Strategies for Building Healthy Communities

Public Safety Partnerships:
A presentation to the USU Summer Meeting
from UMass Boston

June 15, 2015

Edward M. Lambert, Jr.
Vice Chancellor
Government Relations and Public Affairs
The UMass Boston Mission

“The urban university must stand with the city, must serve and lead where the battle is.”

• 33% of the university’s partners are within the City of Boston representing 240 projects

• Our work aligns with the vision of the USU and operates under the leadership of Chancellor Motley, whose engagement with the community sets an example
Understanding The Value of Public Safety Partnerships

• UMass Boston has rich history of social research

• Strength in Criminal Justice/Sociology Programming

• Educating leaders in public safety field
  • Bill Bratton, Police Commissioner NYC
  • Paul Evans and Mickey Roache, former Police Commissioners, Boston
  • Blake Norton, VP and COO of the Police Foundation
Public Safety Partnerships Cut Across Three Categories

• Use research and evaluation to affect policy

• Provide technical assistance

• Involve teaching and learning
Research and Service Examples

Intergenerational Justice Program with Peace Institute, Span Inc., Visions:
Working with all families affected by homicide, both victim’s and perpetrators

Sexual Exploitation Study with Boston Police Department, Mayor’s Office, and Councilor Baker:
Providing research as basis for major effort to combat sexual exploitation

Predictive Policing with Boston Police Department:
Geo-coding crime data to reliably predict location, time, and/or likelihood of future criminal activity and facilitating efficient use of police resources

Evaluation of Teen Empowerment:
Demonstrating impact of model with potential expansion in partnership with City of Boston and Boston Police Department

Youth Violence and Conflict Resolution Programs through MOPC:
Reducing disciplinary action through peer mediation in public schools

Influences of Place in Community Reintegration of Former Prisoners with MA Corrections Department:
Understanding how factors of community context affect desistance

Boston Offender Needs Delivery with Span, Inc.:
Supporting prisoner release and resettlement by enhancing substance abuse and reentry services
Developing a Comprehensive and Coordinated Approach

City of Boston
- Boston Police Department
- Local Courts and Corrections
- Boston Public Schools

With these partners, UMass Boston is working across issue areas and with diverse stakeholders to promote system change.

**EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**
- Youth
  - Do the Write Thing Essay Contest
  - Too Good for Drugs Curriculum
  - Overcoming Violence Curriculum
- Adults
  - Changing Lives Through Literature

**ISSUE FOCUSED RESEARCH**
- Predictive Policing uses geo-coded crime data to deploy resources efficiently.
- Sexual Exploitation Study
- Re-entry projects focusing on mental health, substance abuse and influence of place

**UNDERSTANDING IMPACT**
- Evaluation of Teen Empowerment's youth model
- Leads to plans for expansion of model city-wide
Exploring Depth and Sustainability

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI) provides programs, services & trainings for families and communities dealing with murder, trauma, grief and loss. Today it serves 98% of Boston families affected by homicides and provides crisis response training for service providers.

- **2009**
  - Community Dinner Opens the Door
  - Peace Institute Founder attends Chancellor’s Community Dinner, requests university assistance.

- **2010-2013**
  - Sociology Department Conducts Evaluation
  - Extensive technical assistance shifts LDBPI approaches from reactive to proactive; MOU signed.

- **2013**
  - Mindfulness Training
  - Developed to promote coping and healing for high-risk victims of gun violence and first responders.

- **2014**
  - Filling a Gap in Reentry Services
  - Intergenerational Justice Program working with all families affected by homicide, both victim’s and perpetrator’s

- **2015**
  - Leadership and Scaling Impact
  - Chancellor Motley co-chairs Annual Mother’s Day Walk for Peace; New professional certificate for first responders and service providers being explored.
Raising Awareness and Building Relationships

• **Youth/Police Dialogues** aimed at increasing trust and cooperation (YWCA Boston and Boston Police Department).

• **Shop with a Cop** pairs police officers with urban youth to purchase holiday gifts.

• **Inclusion of at-risk teens in positive programming** such as on-campus theatre events and athletic clinics (with BPD and DA’s Office).

• **Joint presentations at neighborhood meetings** by City of Boston and Campus Police.

• **Conflict Resolution programs** use peer mediation to reduce disciplinary actions in schools.

• **BRIDGES** fosters dialogue and quality communication between the Greater Boston Muslim, Arab, and Sikh communities with regional law enforcement and customs officials.
Informing our Work; Making us Better

- Responsiveness
- Comprehensive and Coordinated
- Collaborative, long term relationships
- Inclusive
- Shared values
- Sustainable

- Leadership across institutions
  - Chancellor Motley
  - City of Boston Mayor Walsh
  - USU membership, Strengthening Communities Strand
The Boston Police Department shared data with UMass Boston researchers who created this map to help visualize prostitution calls and arrests.