**WORKSHOP: What Parents of Student Athletes Need to Know: Proper Response and Management of Concussions**

Come learn what every parent needs to know to help keep their child safe while engaged in school sports. Many involved in the school community still do not understand the seriousness of concussions, how they affect our athletes on the field, and that they may present an even bigger challenge in the academic setting. Concussions are the “invisible injury” which presents many challenges to student athletes and school staff. Parents can play a vital role in how concussions are handled for their child since they monitor their child during recovery and communicate with medical providers and school staff.

In this session, Linda Brown MBA, the Mass. Department of Public Health (MDPH) Program Coordinator of Sports Concussion Activities and Kathleen P. Thornton, MS, LAT, CSCS a Team Leader and Athletic Trainer with Southcoast Hospitals will discuss:

* The MDPH regulations and clinical and policy guidance to schools regarding sports-related head injuries;
* Recognition and treatment of concussions and how to prevent more serious injury;
* Gradual return to sport/classroom for the concussed student

Participants will leave with a better understanding of what concussions are and how to help students navigate their way back from the injury safely.

**PARENTS WANTED FOR FOCUS GROUPS ABOUT SPORTS CONCUSSION LAW**

MDPH is interested in hearing about parents’ perceptions and attitudes regarding implementing the Massachusetts sports concussion law. **We are recruiting parents to participate in a confidential focus group to share your experience of what is actually happening in the schools in terms of the implementation of the sports concussion law.**  Your participation in a focus group is entirely voluntary and there is no cost. It will last 1 hour, 15 minutes and will occur after the Concussion Workshop. The Boston Medical Center evaluator for this project will provide all participants with a $5 gift card. We hope to hear about parents’ experiences in terms of training in sports concussion and management of a child’s suspected or diagnosed concussion. In addition we want to learn if parents and students are getting the support they need in terms of proper management of their child’s concussion. The long-range goal of this evaluation would be to help inform improved programming, training and technical assistance to schools.