



The Urban Health Institute (UHI) was established in 1999 by President Bill Brody to serve as an interface between Johns Hopkins University and the Baltimore community in which it resides. A year later C. Earl Fox, MD, MPH assumed directorship of the UHI and served in that capacity through fall 2005. In June 2006 Robert Blum, MD, PhD, MPH assumed the interim directorship. Dr. Blum is the William H. Gates, Sr. Professor and Chair of the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health. At the time Dr. Blum assumed the interim directorship the UHI supported three major programs: the Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured; the Historic East Baltimore Community Coalition (HEBCAC) East Baltimore Technology Resource Center; and the Community Health Worker program. *The newsletter that follows details what has been accomplished over the past nine months.*

Director Search

In December 2006 President Brody convened a search committee for a permanent head of the UHI comprised of both university and community leaders. The search is chaired by James Yeager, PhD, the Associate Dean of the School of Public Health; and from the University includes: Anne Belcher, Claire Bogdanski, Mindi Levin, David Nichols, Ed Roulhac and David Holtgrave. From the community, representatives on the search committee include: Ana Rodriguez-Halpin, Ed Sabatino, Glenn Ross, and Patricia Bohrer-Brown. Seven individuals were invited to interview, one withdrew

and the six who were interviewed include: Robert Blum, Philip Leaf, Liza Soloman, Lawrence Wissow and James Zabora. The interview process included a public presentation as well as interviews with a range of both University and community leaders.

The interview process has now been completed and the plan is for the committee to forward on to the Provost two to three finalists for consideration by President Brody. It is anticipated that by the end of April an announcement will be made as to who will be the permanent UHI director.

HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- ♦ Johns Hopkins and the University of Maryland Baltimore will co-host the International Conference on Urban Health at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel October 31-November 2, 2007.
- ♦ Inaugural issue of the UHI's *Journal of Progress in Community Health Partnerships* was published in February.
- ♦ The UHI is hiring a communications specialist to facilitate communication between the UHI and the community.

(See Page 2)

New Website to be Launched April 2007

The UHI website is undergoing a major overhaul. We are currently redesigning the site to expand its reach and accessibility to the community, students, and faculty. Once launched, this site will serve as a valuable tool to a variety of audiences. Community-based organizations will be able to turn to it as a resource when writing grants, seeking volunteers, or looking for ways in which to form partnerships with the University. Faculty and staff can use the site to learn about what others are

working on within the University as well as turn to the site as a mediator for forming internal and external partnerships. Community members can use the site to learn more about how Hopkins is engaged in work in East Baltimore as well as identify what services are offered in and around their homes. Finally, students interested in urban health and development can look to the site as a way to learn more about what the University offers both through coursework and hands-on training.

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NEWS AND UPDATES

Brown Scholars Program

Through the generosity of Sylvia and Eddie Brown, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health has established the Brown Scholars program to support two doctoral level students committed to working on the health issues of urban communities and most particularly Baltimore.

The International Congress on Urban Health

The Johns Hopkins University UHI together with the University of Maryland will co-host the International Conference on Urban Health at the Sheraton Baltimore City Center Hotel October 31-November 2, 2007. The Conference is entitled "Harnessing the Power of Technology to Achieve Behavior Change and Improve Urban Health". We anticipate approximately 1,000 urban health and development leaders from around the world to

participate. Currently, Congressman Elijah Cummings and Alex Ezeh, the Director of the African Population and Health Research Center in Nairobi, have agreed to give major addresses as have Baltimore Health Commissioner Dr. Josh Sharfstein and Elliot Sclar from Columbia University's Center for Sustainable Development. For further information contact Chris Gibbons at: mgibbons@jhsph.edu or visit www.icuh2007.com.

New Journal on Community-based Participatory Research Launched

In February 2007, the inaugural issue of the Urban Health Institute's Journal of Progress in Community Health Partnerships was published. The mission of the Journal is to facilitate dissemination of programs that use community partnerships to improve public health, to promote progress in the methods of research and education involving community health partnerships, and to stimulate action that will improve the health of people in communities. This Journal, which is published with generous support from the WK Kellogg Foundation, is dedicated to supporting the work of community health partnerships that involve ongoing collaboration between community representatives and academic or governmental partners. For further information or to subscribe please contact Mark Newgent at: mnewgent@jhmi.edu.



UHI is hiring a Communication Specialist

The communications specialist will play a key role in facilitating communication between the UHI and the community by building effective, sustainable relationships. He/she will be responsible for targeted dissemination of publications, sharing information about upcoming UHI events/forums, and will promote services available to the community and university faculty, staff, and students. Part of these dissemination efforts will involve synthesizing scientific and research findings for broad communication to the community. Qualified candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in relevant field as well as three years demonstrated writing experience, preferably in a

community-based, research, or academic environment. Demonstrated experience translating and disseminating research findings and/or technical information to lay audience is required. Familiarity with and work experience in urban health issues preferred. The successful candidate should possess the skills to work collaboratively with others, work under pressure, manage multiple priorities effectively, and have the ability to work independently. Interested applicants can apply via the Johns Hopkins Employment website, found at <https://hrnt.jhu.edu/jhujobs/>. For questions regarding the position, contact Amy Gawad at: agawad@jhsph.edu.

Congressman Cummings' Baltimore Education Commission

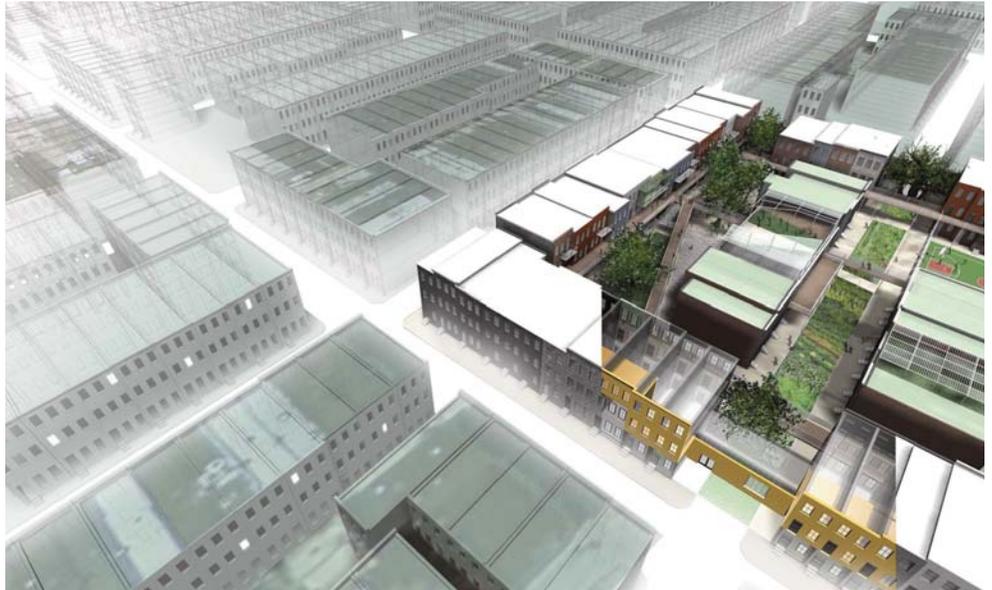
Over the past few months the UHI has been working with Congressman Elijah Cummings and his office to develop a Baltimore Education Commission that will focus on the priority issues for children and youth in Baltimore and will develop a policy and programmatic approach to addressing those issues. Recently formed, the Commission hopes to convene a meeting this summer on Baltimore children, youth and families.

Urbanite Magazine

March 2007

Working with Ed Burns, the producer of *The Wire*, and two young architects from Hord, Coplan and Macht—Kuo Pao Lian and Pavlina Ilieva, the UHI collaborated on developing a conceptual model of what safe spaces might look like in Baltimore.

The project is known as Hidden Walls. See page 57-58 of the March 2007 *Urbanite*. For further information contact Kuo Pao Lian: klian@hcm2.com.



Conceptual model of what safe spaces might look like in Baltimore

Mayor Dixon's Community School Initiative Results Taskforce

Under the office of David Stone, the UHI's interim director has co-chaired (with Diane Bell, President of Associated Black Charities) the Results Taskforce of the Community Schools Initiative. The intent of this group is to identify the measurable outcomes to which schools receiving community schools fund should be held accountable. The report is due to be completed by the end of March and presented to the City Council shortly thereafter. For further information contact Jess Strauss at: strauss@baltimoreconnections.org.

Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA)-East Baltimore Development Inc (EBDI)- Johns Hopkins Collaboration

Recent discussions have begun with MICA, EBDI and Hopkins to see how our three institutions might collaborate on community arts initiative for East Baltimore. These discussions are in the formative stages and we anticipate that an on-going working group will be established by early spring.

Sesame Workshop

Through prior collaborations between Sesame Workshop and Johns Hopkins, Sesame Workshop in New York has approached UHI to explore the possibility of developing a set of materials using the Sesame Street characters for the purposes of teaching parenting skills to young mothers and life skills training to children in Baltimore up to the age of five. This initiative is in the formative stages but the plan is to develop a proposal for funding by late spring.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Community Health Worker Project

One of the cornerstone projects of the UHI has been and remains the community health worker program led by Chris Gibbons, MD, MPH. This program was launched with funding from the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism for an AmeriCorps*Maryland Service site. AmeriCorps members serve in East Baltimore as Community Health Workers (CHWs) and have been deployed into the "field" to conduct center-based activities, i.e., activities located at the Center for Community HEALTH and include group educational workshops, health screenings, lifestyle and health coaching, care coordination, medical compliance and facilitation activities. In addition, CHWs triage East Baltimore residents and conduct preliminary health risk evaluation, health screening and individualized patient education. Activities occur primarily in the community and include home visits as appropriate, health educational reinforcement, and health care compliance motivational counseling. With the transitioning of the Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured, plans are currently begin developed to integrate the CHWs into the clinical activities at the East Baltimore Medical Center. Integrating the CHWs into the clinical activities at EBMC will help to ensure the continuation of care for these

patients while also expanding the healthcare options for these and other similar patients from East Baltimore.

With recent funding from the Abell foundation, Dr. Gibbons will be able to complete the development and testing of web-based decision support and client management tool to be used by the CHWs. This will significantly enhance the program's efficacy by enabling the automation of data collection, facilitation of patient tracking and allow for the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate web based information to clients via wireless networks, in real time, at the point of service, (e.g., in the home, at a shelter, under a bridge, or in the clinic). Thus, the establishment of the eClinic or virtual clinic will allow CHWs to provide any service to any client at any time, anywhere. In the future we envision this system also enabling the real time face to face contact between community dwelling clients and remotely located providers servicing their needs.

As the UHI moves forward with the community school/health campus as part of the East Baltimore Development Inc. (see below), we believe that the CHW infrastructure and organizational capacity will prove invaluable. For further information contact Greg Cundiff: grcundif@jhsph.edu.

East Baltimore Technology Resource Center (EBTRC)

EBTRC's mission is to provide no/low cost computer hardware/software and general skills training to disadvantaged populations, primarily in the East Baltimore area. EBTRC is also with the Maryland State Department of Education's (MSDE) "Phoenix Program" – a program that supplies refurbished computers to school systems throughout the state. The program's budget was originally funded 100% by UHI. HEBCAC was excited about taking over the program but realized that it would realistically take a full 2 years to create a self-sustaining business model for the program, resulting in a two year agreement of transitional funding from UHI.

In the current fiscal year, EBTRC has seen 350+ individuals served through its various learning programs, including both scheduled classes and drop-in self-directed training. Our current contract with MSDE is for the provision of 1500 refurbished computers by June 30 – to date about 1200 of that number have been delivered. EBTRC has partnered with another technology program called "WildTech" which focuses on providing training and equipment specifically to clients of other social service programs throughout Baltimore City.

EBTRC is also involved in providing basic computer skills training to participant's of HEBCAC's Youth Opportunities program, which provides academic training and workforce placement/retention services to over 400 East Baltimore youth ages 16-21.

A major focus for the program had been to develop the self-sustaining business model referenced above. To that end we have created a "retail sales" component that provides moderate priced refurbished computers to local residents and nonprofit organizations. To date that effort has generated over \$25,000 in revenue, and our plans include the establishment of a store-front location along the Monument St. retail district and the expansion of our revenue generating activities into the service arena.

In terms of the learning programs, EBTRC is exploring the creation of a new set of single-session targeted software training classes to address the needs of individuals who need basic skill reinforcement vs. more comprehensive skills work. We are planning for the creation of an A+ certified training class to begin in late spring, 2007, as well.

The Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured

The Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured was established in 2004. Since that time it has seen approximately 900 individuals of whom approximately 400 were patients during the calendar year 2006. In July of that year the Maryland Pharmacy Assistance Program expanded as did eligibility for the Maryland Primary Adult Care Program. As a consequence of these changes and the fact that the Caroline Street Clinic operated only two evenings a week for three hours each day, plans were made to transition those patients into the Johns Hopkins Medical System at the East Baltimore Medical Center (EBMC). Today, the UHI has allocated funds as well as community health worker assistance to ensure that anyone in East Baltimore who is eligible for insurance gets it. We are working with CURE and other faith-based organizations to reach those most likely to be uninsured. Secondly, all patients who had been seen at the Caroline Street Clinic for the Uninsured can now be seen at the East Baltimore Medical Center but

now, in addition to two evenings per week, the Clinic is available to them six days per week as well. At EBMC patients have access to more comprehensive primary care services (e.g. laboratory, x-ray and pharmacy) then were previously available. For those who are uninsured the UHI has made a commitment to underwrite the co-pay. For those who would prefer to be seen elsewhere, and in particular the Spanish-speaking clients who had been seen at Caroline Street, a comparable arrangement exists with the Baltimore Medical Systems where the UHI underwrites the co-payment for those who are uninsured.

While universal health insurance remains our goal, in the interim the UHI remains committed to ensuring that those who are uninsured in East Baltimore have access to the highest quality care possible. East Baltimore residents who would like assistance in obtaining healthcare should call (410) 502-7270 and ask to speak to one of UHI community health workers.

THE UHI REMAINS COMMITTED TO ENSURING THAT THOSE WHO ARE UNINSURED IN EAST BALTIMORE HAVE ACCESS TO THE HIGHEST QUALITY CARE POSSIBLE.

Baltimore Research Literature Review

The UHI has partnered with the Health Sciences Informatics Department and Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins University to conduct an extensive, systematic review of the research that has been carried out in Baltimore. This project began in 2005 to document the published literature on several aspects of health in this community. More specifically, researchers have examined the occurrence of health conditions and their determinants, health care utilization issues and barriers to utilization, interventions to improve health, and unmet need for health services.

Researchers on this project have retrieved over 4,000 articles about the health of populations in Baltimore. Exclusion criteria were developed; and the review

was narrowed to approximately 300 articles, which have been fully reviewed, abstracted, synthesized into tables and will be placed in an online database that community-based organizations and researchers can use to discover what research has been done in Baltimore City and where there are gaps. Researchers on this project have also been able to include students in this process by teaching two seminars focused on how to conduct systematic reviews. Additionally, the UHI is hoping to convene a group of Baltimore community residents, students, and possibly art students to develop innovative methods to disseminate the information that was found in this review. For further information contact Nadra Tyus: ntyus@jhsph.edu.

APPROXIMATELY 300 ARTICLES HAVE BEEN REVIEWED AND INFORMATION ABOUT THESE ARTICLES WILL BE AVAILABLE IN A SEARCHABLE ONLINE DATABASE THAT COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND RESEARCHERS CAN USE TO DISCOVER WHAT RESEARCH HAS BEEN DONE IN BALTIMORE CITY.

ONGOING COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

University Collaborations

Over the past nine months a new all University working group has been established on urban health and development. The first task of the working group was to identify existing courses offered on both the Homewood and East Baltimore campuses relating to urban health and development issues. That compendium has now been

compiled and will be available on the UHI website. At the present time, the working group is exploring the development of a certificate program on urban health and development focused on Baltimore for both undergraduate and graduate students. For further information, please contact Amy Gawad at: agawad@jhsph.edu.

Community-University Partnerships

In the fall 2006 the UHI was charged by its Executive Committee to explore various community-university partnerships that exist across the United States, site visit those that would be most appropriate, convene an invitational conference and synthesize the lessons learned so as to assist in the planning and development of the UHI. Through a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the detailed analysis of nine modeled programs from across the country have been undertaken with in depth interviews of the leadership of those initiatives. In addition, site visits have been conducted at both the University of Southern California and the University of Pennsylvania and discussions have been held with colleagues at the New York Academy of Medicine to identify the core elements of successful collaborations. An invitational conference is planned for April 30-May 1. For further information contact Kamila Mistry at kmistry@jhsph.edu.

Over the past year the UHI has also joined with fifteen other institutions of higher learning across the greater Baltimore area in an initiative led by University of Baltimore and the Annie E. Casey Foundation. The group will convene a series of four workshops over the coming year focused on the role higher education can play in neighborhood and regional revitalization and on the university as an economic engine. The primary purpose of these workshops is to have higher education institutions and community partners come together to learn about concrete ways in which these goals have been met by colleges and universities in our region and across the country. The workshops will focus on institutional motivation, critical factors of success, overcoming roadblocks, and achieving action plans that allow collaborative work to achieve mutual goals. In addition, a Baltimore Area Research Forum is being planned by this group and will take place this fall.

Collaboration with East Baltimore Development, Inc. (EBDI)

The most major set of activities of the UHI over the past nine months has been in collaboration with EBDI. This past fall, President Brody asked the UHI to serve as the link between the University and EBDI as it relates to human resource development. This is led to bi-weekly meetings with EBDI leadership (Jack Shannon and Alison Welch) and Casey leadership (Tony Cipollone and Lisa Kane). This collaboration led to the development and subsequently the awarding of a family support center from Friends of the Family in Baltimore. This EBDI program will provide support services for mothers and children from birth to age 3. Recently, a major second initiative has requested an eight-month planning grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to establish a community school initiative as part of EBDI that will have a health component linked with the Schools of Medicine and Nursing. These two activities -the family support center and community school- are part of a major vision for children, youth and families that has been developed in conjunction with numerous community agencies and individuals and supported through a

planning grant from the Abell Foundation. At the invitation of Judge Ellen Heller, the UHI interim director visited the PACT program in Israel that provides support services for approximately 11,000 Ethiopian Israeli children to assure that they enter school at a level equal to others in that country and that they maintain that advantage throughout school. So too, the UHI organized a delegation from EBDI and the Baltimore community to the Harlem Children's Zone to meet with Geoff Canada and his team who, since 1994, have developed and implemented a network of services (what Canada calls "a conveyor belt") improving the outcomes for young people in that geographic area. These two programs as well as others that have been piloted in Baltimore and elsewhere have become the model for a human resource development plan that will parallel the infrastructure development of housing in the Biotech Park. For further information contact either Robert Blum: rblum@jhsph.edu or Alison Welch: alison.welch@ebdi.org.

BALTIMORE CONVERSATIONS

Over the past nine months extensive conversations have been held with faculty and staff within Johns Hopkins University as well as policy makers, community leaders, the faith community and residents of East Baltimore. These conversations have taken numerous forms:

UNIVERSITY CONVERSATIONS: Two half day retreats were held in summer 2006 attended by over 100 faculty and university leaders with a goal of developing linkages among those across the university working on health and development related issues in Baltimore and to identify priority areas for future efforts. From those conversations came those first sparks of what has evolved into the East Baltimore family development plan described below.

MEETINGS WITH POLICY MAKERS HAVE INCLUDED: Delegate Talmadge Branch, Councilwoman Paula Johnson Branch, Delegate Clarence Davis, Senator Verna Jones, Delegate Ruth Kirk, Councilmen Jack Young and Congressman Elijah Cummings. Here too, the intent has been to identify priority areas where the UHI should be investing time and resources.

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FAITH COMMUNITY HAVE INCLUDED PASTORS: Harlie Wilson, Toni Draper, Melvin Tuggle, Marshall Prentice, Ed Robinson, Frank Reid, Bishop Douglas Miles and Father James McLinden. This spring, the UHI and CURE will jointly host a conversation to include the Hopkins leadership from the East Baltimore campus together with the faith leaders of the East Baltimore churches. The goal is to identify the areas for future collaborations. For further information please contact Nadra Tyus: ntyus@jhsp.edu.

CONVERSATIONS WITH RESIDENTS OF THE EAST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY HAVE CENTERED AROUND TWO STRUCTURED PROCESSES. At the invitation of Johns Hopkins Medicine, the UHI is holding a series of focus groups with entry level employees to identify what their issues, needs and concerns are and how Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions might better address those needs. For further information please contact Layne Humphrey: lhumphrey@jhsp.edu.

Secondly, using a structured approach to reflect on Johns Hopkins University practices regarding collaborative work with local communities we have begun a series of conversations with women whose lives have been touched by some of the greatest social problems of our community: violence, incarceration, substance abuse and homelessness. The goal of these conversations is to put into place the mechanisms that help children and families survive and thrive. For further information contact Alan Green: agreen@jhu.edu.

CONVERSATIONS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS OVER THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS INCLUDING: Richard Barth, James Blount, James Piper Bond, Ed Burns, Tony Cippolone, Bonnie Copeland, Woody Curry, Bob Embry, John Erickson, Hathaway Ferebee, Mel Freeman, Clare Gorman, Ellen Heller, Ron Hester, Talib Horne, Lisa Knickmeyer, Chip Mason, Diane Bell McKoy, Ralph Moore, Diana Morris, Janis Parks, Trudy Perkins, Alaric Phillips, Millie Pierce, Ana Rodriguez-Halpin, James Rood, Glenn Ross, Ed Sabatino, Sue Schurman, Jack Shannon, Josh Sharfstein, Shale Stiller, Jess Strauss, Valencia Warneck, Cathy Wescott.

THE GOAL OF THE CONVERSATIONS WITH UNIVERSITY LEADERS IS TO DEVELOP LINKAGES AMONG THOSE ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY WORKING ON HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT RELATED ISSUES IN BALTIMORE AND TO IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS FOR FUTURE EFFORTS.

THE GOAL OF THE CONVERSATIONS WITH THE EAST BALTIMORE COMMUNITY IS TO IDENTIFY MECHANISMS THAT HELP CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

Administrative Issues

There were a number of administrative issues that needed to be addressed since last June. Over the past few months we have relocated the UHI offices from the Candler Building at the Inner Harbor to 2013 E. Monument Street in the heart of East Baltimore.

- ♦ An Administrator, Pam Martin, MBA, now oversees all aspects of the budget. The interim director, Bob Blum, meets on a monthly basis with the UHI Executive Committee comprised of leaders both within the Johns Hopkins University and community. All budgetary issues are reviewed and vetted by that group.
- ♦ A new UHI Program Specialist, Amy Gawad, MPH was hired in the fall 2006. Ms. Gawad comes to this position from Washington, D.C. where she was on the staff of the Board on Children, Youth, and Families at the National Academies of Science.
- ♦ A core administrative team was identified for the UHI including Freya Sonenstein, Phil Leaf, Chris Gibbons and Bernie Guyer. This group meets on a monthly basis.
- ♦ Finally, a new Administrative Assistant, Ruth McLean, was hired for the UHI. With the hiring of a communications specialist noted above as well as a permanent director, the core administrative team will then be in place.



2013 E. Monument Street
Baltimore, MD 21205