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BOSTnet Information

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Special Announcements

Welcome to the May 2007 edition of the BUZZ! The theme for this edition of the BUZZ is "Recognition and Excellence" in the Out-of-School Time field. As BOSTnet celebrates 20 years in youth advocacy, we are pleased to honor all OST staff and leaders, and to highlight several OST professionals for their long histories of dedication and commitment. Please send your feedback and ideas on the BUZZ to info@bostnet.org.

- **BOSTnet is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2007!** Please watch the BOSTnet website (www.bostnet.org) and the next BUZZ for updates on our 20th Anniversary special events. See

BOSTnet's work through the "[BOSTnet Milestones](#)" timeline, which highlights year-by-year activities since 1987.

- **BOSTnet welcomes Kerry Carey to the Board of Directors:**
Kerry has been a Project Manager in Sovereign Bank's Operations and Automation Group since 2003. Her current position requires involvement in a number of conversion or implementation initiatives at one time. Though usually involved as the project manager who is ultimately responsible for the successful implementation of a new product, service provider relationship, or process into existing operations teams, she has also contributed as an analyst or project oversight role when required. Before joining Sovereign Bank, Kerry spent three years with Genuity as a professional services sales and delivery consultant within the Internet services industry. Prior to Genuity, Kerry was with Fleet Bank and the former Bank of Boston for ten years in a variety of technology, data center, and service center management positions. Kerry earned a BS in Industrial Engineering at Northeastern University. She lives with her husband and son north of Boston and volunteers her time to sports and school activities in order to spend additional time with her family.
- **BOSTnet provides a variety of trainings for Out-of-School Time Programs.** Please [click here](#) to visit our training webpage to view signature BOSTnet trainings such as Promoting Positive Behavior, Engaging Families, and Inclusion of Children with Disabilities, as well as exciting new trainings such as Designing Out-of-School Time Space.
- **BOSTnet unveils its newest publication**
As a program planning summer and fall activities, keep in mind the importance of space and your program environment. There are many things that OST providers can do to increase the quality of their program through the physical space and environment. For more information on physical space and its impact on program quality, or to order a copy of the new "*Developing Spaces by and for Teens in Out-of-School Time Programs*," please contact BOSTnet at info@bostnet.org or (617) 720-1290, ext. 232. There is a \$10 fee for this publication. [Learn more](#) about this publication.

Upcoming BOSTnet news and events:

- **End of the School Year Celebration: Please Bring Your Staff!**
June 7th, 2007 10 am - 12 noon
BOSTnet Offices, 11 Beacon St., Suite 1000, Boston, 02108

We will conclude this year's monthly BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable series with a celebration and breakfast to honor out-of-school time professionals who have made a lasting impact in the field. Join us to be recognized for the valuable work you do, enjoy breakfast, check out BOSTnet resources and network with other OST professionals! Our special honorees include Charmaine L. Arthur-Neversen, Senior Director of the Dorchester Branch YMCA; Mo Barbosa, Assistant Director for Training & Capacity Building at The Medical Foundation; Maria Cabrera, Program Manager at the Museum of Science; and Frank Reid, Program Director of the Dorchester Place School Age Child Care Program. To RSVP or to receive more information, contact us at info@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x232. [Click here](#) for Press Release and Honoree Bios.

- **Promoting Positive Behavior Forums for June:**
 - **June 8th, 9 am - 12 noon**
Peabody YMCA, 259 Lynnfield Street, Peabody.


Cambridge and North Shore programs and behavior specialists engaged in the Afterschool Access project will share experiences implementing positive behavior strategies in their programs. The forum will focus on best practices, lessons learned, and on how every after school program can implement positive behavior strategies. Participants will have an opportunity to assess their own behavior support strategies and get feedback from the panelists.

To RSVP or for more information please contact Monica Zgola at (617) 720-1290 ext. 232 or email info@bostnet.org.

- **Tuesday, June 12th, 8:30 - 11:30 am**
Citizen Schools headquarters in Boston.

After School programs and behavior specialists engaged in the Afterschool Access project will share experiences implementing positive behavior strategies in their programs. The forum will focus on best practices, lessons learned, and on how every after school program can implement positive behavior strategies. Participants hear how the panelist implemented positive behavior supports and will have an opportunity to assess their own behavior support strategies and get input from the panelists.

To RSVP or for more information, please contact Monica Zgola at (617) 720-1290 ext. 232 or email info@bostnet.org. For more information on the Afterschool Access project go to www.bostnet.org.



Strengthening Programs...

BOSTnet delivers successful Promoting Positive Behavior trainings

“Remember to promote positive consequences”

—a participant from BOSTnet’s Promoting Positive Behavior training lists a strategy learned that will be put into practice.

Based on learning from our Afterschool Access project, which is supported by the Department of Early Education and Care, BOSTnet offers training to youth-serving organizations to strengthen program capacity to develop a positive environment in which all students are able to thrive and reach their full potential. Please read the article on the Afterschool Access project below for more information on this innovative project. Based on the belief that most children and youth will respond positively when functioning in a positive environment, BOSTnet trains staff from after school programs, schools, and other community organizations that work with children and youth to help promote positive behavior.

This Spring, BOSTnet provided an in-house training on Promoting Positive Behavior as well as training to over 80 teachers and staff at the Umana Barnes Middle School, which is following an Extended Day model. Both of these trainings were well received. One hundred percent (100%) of attendees at the in-house training, and 70% of attendees at the Middle School learned strategies for Promoting Positive Behavior.

Among reasons why participants found the trainings useful were:
“The information uses research-proven methods”

“[The training] helps us to better understand our students’ problems”
“I am able to use strategies immediately”

There is an upcoming training on Promoting Positive Behavior on June 22. Sign up to reserve a spot!

Save the Date! Friday June 22nd , 9 am - 1 pm, 11 Beacon Street, 10th floor, **Promoting Positive Behavior Training**. This training provides staff with tools and strategies needed to improve behavior outcomes in program. Participants learn the developmental needs of children and youth, responses to challenging behavior, appropriate expectations of children and youth with different needs, and identification of unmet needs that result in challenging behaviors. **Competencies:** National AfterSchool Association and Achieve Boston. **Staff serving children ages:** 5-18. **Cost:** \$100 per participant. RSVP at info@bostnet.org.



Out-of-School Time Landscape...

Summer Programming Resource Fair a Huge Hit!

On May 3rd, 2007, the Boston Children’s Museum was the site of the third annual **BOSTnet Summer Resource Fair**. This fair attracted over 100 providers and 26 Resource Organizations – some as far away as Rhode Island and New Hampshire! At the fair providers could sign up for field trips and programmatic resources offered by local cultural and community organizations and agencies.

Resource Organizations included some who have participated in the fair in previous years such as: New England Aquarium, the Children’s Museum, the Museum of Science, Outdoor Explorations, Historic New England, and many more. There were many new resources who participated for the first time this year including: IDILL Learning Foundation Summer Day Program, ReadBoston Storymobile Program, G-ROW Boston, “e” inc., and more. Program providers were able to sign up for field trips on the spot as well as for traveling on-site programming and kits!

For more information on resources for programs, please contact Geraldine Peters at peters@bostnet.org or 617-720-1290 x239.

BOSTnet's 2007-2008 Special 20th Anniversary Edition of the *Guide to Boston's Before and After-School Programs* is now available at libraries and community centers!

Fresh off the press, find the latest listings for children and youth opportunities:

- **A wide variety of opportunities to choose from:** This year, 425 listings representing 500 programs are available in the “Guide.”
- **The details you need about after school programs:** The “Guide” includes program descriptions, activity types, summer program information, and disability and access information for families with children who have special needs.
- **How do you choose an after school program?** BOSTnet’s Guide to Before and After School Programs provides a checklist to guide parents and guardians in finding the right after school programs.

- **Available on-line and in Spanish** - The Guide is also available on-line, in a searchable format, in Spanish and English: www.webguide.bostnet.org.

What opportunities are available in the Summer of 2007?

Right in time for the summer, through the "Guide," you will be able to choose from 262 summer opportunities for children and youth!

This special edition of BOSTnet's Guide to Before and After School Programs illustrates the power of the out-of-school time network, containing the largest number of programs ever listed and supported by out-of-school time leaders who express their enthusiasm for BOSTnet's critical work. Please [click here](#) to view "Guide" sponsors.



Access for All...

The Lead to Opportunities for Youth with Disabilities (LOYD) Initiative is aimed at strengthening the capacity of community agencies to create or expand programming that is inclusive of children and youth with disabilities. Through this initiative, BOSTnet recently worked to create community partnerships with organizations committed to increasing access to children and youth with disabilities. One such partnership was that of the Arc of East Middlesex (EMARC) and the Malden YMCA. EMARC provides and promotes services and supports for persons with intellectual disabilities and their families. As a result of their work together, EMARC has enrolled at least 10 kids from their families into YMCA programs such as music and cooking classes, as well as running a unified basketball league and starting a unified softball team. They are also looking to create an inclusive swimming program. The Malden YMCA staff and EMARC staff meet regularly to exchange information and talk about other possible inclusive programming. At the [BOSTnet Leadership Roundtable series](#), the EMARC staff presented on the topic of [Sports and Inclusion](#) to over 70 of their peers in the Out-of-School Time field.

Kerry Mahoney from the Arc of East Middlesex says that the LOYD project opened doors to great partnerships with the Malden YMCA. The specialized programs that were created are now listed in the Malden YMCA brochure and recently 6 children without disabilities signed up for an EMARC-developed program. According to Kerry, the YMCA staff have the willingness and "know-how" to continue to create successful opportunities to include children with disabilities.

At a recent awards dinner, the Arc of East Middlesex presented Distinguished Service Awards to three Malden YMCA staff members as recognition by EMARC for their contributions to the new and exciting partnership between the Malden YMCA and EMARC. [Click here](#) to read more.

This partnership highlights the work that BOSTnet has done over the past 7 years to increase access for youth with disabilities in the afterschool environment. Since 2000, BOSTnet has provided grants ranging from \$1,500 up to \$25,000 to fund projects in 47 sites in and around Boston. BOSTnet works with grantees by assisting them in creating partnerships like the one between the Malden YMCA and EMARC as well as providing them with on-site technical assistance, training, and networking opportunities to learn from BOSTnet and their peers on how to increase their capacity to create inclusive environments for the children they serve.

Afterschool Access Initiative

The Afterschool Access for All Project is a partnership between BOSTnet, the Program in Education, Afterschool, & Resiliency (PEAR), and the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership (MAP) directed at helping afterschool programs more effectively deal with behavior issues in a positive manner. Sixteen programs were paired with four behavioral health organizations to work with the staff in the afterschool sites to improve their skills in working with children who required special services. For a list of behavior specialists and programs involved in the Afterschool Access project please visit www.bostnet.org.

Participation in the Afterschool Access project has resulted in more time and energy devoted to creating a positive environment and addressing behavior issues in a proactive manner. This project has helped staff develop strategies to deal with high-risk kids and kids with specific problems (ADD, Autism, Aspergers), improve linkages with schools to help track and manage behaviors between settings, create clearly defined rules of behavior, develop systems to help staff track, monitor and engage the most difficult children, and improve communication with families so that behavioral strategies can carry over into the home.

Upcoming Afterschool Access Project events:

- Best Practices Forums on June 8 in Peabody and June 12 in Boston. See above under BOSTnet Upcoming Events for more information.
- June 13, 2007 visit by EEC Commissioner Reale to the Mason After School Program to observe the impact of the project.
- September 21, 2007: **All Means All Conference**, Welcoming and Promoting Positive Behavior of ALL youth in Out-of-School Time Programs. At this conference, BOSTnet will unveil the Afterschool Access Project Tool Kit, including a self-assessment tool and best practices guide to promoting positive behavior.

For more information on Afterschool Access Initiative or to learn more about Continuous Quality Improvement in out-of-school time programming, contact BOSTnet at info@bostnet.org or (617) 720-1290, ext. 232. Check www.bostnet.org for more information.

policy update...



Advocacy for Federal After School Care funding

In April, BOSTnet's Manosi Datta was in Washington D.C. for the Children's Defense Fund Emerging Leaders Spring Institute where she visited Massachusetts policymakers on Capitol Hill. As a current Emerging Leaders Fellow, Manosi listened to Children's Defense Fund Founder/President Marian Wright Edelman discuss the urgency of providing health care to the nation's uninsured children; attended sessions on the federal process, featuring staff and experts from Congress, the Administration, and the national advocacy community; and received updates on national and state legislation that directly affects the nation's children and youth.

Along with Fellows from previous years, Manosi visited with the offices of Massachusetts Senators Edward M. Kennedy and John F. Kerry, and Representatives Michael E. Capuano and Stephen F. Lynch to provide perspective on how the after school and child care fields are affected by legislation on the Hill. Among the 2007 Federal Budget issues for which Fellows advocated was funding increases for the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) that offers subsidies for child care, enabling working families to afford quality care. This funding will most likely be level funded and the need to continue advocating the importance of these programs remains. Our representatives in Congress are always seeking testimonials and information to continue making the case for funding after school care that enriches the lives of children and youth and supports working families.

ASOST Commission

The Massachusetts Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time has scheduled the next round of public hearings. The remaining six public hearings, to be held in the Merrimack Valley, North Shore, Greater Boston, Southeastern MA, South Shore and the Cape and the Islands, will be scheduled for June 2007.

News from the Senate debate on amendments to the Senate budget

The Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership, of which BOSTnet is a coalition member, proposed an amendment in the Senate budget. Our amendment #450 to increase the funding for the After School and Out of School Time Quality Grant to \$2 million was “bundled” with dozens of other amendments and rejected on Wednesday, May 23. According to the State House News: “BUNDLED AMENDMENT: At 9:28, there was no objection to several amendments being taken as one. The amendments were rejected on voice vote.” This means that we need to now prepare to advocate to the Conference Committee to increase the ASOST line item to \$2 million as the House recommended. The Conference Committee will be convened within the next two weeks, so we will be asking you and your networks to make calls and send in support letters once conference begins. Your efforts did make a difference in the Senate and will help a lot in the next budget phase. Thank you for your continued hard work.

To access more Community News, Events, Resources and Job Listings, please visit our website, www.bostnet.org, to view our Resources Page.

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