Reimagining Research: Building Partnerships that Center Community Health
Tuesday, May 9

10:00 – 10:30  Welcome & Opening Remarks
Susan Dargon-Hart, LICSW, Senior Vice President, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers

10:30 – 12:00  Pathways to Research
There are many ways that health centers can engage in research that align with patient and organization goals, draw from available resources, and generate evidence that is meaningful. In this session, we will explore different research designs and methods that are well-suited to health centers at varying levels of research engagement. A panel of health center staff will each present a research project focusing on how the project related to their CHC’s priorities, fit into operations, and utilized health center resources. A moderated discussion will help us examine the qualities that lead to productive partnerships with outside researchers.

Amy Ben-Arie, JD, MPH, Director of Research Compliance, The Fenway Institute
Emily Hall, FNP, MPH, Program Manager, Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program Institute
Lily Yung, MD, Chief Medical Officer, Manet Community Health Center
Ivy Opoku-Mensah, NP, Research Liaison, Manet Community Health Center
Maria Celli, PsyD, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

12:00 – 1:00  Lunch & Networking

1:00 – 2:00  What does it mean to be “Research Ready”?
Rather than being reactive to research requests, how can health centers be proactive in identifying what types of research they wish to be involved in, and articulate what they bring to the table in research partnerships? In this session, we will hear how Boston HealthNet worked with member health centers to design systems that allow them to vet research projects and partners with greater consistency, and respond more readily to researchers once in partnership. A HealthNet health center will also describe how this system is tailored to their particular setting.

Charles Williams, MD, Medical Director, Boston Healthnet at Boston Medical Center
Stephen Tringale, MD, Medical Director of Quality and Patient Safety and Research, Codman Square Health Center

2:00 – 3:00  Research Roundtable
In this interactive session, participants will break into groups to explore a range of topics including how to gain buy-in for research participation, what further education about research would be helpful, and what are the qualities of a good research relationship. Table discussion highlights will be shared with the full group at the close of the session. Moderated by League Staff

3:00 – 3:10  Coffee/Snack Break
Partnership in Practice: Lessons Learned from Community Engagement Studios

Community Engagement Studios provide a framework for researchers to work directly with community members to get meaningful insights as they plan, design and implement research. In this session, Dr. Rebekka Lee, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, will moderate a discussion between health center staff and researchers who have participated in a Community Engagement Studio to share what they learned from the exchange and how the feedback will improve the relevance and quality of proposed research studies.