



Email any comments or additional information for the BUZZ to buzz@bostnet.org



BOSTnet Information

June 26, 2007

In this issue:

- [Special Announcements](#)
- [Strengthening Programs](#)
- [Out-of-School Time Landscape](#)
- [Access for All](#)
- [Policy Update](#)

Special Announcements

Welcome to the June 2007 edition of the BUZZ! The theme for this edition of the BUZZ is "Accreditation" and the on-going aim to enhance the capacity of after school programs in Boston. 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's 20th Anniversary end-of-school-year celebration on June 7th was a huge success!** We would like to thank everyone who attended, especially our honorees, Charmaine L. Arthur-Neverson, Mo Barbosa, Maria Cabrera and Frank Reid. Their commitment to the out-of-school time field and to the kids of Boston is inspirational. It was great to see so many of our friends in one place showing their support for BOSTnet and illustrating the power of Boston's Out-of-School Time Network! Congratulations on another successful year of providing afterschool programs for Boston's youth! [View photos of our honorees.](#)
- **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:

- **BOSTnet All Means All Statewide Conference Registration Now Available** - This all day conference scheduled for Friday September 21, 2007 will focus on inclusion of youth of all abilities in after school programming, including a focus on promoting positive behavior in after school programs. For more information and to download a registration packet, please visit www.bostnet.org.



National Accreditation of After School Programs

For the past year, through the BOSTnet After School Quality (BASQ) Initiative, BOSTnet has been working with about eight after school programs in Boston to assist them in gaining accreditation status from the National After School Association (NAA). The accreditation process focuses on increasing program quality through a set of national standards on quality and programming. Through a seven-step process, programs implement the NAA Standards for Quality School Age Care in their program and create an ASQ (Assessing School Age Quality) Team. The ASQ Team brings parents and staff together to observe the after school programs and to recommend changes based on the NAA Standards for Quality.

In Boston, eight programs have decided to become accredited because they believe in increasing their program quality and creating programming that meets high national standards. Tanna Preston, the Executive Director of Greenwood Shalom After School Program, described her involvement in the BASQ Initiative as: "wanting a stronger quality program and a better trained staff." The need for quality programming and a workforce that is better qualified and more competent are reasons that most programs become accredited.

Greenwood Shalom After School Program, along with the Hattie B. Cooper Community Center After School Program, Ellis Memorial Berkeley After School Program, and South Boston Neighborhood House After School Program all plan to submit their letter of intent to NAA this fall, with the goal of getting accredited by end of the year.

In addition to the above four programs, Ellis Memorial Tent City, Ellis Memorial Madison Park, United South End Settlements After School Program, and Little House After School Program are all working to create their ASQ Teams this fall with the hope of achieving accreditation by the summer of 2008. It is important to note that Ellis Memorial will be the first Multi-Sited program in Boston to become nationally accredited.

For more information about the BASQ Initiative please visit www.bostnet.org. For more information about Accreditation, please visit the National After School Association website at www.naaweb.org.

Department of Early Education and Care Proposes New Regulations

The Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) has proposed new licensing regulations that are expected to go into effect in the fall of 2008. These new regulations will have some major impact on how after school programs, family and community daycare and preschool programs offer services. Some highlights of proposed changes include:

- Increasing the ratio for School Age Child Care to 15:1 Child to Staff
- Creating one large group care license, allowing programs to have only one license to serve ages infant through School Age Child Care
- Increasing the age of SACC licensure to 14
- New Transportation and Water regulations
- Required progress reports to parents
- And many more

Currently, the proposed regulations are going through an informal comments period until July 16. Anyone can comment on these proposed changes on-line. Click here to access the EEC informal comment website [www.eec.state.ma.us/RegSurveyPublic/rspIntro.aspx]. After this informal comment period, EEC will send the revised draft regulations to the EEC board for approval and then back out for formal public comments.

Feedback on these regulations is essential. We encourage everyone to go online, review the changes, and give feedback before July 16. The new regulations will greatly affect both School Age Child Care programs and all daycare and childcare programs.



Out-of-School Time Landscape...

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

- **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: 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...

Afterschool Access Update:

On June 12, 2007 BOSTnet held a forum at Citizen Schools to share some of the promising practices learned from the Afterschool Access Project. A panel of program directors and behavior specialists shared some of their experiences implementing positive behavior systems in the 16 after school programs involved in the Afterschool Access Project. After school providers from around the State came to hear the experiences of the panelists and learn about what they can do in their own programs to promote positive behavior. The feedback from the audience was overwhelmingly positive and programs gained useful information from the panelists.

Panelists represented the YMCA of Greater Boston, YMCA of Greater Lynn, the Mason After School Program, Cambridge Community Center, Windsor Street Boys and Girls Club of Cambridge, Wediko

Children's Services, and The May Institute. Some of the highlights of the panel presentations were around the need to create atmospheres that are positive, eliminate unnecessary transitions, and be flexible with your programming so that you can meet the social and emotional needs of the youth in your programs. The majority of presenters also talked about how promoting positive behavior in their programs has led to increased staff job satisfaction, and in general has made their programs a more positive place to be for both youth and staff.

As a result of the Afterschool Access Project, BOSTnet, along with McLean Hospital's Program in Education, Afterschool, and Resiliency (PEAR), and Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership (MAP) will create a Positive Behavior Self Assessment and Promising Practices Tool Kit to share statewide at the All Means All Conference in September. This Tool Kit will allow after school programs to assess their positive behavior systems and to prioritize areas for growth, while learning about some promising practices that can promote positive behavior in their programs.

Commissioner Ann Reale Visits the Mason After School Program:

On June 13, 2007, BOSTnet arranged a visit by Department of Early Education and Care Commissioner Ann Reale to the Mason After School Program to see first hand the incredible impact that the Afterschool Access Project has had on the positive behavior systems in programs. Commissioner Reale toured the program, meeting and talking with children, and was able to meet with the Principle of the Mason Elementary School, Janet Palmer-Owens, as well as members of YMCA of Greater Boston, Wediko Children's Services, and BOSTnet.

The highlight of the visit was a presentation by a 4th grader that had been extremely successful as a result of the implementation of positive behavior practices. Prior to the Afterschool Access project, this 4th grader was not able to complete his homework and had many behavioral challenges. Since the promotion of positive behavior at the Mason After School Program, this 4th grader has been able to complete his homework, usually finishing well before the other youth, and has been able to successfully change his behavior to reflect a more positive attitude towards school and after school.

BOSTnet thanks Commissioner Reale and the Department of Early Education and Care for funding the Afterschool Access project that has helped programs such as the Mason After School Program create an environment that supports positive behavior and allows youth to gain skills that empower them to be positive role models and excel both academically and socially.

For more information about the Afterschool Access Project please visit www.bostnet.org.

policy update...



Speak Up! The Special Commission on After School and Out of School Time (ASOST) held its 5th hearing in Quincy on June 7th. There are two hearings scheduled for July in Southeastern, MA and the Cape and the Islands. Hearings for the Merrimack Valley, North Shore and Boston have been pushed back to September. We encourage everyone to consider preparing oral or written testimony

for the hearings. Lending your voices and experiences to this effort will help inform the commission so they can develop effective policies to help our kids thrive.

Several themes have emerged from the first 5 hearings:

1. Staffing - programs need good, well-trained staff and the resources to pay them well since consistency of staff is critical to a good program.
2. Sustainability - funding needs to come from multiple sources and needs to be reliably ongoing.
3. Transportation - especially critical in the rural areas and also a problem in the cities. Many programs have space available but the kids can't get to them.
4. Collaborations among partners (CBOs, schools, parents, law enforcement, YMCAs, etc.) are the key to successful, quality programs.

Funding for the ASOST Quality Grant has been set at \$1million for FY2008 despite attempts to double funding to \$2 million. We would like to thank everyone who attended Lobby day on March 14th, and called and wrote their legislators to encourage them to support out-of-school time funding. The FY2008 budget includes a number of funding priorities that will help provide a range of services for children in Massachusetts:

- \$7 million in rate increases for subsidized child care providers at the Department of Early Education and care (funded at \$12.5 million last year)
- \$4 million in funding for Early Childhood Educator Scholarships at the Board of Higher Education (funded at \$3 million last year)
- \$6.7 for Summer Jobs for At-Risk Youth at the Department of Workforce Development (funded at \$4.7 million last year)
- \$13 million for Extended Learning Time grants at the Department of Education (funded at \$6.5 million last year). The Department of Education would like to double the number of ELT schools from 10 to 20 across the state.
- New line item-\$2 million for a Comprehensive Youth Violence Prevention program at the Department of Public Health distributing competitive grants to communities at high-risk for youth violence.

News from the Massachusetts Afterschool Partnership: MAP is pleased to announce the establishment of our 501c3 status and the creation of our Board of Directors. Board members are: Mayor Tom Ambrosino of Revere, Tony Amoah Vice President of Sovereign Bank, Mike Cahill, Director of Public Policy for the YMCAs of Massachusetts, Ed Madaus, Executive Director of the Guild of St. Agnes Child Care Programs, Berna Mann, Executive Director of Parents Alliance for Catholic Education, Khari Milner, Director of Cambridge Public School & Afterschool Partnership, and Bill Restuccia, President and CEO of Child Development and Education, Inc.

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

Quick Links

- [Our website](#)
- [Newsletter Archive](#)
- [Our Publications](#)
- [Connecting You to Resources](#)

Contact Information

email: buzz@bostnet.org

phone: (617) 720-1290

web: www.bostnet.org