Community Health Workers Section Newsletter
Fall 2014

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Message from the APHA CHW Section Chair
As my term comes to an end, as the Madam Chair for the APHA CHW Section, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the progress we’ve made in the past two years.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Section Council (the A-Team) for all of their hard work and dedication in assisting me, and I want to thank all of the CHWs they represent. I am very grateful to have had the chance to work with people who are very passionate about their work. Together, we have made great progress towards CHWs being recognized nationwide.

We were successful in educating our constituents about the role and definition of a CHW. We’ve made great strides in issuing a policy statement, which offers national CHW certification and credentialing guidelines, placing CHWs in the vital role of “decision makers” for development of any CHW training and credentialing standards. Already, this had an important impact on the CHW workforce.

In my home state, Illinois House Bill 5412 was passed by a great friend of mine and colleague, Illinois State Rep. Robin Gabel, who understands the vital role CHWs play in our country’s health. Representative Gabel agreed to be the main sponsor of this bill, and I was proud to support Leticia Boughton of the Chicago CHW Local Network in leading the effort to make this dream come true. We established the necessary infrastructure to promote CHW recognition, and integration of CHWs into Illinois Community Health Worker Advisory Board. This was possible because of our national work.

In closing, I am so thankful that I’ve had the opportunity to serve as your Madam Chair. This role has helped me transform into an authentic leader who is able to demonstrate loyalty in the spirit of teamwork and who is able to inspire people to work together for one common vision.

Respectfully yours...
Wandy Hernandez
wandyhdz@healthconnectone.org

Join us at the APHA Annual Meeting!
By Katie Mitchell, Program Planner, Community Health Workers Section
mitchkl@umich.edu

APHA’s Annual Meeting is just around the corner! You are invited to join community health workers and their supporters from across the world Nov. 15-19 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The CHW Section is hosting two committee meetings, 11 scientific sessions, two poster sessions, a social hour and a business meeting. We hope you’re able to join us for many of our activities during the meeting.

**CHW Section Scientific Program Highlights**
*When:* Monday, November 17
8:30-10 a.m. — Integrating CHWs into systems of care: bridging community and clinic
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. — Exemplars for integrating CHWs into health care teams and addressing health reform
12:30-2 p.m. — Invited Session — Community Health Worker Section: Past, Present & Future
2:30-4 p.m. — CHW education and training: Innovative methods

*When: Tuesday, November 18*
8:30-10 a.m. — Promoting CHW-stakeholder partnerships toward policy and systems change
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. — Strategies to support CHW professional development and engagement
12:30-2 p.m. — Supporting the CHW workforce through policies and systems changes
2:30-4 p.m. — Developing, implementing and evaluating effective CHW programs, tools and research methods
2:30-4 p.m. — Interdisciplinary Approaches Among CHWs and Public Health Entities (a collaborative session by the CHW and PHEHP sections)
4:30-5:30 p.m. — Novel approaches to supporting, evaluating and enhancing the CHW profession and CHW programs
4:30-5:30 p.m. — Innovative programs addressing the critical role of CHWs working with populations outside of the health care system

*When: Wednesday, November 19*
8:30-10 a.m. — Promoting CHWs as change agents in reducing health disparities in the US and abroad
10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. — CHWs programs & healthography: how where you live affects your health and well-being

**Our Committee Meetings**
Policy Committee Business Meeting — *When: Monday, November 17 | 7-8 a.m.*
Education y Capacitación Committee Business Meeting — *When: Wednesday, November 19 | 6:30-8 a.m.*

**Our CHW Social Reception**
*When: Monday, November 17 | 6:30-8 p.m.*

The CHW Section Social Reception is a great way to network with other CHWs and CHW advocates from across the US and the world. Join us for appetizers, a silent auction fundraiser, and remarks from section leaders. We look forward to meeting you and connecting you with other CHW section members!

**Our General Business Meeting: OPEN TO ALL**
*When: Tuesday, November 18 | 6:30-8 p.m.*

The CHW Section General Business Meeting is an opportunity to learn about the CHW Section and the many activities and committees that you can get involved with during the year. Hear from our outgoing and incoming section chairs about the direction for the section and our vision for the next year. This is a great way to learn more about how to be involved!

**Visit Our Expo Booth**
The CHW Section has a booth at the Public Health Expo. Stop by anytime to chat with a CHW Section member and learn more about joining the CHW Section.

Learn more about the meeting: [http://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual](http://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual)
Learn more about the CHW Section
Program: [https://apha.confex.com/apha/142am/webprogram/CHW.html](https://apha.confex.com/apha/142am/webprogram/CHW.html)

**New CDC Report Just Released: Policy Evidence Assessment Report - Community Health Worker Policy Components**

An estimated 75 percent of U.S. health care dollars go to treatment of chronic diseases – the nation’s leading causes of death and disability. Research shows evidence-based policies help reduce this burden by effectively improving chronic disease outcomes, including those related to heart attack and stroke. The CDC Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention has released a new report that supports this research. The Policy Evidence Assessment Report: Community Health Worker Policy Components document summarizes the evidence bases for community health worker policies. While we know these frontline public health workers can be an important tool in reducing chronic illness and health care costs, there are several barriers to their effectiveness that can be improved through policy and systems changes and interventions. This report identifies 14 CHW policy components and assesses them based on the strength of supporting evidence (defined as emerging, promising, and best). The examined components include team-based care, chronic care, and scope of practice, among others. While the majority of the components were ranked as best, those categorized as promising and emerging hold great potential for the field — and reveal that further study is needed.


**Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance Update: Fall 2014**

By Katie Mitchell, Project Coordinator, Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance

mitchkl@umich.edu

In August 2014, Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder declared “Community Health Worker Appreciation Month” statewide. This is the first statewide proclamation of CHW appreciation in Michigan’s history. The Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance and its partners spent the entire month celebrating CHWs in our communities for the amazing work they do.

MiCHWA visited several CHW Month celebrations all across Michigan. Agencies hosted CHW breakfasts, lunches and a health equity training. Spectrum Health, a West Michigan health system, hosted its seventh annual CHW conference that drew over 250 people. In addition to the governor, proclamations of CHW appreciation were made by the City of Grand Rapids, the City of Inkster, and the Wayne County Commission (Detroit is in Wayne County).

To celebrate CHW Month, MiCHWA’s Communications Working Group worked with CHWs to identify ways spotlight the CHW role and support CHWs involved with MiCHWA. Several awareness-raising activities were launched through MiCHWA’s Web page and social media. On Facebook, CHWs submitted mini-bios, and a CHW Profile or CHW Program Profile was posted every day. On Twitter, MiCHWA staff tweeted #CHWMonth facts, highlighting CHW information from Michigan and nationally. On the Web site, MiCHWA’s Summer Intern Caitlin Allen created a CHW Month celebration toolkit. This toolkit compiled resources to help CHWs and others give CHW 101 presentations and host CHW Month celebrations for employers,
stakeholders and community members. MiCHWA’s Project Coordinator Katie Mitchell visited multiple CHW celebrations throughout the month and issued **Certificates of Appreciation** to CHWs for their service to Michigan communities. MiCHWA also posted pictures submitted by groups statewide that hosted **CHW Appreciation events.** Finally, MiCHWA celebrated its **third birthday on August 19.** Thanks to everyone who has supported us over the past three years!

Before and during CHW Month, MiCHWA worked with CHWs and CHW supporters at the state and national levels on the **#CHWsMatter campaign.** At Unity Conference in Baltimore, at MiCHWA meetings in Michigan and in communities, individuals filled in the blank, “A CHW is _____,” or answered the question “Why CHWs?” Each of these connected to our campaign. We wanted to compile as many reasons as we could for how CHWs matter in our communities. The response was terrific, and pictures from our campaign are on Facebook and MiCHWA’s Web site. Thanks to all who filled in the blank!

It was a great month celebrating CHWs and all they do in Michigan. We look forward to sharing more updates following MiCHWA’s Annual Meeting on Oct. 8 in Lansing, Michigan. To learn more about CHW Month in Michigan, please visit [http://www.michwa.org/news-events/chw-month/](http://www.michwa.org/news-events/chw-month/).
1) CHW Octavia Smith and MiCHWA Project Coordinator Katie Mitchell celebrate a CHW Month proclamation from the Wayne County Commission. Octavia’s agency,
Western Wayne Family Health Centers (of Inkster, Michigan and Taylor, Michigan) was instrumental in securing the proclamation. (Photo courtesy of MiCHWA)

2) CHW Carmen Roman of Spectrum Health (Grand Rapids, MI) shares why #CHWsMatter at Unity Conference. (Photo courtesy of MiCHWA)
Community Health Workers Provide Safety Net for New England Fishermen

Fishing is a dangerous job, and New England ground fishermen work in the deadliest waters in the country. Due to their risky occupation, fishermen are more likely to
suffer from work-related injuries, such as back pain, neck pain, and arthritis. The stress of the lifestyle is equally damaging. Fishermen are beholden to forces outside of their control, like weather, fuel prices, foreign imports, climate change, oil spills and governmental regulations. The resulting toxic stress causes fishermen and their families to be sicker than most of the general population. Fishing families suffer with higher rates of depression, substance abuse, heart disease, COPD and many other illnesses.

Unfortunately, fishermen do not have access to a human resources department. While fishing is a billion-dollar industry, with over 8,000 workers in Massachusetts alone, most fishermen are independent workers who have very little shoreside support. For example, only 10 percent of New England fishermen have completed basic occupational safety training.

Almost 20 years ago, Fishing Partnership Support Services implemented a unique community health worker model to support the underserved fishing industry. Since 1997, the nonprofit partnership has been committed to promoting the health and well-being of commercial fishermen and their families with navigators working from offices in port towns along the coast. As wives and daughters of fishermen, or as fishermen themselves, the navigators understand the needs of commercial fishing families.

Furthermore, as community health workers, they are trained to help. Fishing Partnership Support Services provides assistance to fishermen who need to find health care and the right health plan. We also deliver safety-at-sea trainings and provide health education services, and we refer fishing families for professional advice on legal, financial and family matters, such as counseling for mental health and substance abuse. Through its Healthy Harbors initiative, Fishing Partnership Support Services provides on-site health and wellness benefits, such as vaccinations, dental services, cancer screenings and hearing tests to commercial fishing families at harbors, landings, trade shows and local offices. Fishing Partnership Support Services is dedicated to sharing our successful model with commercial fishermen and their families as well as other community health workers around the country. For more information, please visit www.fishingpartnership.org, or contact Lauren Hakala, Manager of Community Health, at lhakala@fishingpartnership.org.

Breastfeeding Rates 87 Percent with Community-Based Doulas: Federal Study

Have you seen HealthConnect One's new study analyzing the role community-based doulas play in high-risk communities across the U.S., and detailing the recommendations of a federally supported expert panel? Supported by the federal government, this new study finds that community-based doulas dramatically increase breastfeeding rates and decrease C-section rates – by providing extended, intensive peer-to-peer support to families throughout pregnancy, during labor and birth, and in the early months of parenting – in communities that face high risks of negative birth and developmental outcomes. The most compelling data findings were the high breastfeeding rates (87 percent at 6 weeks vs. 61 percent of a similar sample) and the low C-section rates (24 percent vs. 30 percent of a similar sample). Learn more here:
Join Us in Honoring APHA CHW Award Winners

The 2014 APHA Community Health Workers Section Awards Committee would like to recognize and honor the contributions and dedication of two outstanding community health workers. The two selected CHWs are working diligently to make a positive impact in their communities. The 2014 award winners were selected from a pool of CHWs nominated for their excellence and dedication as CHWs in their community from around the country. Nominees were evaluated on their involvement in advocacy, support and promotion of the rights of the individuals they serve, coalition and network development, collaboration with other organizations to advocate on behalf of underserved populations, work done in project planning and implementation, and how they reflect the APHA’s definition of a CHW. Please join us in honoring these two individuals Monday, Nov. 17, 2014, from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at the APHA 2014 Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

About the Awards Committee:
The Awards Committee develops the criteria and manages the annual call for nominations, nomination process and peer reviewed selection of award winners for Outstanding CHW awards given by the CHW Section.

For further information about the Awards Committee and how you can be involved in the 2015 Call for Awards, please contact:

Janel A. Lowman, MHA, AE-C
Training and Outreach Specialist
Co-Chair APHA CHW Awards Committee
Coastal Resources and Resiliency Center
Community Health Workers Training Project
jlowman@southalabama.edu
Office: 251-461-1725
Cell: 251-408-1525

National Meeting on CHW Scope of Practice and Skills

On Saturday, Nov. 15, over 100 CHWs and supporters will gather at the New Orleans Convention Center to review preliminary findings from a national review of CHW
scope of practice, or SOP, definitions and skill requirements. Materials from six states (California, Oregon, Texas, Minnesota, New York and Massachusetts) are being compared by the Community Health Worker Common Core (C3) Project in terms of official or proposed SOP definitions and the detailed learning topics covered in state skill requirements or in leading CHW educational curricula. The project is a collaboration between the National AHEC Organization (Area Health Education Centers), the APHA CHW Section and the Project on CHW Policy and Practice at the University of Texas School of Public Health. The states (and related guidance documents and curricula) were chosen on the basis of their progress in defining Scope of Practice and CHW skills that have been accepted in their states and that are looked to nationwide as benchmarks for the CHW field. Preliminary project findings will show patterns of commonality and "outliers" for future consideration in recommending a "CHW common core" of practice standards. Participants in this meeting will help the project team clarify the observations to be drawn from the preliminary data. In 2015 and beyond, the products of this process will be circulated widely throughout the U.S. for consideration and refinement, with the goal of building broad consensus, endorsement and integration of these contemporary recommendations identifying CHW core roles and competencies. A majority CHW Advisory Committee, CHW Fellows, and a core team staffing the project are working to ensure the field-based CHW-driven nature of project recommendations.

The meeting will take place from 2-5:30 p.m. To sign up on the waiting list for this meeting, go to [http://c3meeting.chwsurvey.com](http://c3meeting.chwsurvey.com). If you have already registered and no longer plan to attend, please cancel in order to allow others to participate. For more information, contact: info@c3project.org.

2014 a Banner Year for Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network

2014 has been an exciting year for the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network! Although it is relatively new community health worker professional association, having been founded less than five years ago, it is making important strides to support the CHW workforce locally and nationally. Longtime board members Dana Feist and Renee’ Jenkins were instrumental in helping LACHON convene its second annual half-day CHW conference in June, which attracted over 50 participants from the greater New Orleans area, Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parish! Efforts are already underway to ensure that the 2015 conference is even bigger and better.

The summer brought the good news that LACHON and Tulane University received a grant from the National Institutes of Health. LACHON Chair Catherine Haywood and Ashley Wennerstrom of Tulane will serve as co-principal investigators on a project that will focus on developing community-academic partnerships to address intimate partner violence.

On the national front, Catherine Haywood was selected to serve as a member of the CHW advisory board for the Community Health Worker Common Core Project, which is providing recommendations for a national CHW scope of practice and training standards. Throughout the year, LACHON has been collaborating with the Community Health Planning and Policy Development Section of APHA to organize a day of action in conjunction with the Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The event, to be held at noon on Nov. 15 at Mississippi River Heritage Park, will focus on the public health implications of Medicaid expansion. All are welcome!
Last, but certainly not least, LACHON was fortunate to welcome a new board member this year! Julissa Gonzales, a community organizer with Puentes New Orleans, has been a wonderful, energetic addition to the team. LACHON members are grateful to the many national CHW colleagues and allies who have offered support and guidance to LACHON over the last several years. See you in New Orleans next month!

**California State Innovation Model Community Health Worker Work Group**

By Carol West

In March 2013, California received a “State Innovation Model (SIM) Design” grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation Center. The grant enabled the state to develop a State Health Care Innovation Plan that would test a variety of new payment and service delivery models in the context of larger health system transformation. The Innovation Plan identifies four initiatives that address the Triple Aim goals of improving care, improving health outcomes and reducing costs. Supporting those Initiatives are six building blocks, one of which is workforce, which focuses on the role of Community Health Workers in all four initiatives.

As part of the extensive collaboration required for applying for an implementation grant and in order to be able to hit the ground running should California receive a SIM Testing grant, a CalSIM Community Health Worker Workgroup was formed, with support from the Blue Shield of California Foundation. Chaired by Lupe Alonzo-Diaz from the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development and Kevin Barnett of the California Health Workforce Alliance, the Workgroup is made up of about 15 stakeholders from health plans, community clinics, hospitals, public health, labor, education, CHW organizations and academia, as well as individuals from different state agencies. Our work is conducted both in person meetings as well as monthly conference calls.

Topics covered by the work group have included:

- Definition
- Roles, functions, skills and competencies
- Employment settings
- Training and capacity-building needs
- Financing
- Existing models of integration in California

Two forums were held to engage directly with CHWs working at the grass roots: one was held in Los Angeles and one in Oakland (with a satellite opportunity in Fresno in the Central Valley). About 25 CHWs who came from a variety of communities and played a diversity of roles participated in each forum.

Additional information was gathered from the CA4Health in person CHW Stakeholder meeting that was held on April 23, 2014 in Oakland as well as two technical forums convened by CHWA focusing of the specific technical details of integrating Community Health Workers into existing health systems and organizational structures.
A final report will be produced by the end of the year that will inform the state and providers and health systems that will be implementing the various initiatives.

Support the CHW Section through the Silent Auction or Raffle!

Save the Dates!
Silent Auction, Nov. 17, 6:30-8 p.m.
Raffle, Nov. 18, 6:30-8 p.m.
How can you participate?
☑ Attend the CHW Section Social Reception on Nov. 17 and the CHW Section Business Meeting on Nov. 18.
☑ Donate items for the fundraisers.

To donate an item, please contact Section Treasurer Katharine Nimmons knimmons@tamhsc.edu
979-845-6462

SRJC Alumni & Friends
Community Health Workers Chapter
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA “PREVENTION AND WELLNESS SHOWCASE 2014”

The Santa Rosa Junior College Alumni and Friends – Community Health Worker Chapter hosted the first Northern California “Prevention and Wellness Showcase 2014” on Oct. 1, 2014 to celebrate the CHW month of October. This was in the format of a health fair in which we highlighted some of the important, innovative community-based prevention and wellness programs in Sonoma County. There were 18 table presenters with a special emphasis on the role and scope of practice of Community Health Workers -The workforce with many names. “Diversity is our Unity” (CHW Job Titles can be found at http://www.cachw.org/chw-job-titles/).

The event was opened by Deborah Chigazola, the new dean of SRJC Health Sciences, and our keynote speaker was Rita Scardaci, the director of Sonoma County Health Services. Our first Recognition Award for support and service to the Community Health Worker workforce in Northern California was given to Janet Fisk BSN, RN, MPH, the founder and director of the Santa Rosa Junior College Community Health Worker Program. https://portal.santarosa.edu/srweb/SR_ProgramOfStudy.aspx?ProgramType=1&Program=003303&Version=1

Goals:
• To celebrate Community Health Worker Month
• To highlight new and innovative work being done in grass roots prevention and wellness advocacy
• To facilitate networking among advocates working on similar issues and projects
• To encourage integration of all services impacting social determinants of wellness
• To inspire local students to pursue careers in health & social services
• To highlight opportunities for volunteers in prevention and wellness
• To inspire improvement of policy and services by highlighting the importance and value of the community voice

Support CHWs across the Country!

Did you know?
Travel is a financial burden for many CHWs who want to attend the APHA Annual Meeting. Your donation to the CHW Travel Fund will help give CHWs the opportunity to learn about and meet CHWs from across the country! Every donation helps our Exceptional CHW Awardees travel to New Orleans for the APHA Annual Meeting in November.

APHA CHW Section
The Community Health Workers Section seeks to promote the community's voice within the health care system through development of the role of community health workers and provides a forum to share resources and strategies.

To donate online and for information on donations, visit:
http://goo.gl/XrcVQb

For more information about APHA and the CHW Section, visit:
http://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers

Get the new, complete suite of diabetes prevention materials

The National Diabetes Education Program just added some new, easy, practical and effective tools to Kit El camino hacia la buena salud. The kit now includes a full set of resources to help you conduct diabetes prevention activities. You can also use the resources to complement your existing health or wellness activities.

One of the new features, exclusively for users of Kit El camino hacia la buena salud, is the ability to connect and share information on Campeones del Kit El camino hacia
la buena salud. This new NDEP *community of practice* is the perfect platform to engage partners, ask questions, discover best practices, and share successes and lessons learned.

The kit also features new online training in English (training will be available in Spanish soon!). The 30-minute course includes an introduction to evidence based strategies for reducing the risk for type 2 diabetes, a review of the components of the toolkit and implementation strategies.

Current users of *Kit El camino hacia la buena salud* are encouraged to check out the new features and supplement existing tools with the new resources like the evaluation guide in English or Spanish. For more information or to order resources, visit [www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndep](http://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/ndep) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636)/TTY 1-888-232-6348.

You are invited to help us promote the *Kit El camino hacia la buena salud* in your organization’s website, newsletter or social media networks. Feel free to download this [article](#) or [web blurb](#) for your promotional efforts.

The NDEP is a program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health. For questions contact Betsy Rodriguez, CDC/NDEP Deputy Director, at bjr6@cdc.gov.

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**CHW Networks and Associations**

Organizing the community health worker workforce is critical to advancing CHWs, and it’s happening more and more every day! CHW organizations help to define the profession, provide venues for sharing information and strategies, and advocate for the workforce with the voices of our communities.

The APHA CHW Section supports state and regional associations, and seeks to be a resource for all CHWs everywhere seeking to organize on any level.

Please see the list below for information in your area, and please send me (Gail Hirsch, Newsletter Editor) updated information on any network you are working with in your area: gail.hirsch@state.ma.us.

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**NATIONAL CHW ASSOCIATIONS**

**American Association of Community Health Workers**  
Durrell Fox, Co-Chair, dfoxnehec@aol.com

**APHA CHW Section**  
[http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw](http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/chw)  
Wandy Hernandez, Chair, 312-878-7018, wandyhdz@healthconnectone.org

**National Association of Community Health Representatives**  
[http://www.nachr.net](http://www.nachr.net); Ramona Dillard, CHR/CHWD, rdillard@lagunatribu.org, Pueblo of Laguna, Laguna, NM; 505-552-6652
Community Health Representatives Area Associations

Oklahoma Area Association of Community Health Representatives (OAACHR)
c/o Cyndi Gilks, President, Muscogee (Creek) Nation CHR Program
Phone: 918-623-1925
Email: Cyndi.gilks@creekhealth.org

New Mexico/Southern Colorado CHR Association (NMSCCHRA)
Alk'inibaa' Mermejo, President
505-660-8627 or 505-455-4115
dinewarriorwoman@yahoo.com
akeemmermejo@sanipueblo.org

Aberdeen Area Community Health Representatives Association (AACHRA)
John Eagle Shield, President; 701-854-3856; srchr@westriv.com

STATE AND REGIONAL CHW ASSOCIATIONS

ARIZONA
Arizona Community Health Outreach Workers Network (AzCHOW)
Kathleen Gilligan, Coordinator, http://azchow.org, 520-705-8861
azchow.network@gmail.com.

CALIFORNIA
Community Health Worker/Promotoras Network http://www.visionycompromiso.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=section&layout=blog&id=6&Itemid=4
Maria Lemus, Executive Director, 510-232-7869, chwpromotoras@aol.com
or mholl67174@aol.com

Community Health Worker Initiative of Sonoma County
http://chwisc.org/
http://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-Health-Workers/254588313994
Contact: Carol West, CHW
carolwestchw@gmail.com
707-763-3260
707-481-7965 mobile

FLORIDA
REACH-Workers — The Community Health Workers of Tampa Bay
Michelle Dublin, Chair, 727-588-4018, Michelle_Dublin@doh.state.fl.us

Florida Community Health Worker Coalition
A statewide partnership dedicated to the support and promotion of the CHW profession in Florida; http://www.doh.state.fl.us/family/chronicdisease/CHW_Coalition/
Susan Fleming at Susan_Fleming@doh.state.fl.us

GEORGIA
Georgia Community Health Advisor Network
Gail McCray, 404-752-1645, gmccray@msm.edu

**ILLINOIS**

**Chicago Community Health Workers Local Network (CCHWLN)**
Leticia Boughton, Network Coordinator  
c/o HealthConnect One  
312-878-7015  
Email: lboughton@healthconnectone.org  
Web Address: [http://chwnetwork.wordpress.com](http://chwnetwork.wordpress.com)

**INDIANA**

**Indiana Community Health Worker Coalition (INCHW)**
[http://www.facebook.com/IndianaCHW](http://www.facebook.com/IndianaCHW)  
[http://inchw.betterme.info/](http://inchw.betterme.info/)  
Email: INcommunityhealth@gmail.com  
317-370-8757

**LOUISIANA**

**Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network (LACHON);**
Email: lachws@gmail.com or call Ashley Wennerstrom at 504-988-4007 or Kristina Gibson at 504-523-6221, ext.172.

Also on Facebook at [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Louisiana-Community-Health-Outreach-Network-LACHON/198819210163056](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Louisiana-Community-Health-Outreach-Network-LACHON/198819210163056) and their Twitter account is @LACHON1.

**MARYLAND**

**Community Outreach Workers Association of Maryland, Inc.**
Carol Payne 410-664-6949, carol.b.payne@hud.gov

**MASSACHUSETTS**

**Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers**, [www.machw.org](http://www.machw.org)  
Jackie Toledo, 508-756-6676 ext. 25, jtoledo@machw.org

**MICHIGAN**

**Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance, c/o Katie Mitchell, University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106; mitchkl@umich.edu**  
734-615-7972

**MINNESOTA**

**Minnesota CHW Peer Network**
[http://www.wellshareinternational.org/chwpeernetwork.us](http://www.wellshareinternational.org/chwpeernetwork.us)  
Lee Thao, BA & CHW Certificate Holder, Chair: lthao@familywiseservices.org  
Kate Lechner, MPH, Staff: klechner@wellshareinternational.org

**MN CHW Peer Network** brings Twin Cities CHWs together for learning and continuing education approximately 4-6 times per year. The co-chairs of the Peer Network serve as conveners for the trainings and help the group identify topics for continuing education. They are busy CHWs who provide leadership to the network on a volunteer basis.

**The Minnesota CHW Alliance** is a broad-based partnership of CHWs and stakeholder groups who meet monthly and work together to advance the CHW role in
the state. The curriculum, scope of practice, workforce development efforts, payment legislation and Day at the Capitol have come out of this group and its predecessor, the MN CHW Policy Council. Contact Joan Cleary, part-time interim director, joanlcleary@gmail.com.

NEW JERSEY
The New Jersey CHW Institute supports the development of CHW groups
Carol Wolff, 856-963-2432, ext. 202; wolff_c@Camden-AHEC.org

NEW MEXICO
New Mexico Community Health Workers Association; http://www.nmchwa.org
Bette Jo Ciesielski, 505-255-1227, nmchwa@qwestoffice.net

NEW YORK
Statewide: Community Health Worker Network of New York State
http://chwnetwork.org/id49.html

New York City: Community Health Worker Network of NYC
http://chwnetwork.org
Sergio Matos, Executive Director, 212-481-7667, sergio@chwnetwork.org
Romy Rodriguez, Chair, romelia@chwnetwork.org

Community Health Workers Association of Rochester
http://www.chwrochesterny.org
Glenda Blanco, Chair, 585-922-3507, glenda.blanco@rochestergeneral.org

Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo
Jessica Bauer Walker, Director, 716-548-6727, jessica@chwbuffalo.org
www.chwbuffalo.org

OHIO
Ohio Community Health Workers Association
President: Rebecca Hartman
605 N. High Street, #127
Columbus, OH 43215
PHONE: 855-GO-OCHWA or 855-466-2492
EMAIL: ochwa1@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.ochwa.org
LISTSERV:
Group home page: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ochwa1
Group email address: ochwa1@yahoogroups.com

OREGON
Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)
Lizzie Fussell, Coordinator
971-295-3124
lizzie@oregonlatinohealthcoalition.org
www.oregonlatinohealthcoalition.org; on Facebook: Facebook
Myriam Vazquez, Chair, Education& Training: vazquez.myriam11@gmail.com
Ty Schw effermann, Chair - Policy & Advocacy: Tyschw@ulpdx.org
Rocio Munoz, Chair- Resource & Development: Rocio.Munoz@co.benton.or.us
Julio Maldonado, Chair – Communications: mohamed_abdiasis@yahoo.com
Abdiasis Mohamen, Chair – Membership: julio.c.maldonado@multco.us
RHODE ISLAND
Community Health Worker Association of Rhode Island
http://www.chwassociationri.org
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/chwari401
Beth Lamarre, Coordinator, 401-270-0101, ext 149
chwassociationri@gmail.com

TEXAS:
TEXAS PROMOTORA/COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ASSOCIATIONS/COALITIONS/NETWORKS

Northern Texas Community Health Worker Resource Coalition – NORTH TEXAS
Primary Area: North Texas Region
Claudia Bustos, 806-765-2611, ext. 1024
Email: cbustos@chcl.tachc.org
Meetings held quarterly.
Major Events/Conferences: Dia de la Mujer Latina Conference
Mission: Promoting a unified alliance among Community Health Workers (CHWs) and CHW Instructors to share and gain knowledge through Information, Exchange, Peer-Support, Professional Development and Continuing Education in the North Texas Region.
Approximate # of Members: 250-300

Promotores/Community Health Workers of Travis County Organization - CENTRAL TEXAS
Primary Area: Travis County
Crescencia Alvarado Rivera  512-496-3960
Email: pchw.traviscounty.org@gmail.com
Monthly meetings on the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Location of meetings is 2105 Parker Lane, Austin, Texas 78745.
About the Network: The organization facilitates educational classes to empower the Latino/Hispanic communities.
Approximate # of Members: 35

San Antonio CHWs/Promotor(a) Association – SOUTH TEXAS
Primary Area: San Antonio, Texas
Armida Flores, 210-606-5588
Email: Floresa8@uthscsa.edu
Meetings held monthly.
Major Events/Conferences: CHW/Promotor(a) Summit once a year
About the Network: Dr. Fernando Martinez is the CHW local chapter advisor and with his support will have monthly trainings and provide certified CEUs to our members.
Approximate # of Members: 115

The Health Worker Network / The Health Collaborative of San Antonio - SOUTH TEXAS
Primary Area: San Antonio, Bexar County
William Sandburg - Wk.: 210-481-2573; Cell: 210-835-8566
Email: William.Sandburg@healthcollaborative.net
Website: www.healthcollaborative.net
http://healthworkernetwork.ning.com/?xg_source=msg_mes_network
Major Events/Conferences: Annual Health Literacy Conference - October
About the Network: The Health Collaborative is an organization that coordinates with several community-based organizations for events dealing with health literacy within the community.
Approximate # of Members: 350 including promotores, CHWs and other health care professionals

South Texas Promotora Association, Inc. (STPA) – SOUTH TEXAS
Primary Area: Region 11 and Maverick County
Merida Escobar, 956-383-5393
Email: Stpa08@sbcglobal.net
Meeting held monthly, Quarterly Conference
Major Events/Conferences: National Infant Immunization GET IT D.O.N.E. (Diabetes, Obesity, Nutrition and Exercise) Dia Del Nino, Fitness Retreat
About the Network: Train promotores in the grassroots level to establish a network and resources.
Approximate # of Members: 513

CHW Network of Cameron County
Red de Promotores de Cameron County – SOUTH TEXAS
Primary Area: Brownsville
Maria Magdalena Capistran de Rodríguez, 956-639-0490
Email: Mcrdz71@msn.com
Meeting Schedule: Monthly
About the Network: We as group of promotores are interested in staying informed and using our abilities to serve our community.
Approximate # of Members: 25

Health Promoters Network Paso Del Norte Region
Red de Promotores de Salud Región Paso del Norte – WEST TEXAS
Primary Area: New Mexico, Texas and Mexico, Chihuahua
Olivia Figueroa, President, 915-731-6318 or 915-443-2850
Email: promotorespdn@yahoo.com
Meeting held monthly.
Major Events/Conferences: Annual Conference
Follow us at: https://www.facebook.com/promotores.pasodelnorte.5
Approximate # of Members: 180

Texas Gulf Coast CHW/Promotores Association – EAST TEXAS
Primary Area: Gulf Coast Region: Harris, Fort Bend, Galveston, Brazoria and Montgomery Counties
Denise LaRue, MPH, CHES
Donaji Stelzig, MPH, CHES, CHWI
713-634-1243, 713-982-5965
Email: Denise.LaRue@harrishealth.org
Email: Donaji.Stelzig@harrishealth.org
Website: www.tgccpa.wordpress.com
Meeting Schedule:
Monthly-Board of Directors
Quarterly-General Membership
Major Events/Conferences: Annual CHW Conference in Houston, Texas
About the Network: The mission of the TGCCPA is to meet the needs of the diverse CHW workforce throughout the Texas Gulf Coast by improving communication, providing access to resources, and improving job opportunities. Approximate # of Members: 300

Other National CHW Resources
National Día de la Mujer Latina Promotores Network
http://www.diadelamujerlatina.org; Venus Ginés, MA, P/CHWI
PH: 713-798-5715; Toll-Free: 877-518-8889

APHA 2014 Community Health Worker Section Council

Chair (2012-2014)
Wandy Hernandez
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wandyhdz@healthconnectone.org

Chair Elect
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Immediate Past Chair
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520-805-1781
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Secretary Elect
Jacqueline Toledo
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Center for Community Health Development | Texas A&M Health Science Center
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Bette Jo (BJ) Cielsielski
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State Representative June Grube Robinson
Public Health – Seattle & King County, Washington
June.Robinson@kingcounty.gov

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707-763-3260
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Incoming Section Councilors
Julie St. John, 11/2014-11/2017
Seth Doyle, 11/2014-11/2017

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CREA Results
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fernando@crearesults.org
APHA Executive Board and Governing Council Member 2011-2015
APHA Board Liaison to the CHW Section
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& MA Association of CHWs
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APHA Board Representative, APHA Nominating Committee
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Jacqueline Ortiz Miller, Chair 11/14-11/16

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Maria Lourdes Fernandez

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