibility and responsiveness to local community needs.

John Drew, President/ CEO Date

Project Hope

Project Hope is a multi-service agency at the forefront of efforts in Boston to move families beyond homelessness and poverty. It provides low-income women with children with access to education, jobs, housing, and emergency services; fosters their personal transformation; and works for broader systems change.

Sr. Margaret Leonard, Executive Director Date

Faith-Based Community and After School Programs

The Black Ministerial Alliance

Providing spiritual nurture for clergy, advocacy, and program services for the larger Black community

Reverend David Wright, Executive Director

Date

Charles Street AME Church

Our mission is to advocate for the needs of community residents and to strengthen individuals, families, and the community by providing social, educational, economic, and cultural services.

Reverend Gregory Groover

Date

Boston After School and Beyond

Supporting, strengthening, and expanding Boston's out-of-school time (OST) system.

Chris Smith, President and Executive Director

Date

Phanathropic and Business Leaders

The Barr Foundation

Supporting the development of strong, community-based leadership to foster deep, sustainable change.

Patricia Brandes, Executive Director.

Date

Suffolk Construction

Suffolk Construction is one of the most successful privately held construction companies in the nation and also a leader in Boston's revitalization efforts through job creation, training programs and philanthropic initiatives.

Mark L. DiNapoli, President and General Manager

Date