

BLACK MEN'S HEALTH ACTIVATION SUMMIT PROGRAM BOOKLET

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Not a Moment, But a Movement

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

UMASS Boston Campus Center Ballroom
100 Morrissey Blvd, Boston, MA 02125



Live Long and Well
Boston's Population Health Equity Agenda

CITY of BOSTON

Not a Moment, But a Movement

Registration

8:30 AM -9:30 AM

Welcome

9:30 AM



MICHAEL HOLLEY

Award Winning Journalist

Opening Remarks

9:30 AM -9:40AM



BISOLA OJIKUTU, MD, MPH FIDSA

*Commissioner of Public Health City of Boston
Executive Director Boston Public Health Commission*

Mayoral Remarks

9:40 AM -9:45AM



MICHELLE WU, MAYOR

*Mayor
City of Boston*

Commonwealth Remarks

9:45 AM - 9:50 AM



KIAME MAHANIAH, MD
*Secretary of Health and Human Services
Commonwealth of Massachusetts*

Data Overview

9:50 AM - 10:00 AM



KEVIN SIMON, MD, MPH, MBA
*Chief Behavioral Health Officer, City of Boston
Boston Public Health Commission*

Keynote Address

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM



ANDRE M. PERRY, PH.D
*Author, Professor, Award Winning Journalist & Activist
Center for Community Uplift, Brookings Institution*

Chronic Disease Address

10:15 AM - 10:20 AM



MARK KENNEDY
*Program Manager
Community Initiatives Bureau, Boston Public Health Commission*

Summit Overview

10:20 AM -10:30 AM



JEREMIAH WOODBERRY

Associate Bureau Director
Child, Adolescent and Family Health Bureau
Boston Public Health Commission

Activation Sessions

10:30 AM -12:30 PM

Breakout Session 1

Facilitator, Winston Daley

Strengthening Systems, Equity, Access, and Economic Mobility

Goal: Ensure all Black men in Boston thrive within supportive, responsive, and sustainable systems that advance health equity.

- Focuses on transforming structures, policies, and practices that shape health and social outcomes.
- Emphasizes creating and strengthening equitable systems – healthcare, education, employment, housing, and community infrastructure.
- Aims to remove barriers to care, increase access to health resources and services, and expand opportunities for economic mobility.

Breakout Session 2

Facilitator, Jeremy Phillips

Advancing Prevention, Wellness, and Holistic Health

Goal: Empower Black men and their communities to access diverse pathways to health, strengthen self-care, and create environments that support long-term wellness.

- Promotes a proactive approach to health through prevention, early intervention, and whole-person wellness.
- Recognizes health as including physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social well-being—not just absence of disease.
- Honors Western and non-Western systems of care, including traditional, Indigenous, and culturally rooted practices.

Breakout Session 3

Facilitator, Melinda Barbosa

Centering “Behavior & Health” in Behavioral Health

Goal: Integrate behavioral health into all health promotion and care, reduce stigma, and improve outcomes through culturally responsive, person-centered approaches for Black men.

- Reframes behavioral health to include the relationship between behavior and overall health.
- Highlights how choices, environments, stress, trauma, and social factors influence mental and physical outcomes.
- Recognizes deep interconnection between behavior and health—thoughts, feelings, and actions impact illness prevention and care engagement.

Breakout Session 4

Facilitator, Roosevelt Smith

Building Community, Strengthening Connection, and Mobilizing Collective Action

Goal: Through shared power and collective action, build resilience, advocate for equitable policies, and co-create solutions for shared challenges and collective well-being for Black men.

- Emphasizes community power in driving health and social change.
- Highlights mobilizing Black men to build community, strengthen connection, leadership, and collective voice.
- Underscores institutions sharing power, resources, and decision-making with Black men and their communities.

Award Ceremony Luncheon

12:30 PM - 1:15 PM



ALEXANDER BONANO, MPH

Project Manager
Executive Office, Boston Public Health Commission
Presenter



MANNY LOPES

Fallon Health
Elmer Freeman Trailblazer Award



SHAWN BROWN

Youth Guidance Becoming A Man
Unsung Hero Award



CONCERNED BLACK MEN OF MA, INC.

Richard Harris, President
Community Based Organization Excellence Award

**Gallery Walk &
Prioritization**

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Closing Remarks

2:15 PM - 2:30 PM



SMITH LAMOTHE

Program Associate
Vital Village Networks
Boston Medical Center



JEREMIAH WOODBERRY

Associate Bureau Director
Child, Adolescent and Family Health Bureau
Boston Public Health Commission

Networking

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

Read More About Our Keynote



ANDRE M. PERRY, PH.D

*Author, Professor, Award Winning Journalist & Activist
Center for Community Uplift, Brookings Institution*

Andre M. Perry is a Senior Fellow and Director of the Center for Community Uplift at the Brookings Institution. He is also a professor of practice of economics at Washington University of St. Louis. A nationally known and respected commentator on race, structural inequality, and education, Perry is the author of "Black Power Scorecard: Measuring the Racial Gap and What We Can Do to Close It" (2025, Henry Holt) and "Know Your Price: Valuing Black Lives and Property in America's Black Cities" (2020 Brookings Press).

Perry is a regular contributor to MSNBC and has been published by numerous national media outlets, including The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, Bloomberg CityLab and CNN.com. Perry has also made appearances on HBO, CNN, PBS, National Public Radio, NBC, and ABC. Perry's research focuses on race and structural inequality, education, and economic inclusion. Perry's recent scholarship at Brookings examines well-being across racial groups and regions in America, focusing on how investments in critical assets can lead to thriving.

Perry's pioneering work on asset devaluation has made him a go-to researcher for policymakers, community development professionals and civil rights groups. Perry co-authored the groundbreaking 2018 Brookings Institution report "The Devaluation of Assets in Black Neighborhoods" and has presented its findings on the price of home in Black neighborhoods across the country, including to the U.S. House Financial Services Committee. He has extended that report's focus on housing in Black neighborhoods to include other assets such as businesses, schools and banks.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Perry earned his Ph.D. in education policy and leadership from the University of Maryland College Park.

Read More About the Honorees



MANNY LOPES, ELMER FREEMAN TRAILBLAZER AWARDEE

Manny Lopes is President and CEO of Fallon Health, one of the Commonwealth's largest nonprofit community health plans with more than \$2 billion in revenue and a mission-driven focus on serving older adults and historically underserved communities. Since joining the Worcester-based organization, he has built on a strong foundation to expand access to high-quality, community-based care.

A Boston native, Manny has spent his career advancing care in underserved communities. He played a key leadership role in the city's COVID-19 response by establishing Massachusetts's first testing site. As Chair of the Boston Public Health Commission, he helped advance impactful public health policies, including restrictions on flavored e-cigarettes and raising the legal tobacco purchasing age to 21, while championing health equity as a central focus of the city's public health strategy. As CEO of Neighbor Health, the largest community health center in Massachusetts, Manny orchestrated the merger of South End Community Health Center- helping preserve a vital institution serving residents in the South End, Roxbury, and Dorchester.

He is the founder of the Community Care Cooperative, a nonprofit accountable care organization supporting community health centers, and a founding member of the Health Equity Compact, a cross-sector coalition focused on advancing racial and ethnic health equity across Massachusetts. Manny is widely recognized for bringing partners together to drive meaningful, community-centered change.



SHAWN BROWN, UNSUNG HERO AWARDEE

Shawn serves as the Executive Director of Youth Guidance Boston, where he leads the implementation and expansion of the Becoming A Man (BAM) and Working On Womanhood (WOW) programs. A passionate advocate for young people, Brown brings more than 20 years of experience in youth development, violence prevention, and nonprofit leadership across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

As the founding Executive Director of Youth Guidance Boston, the organization's first national expansion, Brown has successfully launched and scaled two evidence-based programs, growing BAM and WOW to serve students across three school districts. Under his leadership, the organization has maintained a strong focus on program fidelity, strategic growth, and long-term financial sustainability.

Prior to joining Youth Guidance, Brown served as Executive Director of Diamond Educators Mentoring, an organization he led for over 15 years, dedicated to improving academic outcomes for low-income and at-risk youth. His career also includes leadership roles at the Justice Resource Institute and the Boston Private Industry Council. Throughout his work, he has built impactful partnerships with Boston Public Schools, My Brother's Keeper, the Obama Foundation, and numerous community and government leaders.

A recognized national voice in youth development and gun violence prevention, Brown has contributed to major forums and media platforms, including the Northwell Health National Forum on Gun Violence Prevention, WGBH's Basic Black, and CNN's United Shades of America. His leadership has been honored with several awards, including the Changemaker Award from the Institute for Nonprofit Practice, the Lewis Family Foundation CEO Social Leadership Award, and the Sojourner Truth Award from OrigiNation Arts Center. Shawn was also recognized by the New England Patriots in 2023 as their Inspire Change Changemaker.

Brown served on Boston Mayor Michelle Wu's Transition Committee and the Mass General Health Community Advisory Board. A graduate of Merrimack College, he also holds a Nonprofit Management and Leadership Certificate from Boston University. Inspired by the mentors who shaped his own life, Brown remains committed to ensuring every young person has access to the guidance and support needed to succeed.

CONCERNED BLACK MEN OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC. COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION EXCELLENCE AWARDEE

The Concerned Black Men of Massachusetts (CBMM) was established in April of 1989. The mission of CBMM is "To Improve the Quality of the Black Community by Reaffirming the Vitality of the Black Male". Since its inception, CBMM has been active in the above-stated mission and has been recognized widely for its efforts. We have established a number of programs and initiatives that seek to effectively impact various communities via a holistic (academic, physical, spiritual) approach to service delivery.

For over 30 years the CBMM has sponsored the development, operation, and execution of the Paul Robeson Institute for Positive Self-Development (PRI). PRI provides a stable and consistent environment in which boys can count on interacting with Black male volunteers who provide a dependable counter to the Black male role models that often intermittently slide in and out of their lives. PRI students come to depend on the fact that every Saturday they will be mentored by compassionate, loving Black men who model how a successful fulfilling life can be built on being well behaved, respectful, playing by the rules and being intellectually curious.



**Thank you to the BPHC
Steering Committee**



BISOLA OJIKUTU, MD, MPH FIDSA

*Commissioner of Public Health City of Boston
Executive Director, Boston Public Health Commission*



JEREMIAH WOODBERRY

*Associate Bureau Director
Child, Adolescent & Family Health Bureau,
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ALEXANDER BONANO, MPH

*Project Manager
Executive Office, Boston Public Health Commission*



MELISSA L. HECTOR, MS, MBA

*Director of Equitable and Strategic Initiatives
Executive Office, Boston Public Health Commission*



ANTHONY LIVINGSTON, MSM

*Senior Executive Assistant
Executive Office, Boston Public Health Commission*

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BATANAI DHLIWAYO

*Communications Associate
Boston Public Health Commission*



KRYSTAL GARCIA, MSPH

*Director of Policy
Executive Office, Boston Public Health Commission*



MARK KENNEDY, MBA

*Senior Program Manager
Chronic Disease Prevention and Control Division,
Boston Public Health Commission*



COURTNEY GREY

*Program & Communication Outreach Manager
Office of Public Health Preparedness,
Boston Public Health Commission*



TRINIEESE POLK

*Director
Office of Racial Equity and Community Engagement,
Boston Public Health Commission*



**Thank you to our External
Advisory Committee**

FRANK FARROW

*Executive Director
Mayor's Office for Black Male Advancement, City of Boston*

JOSÉ MASSÓ

*Chief
Mayor's Office of Human Services, City of Boston*

JAMES "JIMMY" HILLS

*Founder, President and CEO
Java with Jimmy, Award Winning Podcast*

MICHAEL CURRY, ESQ.

*President and CEO
Massachusetts League of Community Health Center*

RASHAD COPE

*Deputy Chief
Mayor's Office Worker Empowerment, City of Boston*

KENNETH MOALS III, M. DIV, ED.M

*Policy Research Analyst and Project Coordinator
Mayor's Office for Equity and Inclusion, City of Boston*



**Thank you to our Advisory
Committee**

THADDEUS MILES

*Founder and CEO, Hood Fit
Senior Director, MassHousing*

MANNY LOPES

*President and CEO
Fallon Health*

CHARLES ANDERSON, MD

*President and CEO, The Dimock Center
Live Long and Well Advisory Council, City of Boston*

DAVO JEFFERSON

*Founder, President and CEO
Get Konnected! Colette Phillips Communications*

BISHOP WILLIAM DICKERSON

*Greater Love Tabernacle
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BRANDON MILES

*Policy & Research Director
Mayor's Office for Black Male Advancement, City of Boston*



**Thank you to our Advisory
Committee**

PASTOR DIEUFORT “KEKE” FLEURISSAINT

*Founder, True Alliance Center
Live Long and Well Advisory Council, City of Boston*

DALWIN CORCINO

*Workforce Program Manager
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers*

NDANG NAZANG-NJAAH, MD, MPH

*Pediatric Primary Care Physician
Brigham and Women’s Hospital*

WINSTON PIERRE

*Manager, Workforce Diversity and Talent Engagement
Massachusetts Port Authority*

FUQUAN ALLAH



Resources

Brothers in Public Health - Our Mission is to increase the involvement of men of color in public health to advance the field, culture, and perception of public health amongst Communities of Color. We vision a world where men of color are change agents for the liberation and full health realization of communities of color.

Dee Dee's Cry - DeeDee's Cry provides resources on suicide prevention and loss and mental health education. DeeDee's Cry supports families impacted by suicide. DeeDee's Cry aims to create a space where conversations begin to lift the stigma on suicide and mental health among Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities.

Father's Uplift- Fathers' UpLift provides mental health counseling, coaching and advocacy to assist fathers with overcoming barriers (racism, traumatic, and addiction based barriers) that prevent them from remaining engaged in their children's lives.

InnoPsych - InnoPsych works make therapists of color easier to find in the community. Their work helps people start businesses focused on wellness. The goal is to make it quicker and simpler for people of color to connect with a therapist who understands them.

MelanIN Medicine is a support network for Black individuals working and studying in health and healing professions. We aim to provide safe spaces for fellowship and mentorship to one another in pursuit of educational and professional endeavors. Outside of the network, our team creates community programming that advocates for the wellness and overall advancement of marginalized groups.

The New England Medical Association (NEMA) is a not-for-profit membership organization designed to build a community of Black physicians and physicians in training, who practice in the New England area. NEMA is dedicated to creating a community that advocates to eliminate health disparities, provides career development opportunities, implements mentoring programs and service through collaborative, community-based projects.

YardTime Inc. - We exist to change lives. In supporting returning citizens with healing, mentorship, and connection, we help reduce recidivism, empower families, and build safer, more compassionate neighborhoods. We don't just want to reduce recidivism, we wanted to reignite purpose, repair broken systems, and rebuild lives from the ground up. What began as weekly conversations has grown into a thriving nonprofit where transformation happens, through healing circles, tech classes for senior women, men's mental health bowling leagues, entrepreneurship training, community cookouts, and so much more.

Thank you to our vendors



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