

Healthy Neighborhoods Learning Collaborative Meeting

June 2017

Healthy Neighborhoods partners and invited guests engaged in a two-day learning and networking convening held in the South Bronx. On June 7, attendees participated in a walking tour of the Mott Haven neighborhood and learned about various efforts from community leaders. The following day, participants explored community engagement and leadership. ReThink Health and Youth Empowered Solutions presented models and approaches, and resident leaders from Niagara Falls and youth leaders from the Claremont neighborhood shared their community-grounded experiences. Meeting participants also learned about the Participatory Budgeting Project and updates on the NYU Evaluation Team's process evaluation. Attendees included partners from the nine Healthy Neighborhoods sites, the [New York State Health Foundation](#) (NYSHealth), the [New York Community Trust](#) (NYCT), Active Living By Design (ALBD), the NYU Evaluation Team, and other partner organizations.

- [Participant Contact List](#)
- [Speaker Biosketches](#)

Presentation slides and resources are hyperlinked within the agenda below.

Wednesday, June 7 | Mott Haven Neighborhood | 2:30–7:00 PM

Mott Haven Neighborhood: Walking Tour with Community Leaders

Healthy Neighborhood partners participated in a walking tour of Mott Haven and learned how community leaders are working together to transform Mott Haven into a healthier neighborhood. The tour highlighted St. Mary's Park, Fine Fare Grocery, E. Roberts Moore Senior Center, Los Hermanos Grocery, and Betances Community Center.

- [Mott Haven Tour Map and Guide](#)

Networking Dinner

While partaking in a healthy meal, participants learned about the Randall's Island project that is providing a key connector between the Mott Haven and East Harlem neighborhoods. During this time, informal conversations and networking also took place between fellow Healthy Neighborhoods grantees, NYSHealth, NYCT, ALBD, and other invited guests.

Thursday, June 8 | Hostos Community College, Mott Haven | 8:15–4:15 PM

Welcome, Reflections on Day 1 and Overview of Day 2

Bronwyn Starr, Program Officer, New York State Health Foundation (NYSHealth)

Irfan Hasan, Program Director, New York Community Trust (NYCT)

Eileen Torres, Executive Director, BronxWorks

Evaluating Community Initiatives

Paul Tainsh, Senior Evaluator, New York University (NYU) Evaluation Team

During this session, participants learned about updates to the NYU Evaluation Team's process evaluation, including the resident survey used as part of the Healthy Neighborhoods evaluation.

Resident Engagement and Leadership

Pedja Stojicic, MD, MPH; Senior Scholar, Engagement & Stewardship; ReThink Health

Brian Archie, Keyona Dunn, and Evelyn Harris, Co-chairs of the Resident Engagement Council, Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative

Sarah Obot, Board Member and Co-chair, Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative

In this panel session, participants explored various model approaches and tools for engaging residents and supporting them as leaders of change for healthy neighborhoods, such as public narrative or storytelling, distributive leadership and teams, and campaign timelines. Participants learned from the experiences of the Niagara Falls Healthy Neighborhoods partnership.

Youth Engagement and Leadership

Yes! Youth Empowered Solutions

Katie Spears Warner; Team Lead, Real Food, Active Living Initiative; [Youth Empowered Solutions \(YES!\)](#)

- [The YES! Youth Empowerment Model](#)
- [Youth Empowerment Checklist](#)
- [Setting the Stage for Effective Youth-Adult Meetings](#)

Urban Ambassadors Youth Council, Claremont Healthy Village Initiative

Abraham Jones, Executive Director, Claremont Neighborhood Centers

Nouridine Sankara, Elijah Tappin, and Hamzah Gumereh, Youth Leaders, Claremont Healthy Village Initiative, Claremont Neighborhood Centers, Inc.

This interactive panel discussion presented unique aspects of youth engagement and leadership development and practice-tested approaches for engaging youth as agents for healthy community change. Participants also heard the perspectives of the Claremont Healthy Neighborhoods partnership youth leaders and engaged in a dialogue about the critical roles youth play in healthy communities.

Lunch and Conversations

During this time, meeting attendees shared a meal with partners from other Healthy Neighborhoods sites, and continued engaging in networking and shared learning.

Engaging Community through Participatory Budgeting

Lize Mogel, Development Manager, [Participatory Budgeting Project](#)

This session presented information about Participatory Budgeting, which is a democratic process in which community members directly decide how to spend part of a public budget. This process enables residents to work with government to make budget decisions that affect their lives. Meeting participants learned about this tool in the context of New York State and about opportunities for getting involved.

- [How Participatory Budgeting Works](#)
- [Real Money, Real Power Video](#)

Strategy and Application Breakout Sessions

Building from the sessions in the morning, attendees engaged in deeper exploration of approaches and tools, and brainstorming of strategies on one of the following community engagement subtopics:

- Youth engagement and leadership, facilitated by Youth Empowered Solutions (YES!)
- Resident engagement and leadership, facilitated by ReThink Health
- Participatory budgeting, facilitated by the Participatory Budgeting Project
- Community engagement and evaluation, facilitated by NYU Evaluation Team

Sharing of Community Engagement Strategies

In this follow-up session, participants reconvened as a large group to share highlights from the strategy and application breakout sessions.

Reflections and Input from Sites

NYSHealth, NYCT, and ALBD Staff

This participatory session allowed the Healthy Neighborhoods partners to share their reflections from the two-day convening, and identify exciting and promising actions to take in their communities.