

Health Resources in Action Policy & Practice

PRACTICE GUIDING POLICY, POLICY DRIVING CHANGE

Working at the intersection of public health policy and practice, Health Resources in Action (HRiA) collaborates with government entities, health care providers and payers, policy makers, and community organizations to build innovative systems and foster effective, broad-reaching policy and environmental approaches to create healthier communities. Through its policy & practice work, HRiA has tackled some of the most critical issues facing public health today by convening multi-sectoral groups of stakeholders, conducting cutting-edge research, and facilitating innovative, community-based programs. HRiA provides clients throughout the nation with a range of policy and practice expertise, including:

Convening and Partnership Development

- Convene key stakeholders to develop plan, review data and implement innovative approaches
- Facilitate prioritization process regarding relevant and feasible policy and practice
- Share information and promote exchanges through facilitation of learning communities

Research and Data Gathering

- Conduct literature reviews
- Undertake exploratory research
- Conduct key informant interviews and focus groups
- Analyze data
- Develop scan of best and current policy and practice

Implementation, Guidance and Technical Assistance

- Build the capacity of clients/partners to ensure that policies and practices are sustainable
- Present recommendations for implementation of evidence-based policy or practice
- Develop, and facilitate trainings across many topic areas

HRiA's Policy & Practice competencies include a breadth of content area expertise.

- **Paying for prevention**
 - » Intersection of clinical and community interventions
- **Healthy indoor environments**
 - » Healthy homes, schools, early childhood centers, lead poisoning prevention
- **Chronic disease prevention**
 - » Tobacco cessation and prevention, asthma management, active living
- **Community development**
 - » Planning (transportation, city and open space), built environment
- **Health Impact Assessments**



Sample Products and Services

- Policy briefs/white papers
- Policy or practice scans
- Case studies
- Policy or practice guidance documents
- Strategic plans
- Training content and curricula
- Symposia or conferences
- Learning communities
- Health impact reports

HRiA's Policy & Practice staff work in a highly collaborative manner, respecting the skills, expertise, and perspective of each stakeholder in the process. With a focus on elevating best practices, HRiA has a demonstrated track record in policy and practice research, program development and implementation, leading to population health improvements.

HRiA facilitates the following coalitions:

- Asthma Regional Council of New England (www.asthmaregionalcouncil.org)
- Boston Healthy Homes and Schools Collaborative (www.bhhsc.org)
- Massachusetts Asthma Action Partnership (www.maasthma.org)

For more information, please contact Kathleen McCabe at kmccabe@hria.org or 617-279-2240 x.512.



Clearing the Air: Promoting Smoke-free Housing Policies

HRiA partners with local housing agencies to build their capacity to provide healthy indoor environments for residents of multi-unit housing by implementing smoke-free housing policies. To this end, HRiA provides: housing agencies with health data to demonstrate the need for improved air quality; support in creating and administering resident surveys to demonstrate demand for smoke-free policies; process and implementation training content for residents and staff; examples of best practices; support to landlords in policy development, implementation and enforcement plans; educational information and materials; and, youth and adult residents engagement strategies. Among many others across Massachusetts and Rhode Island, HRiA helped the Boston Housing Authority transition its portfolio of 27,000 units to smoke-free. *For more information, contact Kathleen McCabe: kmccabe@bria.org*

Early Childhood Educators: Critical Partners for Healthy Homes

HRiA's Safe and Healthy Family Childcare Initiative supports early childhood development by promoting policies and practices that improve indoor environments. HRiA convenes a multi-sectoral working group that researches for and guides our safe and healthy family childcare work. HRiA developed policy briefs for the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care to inform statewide guidance on environmental asthma triggers in family childcare settings. In a parallel process, we worked to build the capacity of family childcare agencies and educators to improve indoor environments by leading trainings on creating policies and implementing safe and healthy practices in the childcare setting. To date, HRiA has reached well over 300 family childcare sites in the City of Boston through this initiative. *For more information, contact Elizabeth Tanefis: etanefis@bria.org*

New England Asthma Innovation Collaborative (NEAIC)*

As project lead, HRiA/ARC convenes a multi-state partnership comprised of health care providers, payers, and policy makers from across New England. The goal of NEAIC is to promote sustainable financing and infrastructure for the delivery of cost-effective home-based care and education to children with poorly controlled asthma by community health workers (CHWs). NEAIC incorporates workforce development and capacity building for CHWs, asthma educators and their supervisors; learning communities designed to problem solve, mentor, strategize and share best practices; and a rigorous program evaluation and cost analysis. The establishment and promotion of CHWs as strong health care delivery partners -- with reimbursement by payers -- make NEAIC an innovative model for broad dissemination and replication, with strong potential to impact state and national Medicaid policies. *For more information, contact Stacey Chacker: schacker@bria.org*

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Healthy School Environments

The Boston Healthy Homes and Schools Collaborative (BHHSC), a program of HRiA, has partnered with asthma clinical healthcare providers and community-based environmental health organizations to improve indoor air quality and asthma management in Boston Public Schools. The Collaborative engages BPS staff and families to identify and subsequently eliminate asthma triggers in schools through education, training and advocacy. As a result of the Collaborative's advocacy efforts, the Boston Public Schools:

- Implemented annual environmental assessments of each school in the district;
- Formed a City-Wide Healthy Schools Task Force;
- Implemented a policy that requires the use of green cleaning products and Integrated Pest Management practices, policies that have been expanded to include city of Boston Community Centers connected to schools, and;
- Expanded the internal definition of wellness to include environmental health conditions in school buildings.

For more information, contact Laurita Crawlle: lcrawlle@bria.org

Health Impact Assessment

The Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation commissioned Health Resources in Action (HRiA) to examine the potential health and equity impacts of a proposed multi-use development in the Woodrow-Mountain section of Boston's Dorchester neighborhood, using a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) methodology. HRiA engaged two groups to assist with conducting the HIA:

- The Friends, a group of residents from the neighborhood, were actively engaged throughout the HIA process to solicit feedback regarding their interests and concerns for the site, and;
- The Advisory Committee, a group of representatives from local, relevant non-profit and governmental organizations that was convened twice to provide public health expertise and resources in the scoping, assessment and recommendations phases.

HRiA collected data and conducted a literature review in order to inform its key findings, which were published in a final report.

For more information, contact Kathleen McCabe: kmccabe@bria.org

Creating a Healthier Rental Stock in Boston: A Regulatory Approach

By convening local health and housing stakeholders, the Boston Healthy Homes and Schools Collaborative (BHHSC) worked as the community catalyst in the development of Boston's pro-health comprehensive rental inspection ordinance. This strengthened regulation will contribute to a healthier stock of rental housing in Boston through landlord education about housing codes, targeting resources at problem properties, and overall ensuring tenants' right to safe and sanitary housing. By facilitating collaboration with the City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Tenants Coalition and other groups, the Collaborative was able to build strong and visible community support for this ordinance, which affects over 160,000 rental units in the city. *For more information, contact Elizabeth Tanefis: etanefis@bria.org*

