



CENTER *for*  
ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH



**A Prevention Research Center funded by the  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**



# Mission

The Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) is committed to helping Baltimore's youth to become healthy and productive adults. We collaborate with community partners and youth-serving organizations to conduct research and develop programs that are tested and proven to advance healthy adolescent development.

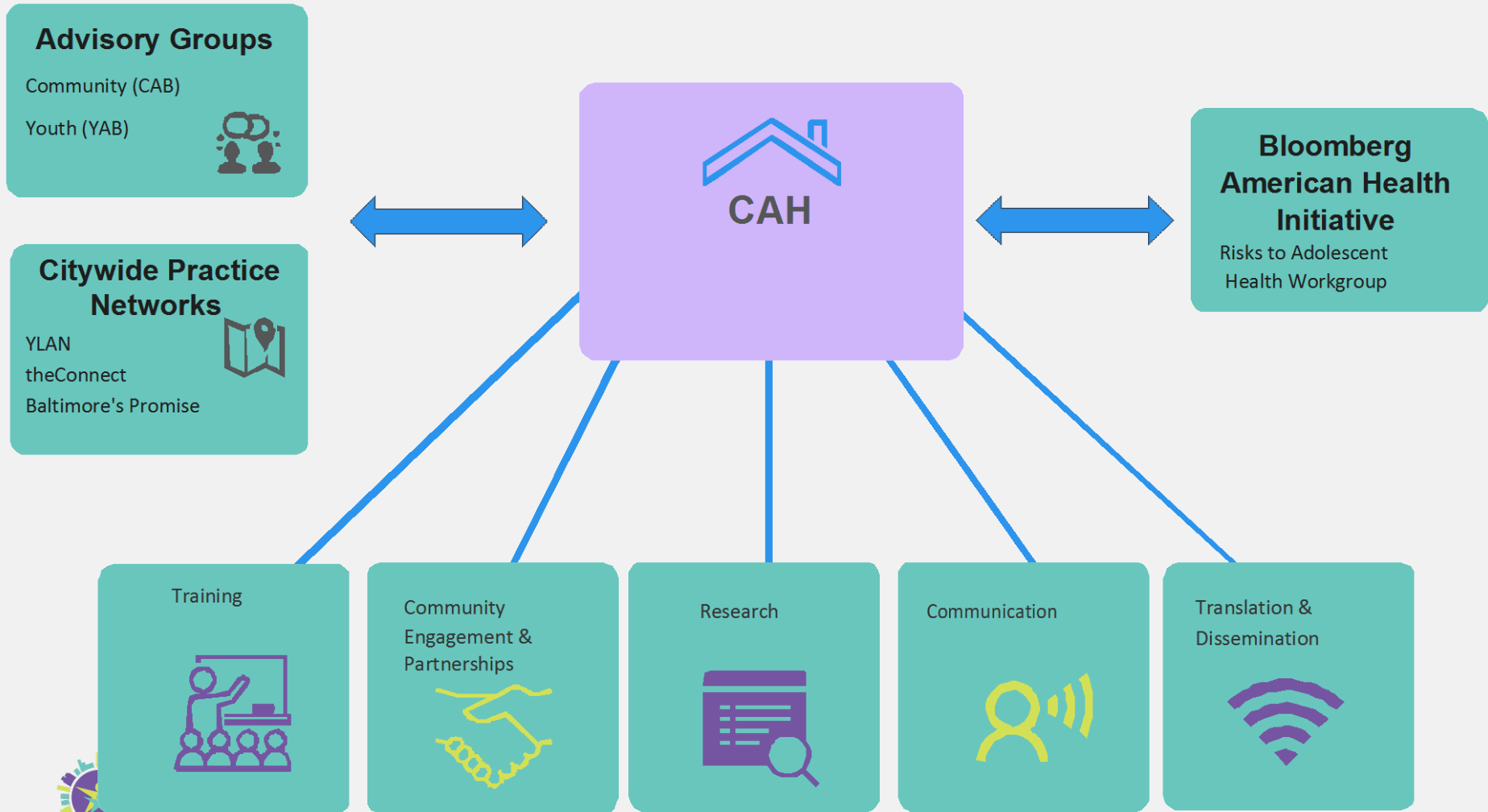


# CAH location and structure

- CDC-funded Prevention Research Center over the past 25 years
- Dr. Philip Leaf has directed the Center since most recent round of CDC funding; Dr. Mendelson joined as new director
- Located in the Department of Population, Family, and Reproductive Health (PFRH)
- Affiliated faculty from several JHSPH departments, Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, Education, and Arts & Sciences




# Center for Adolescent Health (CAH) Organizational Chart



**Advisory Groups**  
Community (CAB)  
Youth (YAB)



**Citywide Practice Networks**  
YLAN  
theConnect  
Baltimore's Promise



**Bloomberg American Health Initiative**  
Risks to Adolescent Health Workgroup

**Training**




**Community Engagement & Partnerships**



**Research**



**Communication**



**Translation & Dissemination**



# Center Faculty and Staff



Beth Marshall, DrPH  
Associate Director



Terri Powell, PhD  
Co-Investigator



Kristin Mmari  
Co-Investigator



Lauren Burns, BA  
Communications Specialist



Katrina Brooks, MA  
Community Relations Director

# CAB and YAB

- Community Advisory Board (CAB)
  - 21 members
  - Representation from community sectors serving youth in Baltimore
- Youth Advisory Board (YAB)
  - 12 young adults aged 17-22
  - Includes high school students, recent graduates, and young people attending local colleges
  - Many have histories of adverse childhood experiences and disconnection



# Citywide practice networks

- **The Youth Advocacy and Leadership Network (YLAN)**
  - Citywide youth leadership network of 45+ organizations and individuals
- **The City's Youth Opportunity Network (TheCONNECT)**
  - Cross-sector collaborative to promote opportunities for disconnected youth in education, entrepreneurship, and employment
- **Baltimore's Promise**
  - Citywide collaborative to promote youth educational success



# Bloomberg American Health Initiative

- Close partnership and synergy between CAH and the *Risks to Adolescent Health* focal area in the Initiative
  - Share Youth Advisory Board
  - Share focus on preventing youth disconnection and re-engaging opportunity youth
  - Share projects





# Training

- **Expand** bi-directional training opportunities
- **Encourage** effective implementation of research, effective practices and policies
- **Expose** high school and undergraduate students to the field of public health
- **Educate** graduate students on the research and practice of public health through courses and research
- **Enhance** the postdoc and junior faculty experience through career development supports



# Community Engagement

- Maintain a Community Advisory Board to serve a guide in Center activities
- Increase capacity of Baltimore City youth leaders to effectively participate in research, policy and practice
- Provide adolescent health focused technical assistance



# Communications

- Center website
- Blog posts
- Email updates (“Weekly Items of Interest”)
- Fact sheets
- Goal to establish Center as a “go-to” source of expertise on adolescent health issues, research, programs, and education



# Applied Research

Test the benefits of adapting and effectively implementing multi-year, evidence-based interventions that reduce health risks among adolescents



# Special Interest Projects (SIPs)

- Nutrition and Obesity Policy Research and Evaluation Network ([jgittel1@jhu.edu](mailto:jgittel1@jhu.edu))
- Physical Activity Policy and Evaluation Research Network Plus ([kpollac1@jhu.edu](mailto:kpollac1@jhu.edu))
- Reducing Youth Exposure to Alcohol Marketing ([djernigan@jhu.edu](mailto:djernigan@jhu.edu))



# Current Projects

- The Ruth and Norman Rales Center for the Integration of Health and Education\*
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative Strategic Plan
- Youth Health and Wellness Strategy\*
- Summer Youth Leadership Institute
- UChoose: Replicating Evidence-Based TPP Programs to Scale in Communities with the Greatest Need (Tier 1B)



# Current Projects

- Faith Leader Informed Prevention (FLIP)
- Baltimore City Call to Action
- Baltimore City Public Schools Promoting Student Resilience Initiative
- Project POWER
- Effects of mindfulness on stress physiology in Baltimore City high school students



# Get involved!

- Center datasets
  - 10+ datasets (6 related to school interventions or outcomes)
- 2 full-time positions open
  - Research Program Coordinator
  - Research Assistant
- Other opportunities...





# Thank you!

- Tamar Mendelson – [tmendel1@jhu.edu](mailto:tmendel1@jhu.edu)

