

Quarterly Newsletter

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A Message from the CHW Section Chair

This year's annual meeting will look and feel starkly different than it will from last year's fully virtual version and even different from that of 2019's in-person that took place in Philly (*as shown in the APHA leadership group shot below*). We'll



APHA 2021

ANNUAL MEETING & EXPO
DENVER AND ONLINE | OCT. 24 – 27

CREATING THE HEALTHIEST NATION:
STRENGTHENING SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

all definitely wear masks, will more than likely not pose for photos like this or sit very close to one another (sigh)...but the important part is that we'll still be able

to meet and engage with each other and talk about our work in supporting CHWs nationally—regardless of the format you're able to participate in! I personally hope to engage with as many section members virtually or in-person as possible. I'm also anxiously awaiting to hear several of the topics for this year's annual meeting. Definitely take a look on **page 7** to see all of the exciting CHW presentations our section is proud to have this year, as well as the Section's open business meeting on Tuesday, October 26th from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM MDT—don't miss it!



APHA CHW Section leadership in Philadelphia in 2019.

Ashley Rodriguez

2020-2022 CHW Section Chair
American Public Health Association
chw.chair@apha.org

Congrats Newly Elected Section Leaders!

The last section election from June, members successfully elected the following leaders for the section:

Section Councilors: Michelle Archuleta & Julie St. John

Section Student Liaison: Karl Johnson

Common Indicators Project: “Test Driving” the Common Indicators

Victoria Adewumi

The CHW Common Indicators (CI) Project is a CDC funded collaborative of CHWs, researchers, allies, and other stakeholders working to create a common set of evaluation indicators for the CHW profession. Over the last several months, the CI Project hit an important milestone: for the first time, four pilot communities, including the Arizona Community Health Workers Association, Michigan Community Health Worker Alliance & Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Prince George’s Healthcare Alliance, each engaged in a piloting process to “test drive” the indicators identified by the CI Project as instrumental to assessing the strength and sustainability of CHW programs nationwide.



Pilot sites chose from a list of 11 process and outcome indicators, and adapted survey tools that best fit data collection efforts at their locations. After selecting anywhere from 1 to 5 indicators each, sites received technical assistance and support from the CI Project Leadership Team, and participated in a learning community involving team members from all pilot sites. Across the pilot sites, key themes emerged. An emphasis on how often CHWs enacted the Community Health Worker Core Consensus (C3) Project’s 10 core roles (CI Project Indicator #2) was highlighted as a priority indicator of CHW performance and support. Participants’ wellbeing, as measured through self-reported physical, mental, and emotional health (CI Project Indicator #6), was another popular outcome indicator for sites. Importantly, sites expressed the overall quality of collaboration among the piloting group and CI Project Leadership Team was very high, which demonstrates CHWs engaged purposefully and meaningfully throughout the process. A CHW from one of the pilot sites shared that “[I appreciate] how you allow me to be transparent and honest; Being able to be ourselves, radically authentic.” Without this environment of trust, buy-in from CHWs to collect indicator data from their program participants would have been impossible.

While the initial piloting period ended in July 2021, many sites expressed a favorable experience and desire to continue learning from an extended piloting process. The opportunity for more sites to successfully “test-drive” a portion of the indicators is anticipated in late 2021 and early 2022.

If your CHW program is interested in getting involved with the CI Project, please email chwcommonindicators@gmail.com for more information.



Nominate for Section CHW Awards!

The APHA CHW Section CHW awards are for the national recognition of the CHW workforce. Anyone may submit a nomination on an individual or group's behalf. Self-nomination is discouraged. Multiple nominations from different nominators for each award type will be accepted. A physical award (plaque or paperweight-type) & official Section letter will be granted to 1 Individual CHW/Promotora/CHR & to 1 CHW Group. CHW Group is defined as any group that consists of a team (formal or informal) that is at least 51% CHW/Promotora/CHR led. Examples include but are not limited to: an integrative clinical care team, professional association, coalition, other informal grassroots 'group', and/or research team. *Attendance to the APHA Annual Meeting for awardees is not required or mandatory - but strongly encouraged. See eligibility info &*

Nominate here today: <https://forms.gle/h3tTuS8h5A5cEDDj6>



Community Ambassadors Address COVID-19 Impacts

Susan Gantan, MPH, CHLA; Amanda Daigle, MPH, CHLA; Emiko Kranz, BS, CHLA; Estephania Vazquez, MPA, PLN;



Recognizing the significant physical, mental and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the increasing need for more integrated, equitable systems of care, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA) and Para Los Niños (PLN) partnered in January 2021 to pilot the Abrazos Community Ambassador Resource Navigation Program. The partnership aims to improve quality of life outcomes for children and families across Los Angeles and beyond.

Methodology

In collaboration with CHLA, PLN hired, trained and supervised four South L.A.-based community ambassador resource navigators from PLN’s Best Start Metro L.A. community leader network. This program is modeled after PLN’s Community Promotor/a Model, a fundamental base to transformative relationships, community and family resource mobilization, community organizing and capacity building/strengthening, and systems change efforts. For over 10 years, the model has been implemented successfully across Metro Los Angeles and since 2018, it is being scaled across East Los Angeles, South El Monte/El Monte and Southeast L.A. Community Ambassadors work with Spanish-speaking patient families referred directly from CHLA social workers. The community ambassadors completed more than 40 hours of training that increased their sense of self-efficacy and prepared them to provide phone-based support to help community members connect to PLN programs, local resources and social services

Initial Results

Since May 2021, community ambassadors have conducted over 25 initial and follow-up sessions and made more than 35 resource referrals. The program has demonstrated effectiveness in bridging gaps between health care and social services systems for patients and families, with 60% of families connecting to resources shared by community ambassadors. Additionally, community ambassadors often share the fulfillment they feel when helping families.

“One assignment really opened my heart,” says Veronica, “even though the family was going through a difficult time, we worked very well together. When they informed me they had already obtained some of the resources we discussed, satisfaction filled my soul! Every session is very special—I love serving others and do so with great pleasure.”

Community Ambassador Maricarmen explains that families express sincere gratitude “when learning about resources that they did not know existed or that they are eligible for; these help them sustain their basic needs.”

Future Steps

The evolving partnership between CHLA and PLN provides an opportunity to assess how this collaboration transforms internal systems to better align and support the work of community health workers, bolstering support for the communities served. CHLA and PLN aim to engage additional agencies in a collaborative network, keep expanding their reach in L.A. County through the Abrazos model, and continue transforming and integrating systems of care.



Figure 1. Capacity Growth

Community Promoters completed a survey before starting training, at the mid-point, and at the end of the training period. Community Promoters rated themselves on a 0-5 Likert scale, with 0 indicating no self-efficacy and 5 indicating great self-efficacy in the areas of resource navigation, communication skills, technology knowledge, and leadership abilities.

CHW's in Violence Prevention and Community Mobilization

Colleen Barbero, CDC Division of Violence Prevention and CHW in Violence Prevention Literature Review Work Group



In its multiple and inter-related forms, violence is a serious public health issue with lasting impacts on health and wellness in the U.S. Inequities in risk and exposure to violence for communities that have been socially and economically marginalized remain a critical concern. Building community power is an approach to address the social and structural inequities driving violence inequities. One way community power has been defined is “the ability of communities most impacted by structural inequity to develop, sustain and grow an organized base of people who act together through democratic structures to set agendas, shift public discourse, influence who makes decisions, and cultivate ongoing relationships of mutual accountability with decision makers that change systems and advance health equity.”

Community health workers (CHW) address violence as a public health problem and have roles relevant to building community power. CHWs engaged in violence prevention activities have included village-based counselors, promotor(a)s, peer advocates, violence interrupters, violence prevention professionals, and street outreach workers, among many others. Researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of Violence Prevention (DVP) partnered with researchers and practitioners in the field, including CHWs, to review the published literature on public health programs in which CHWs played a key role in violence intervention and prevention.



Wilmington on Fire Screening and community dialogue amid George Floyd uprising 2020



The upcoming APHA CHW section roundtable 3109.0 CHW Section Special Session: Advancing National Policy to Support Community Health Workers' Health Equity Roles will feature preliminary findings from this review of CHW violence prevention activities. The team will facilitate a discussion about how to support CHW's efforts to address social and structural determinants of violence inequities. In addition, this work could help inform efforts to support the CHW workforce in its roles related to building community power for structural change.

For more information on the project, please contact Colleen Barbero at vrm5@cdc.gov or Abdul Hafeedh bin Abdullah at abdullah@chasmnetwork.org

Advocating for the Workforce: Texas CHW Recognition Efforts

Madeline Zubrod, NCHWTC Student Research Assistant

Denise Martinez, CHW, CHWI, MPH, NCHWTC Manager



Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an integral part of the public health care system and play a key role in advancing health equity, increasing access to care, and reducing health disparities. During the COVID-19 pandemic, CHWs have been identified as “essential critical infrastructure workers” and are a part of the public health response team. CHWs are often ‘silent heroes’ and receive little recognition for their critical community support work.

To recognize CHWs and honor the work they have done during the pandemic, the [National Community Health Worker Training Center \(NCHWTC\)](#), housed within the [Center for Community Health Development \(CCHD\)](#), located at Texas A&M University’s School of Public Health, submitted three proclamations to the City of Brownsville, Cameron County, and Brazos County. As a tribute to the first CHWs reached by the NCHWTC, the proclamation submissions mirror its flagship in Brazos County and their ongoing work in South Texas.

The NCHWTC team was inspired to submit these proclamations after seeing the Dallas Proclamation, submitted by the [DFW-CHW Association](#), proclaiming April 26 – 30, 2021 as Dallas Community Health Worker Week. Paula Saldaña, CHW, CHWI, Program Coordinator, submitted proclamations to the city of Brownsville and Cameron County in June 2021 on behalf of the NCHWTC. The City Commission of Brownsville declared a proclamation that honored Texas CHWs and the NCHWTC. The Cameron County Commissioner’s Court declared June 2021 as CHW Month in Cameron County. Shea Roy, CHWI, MPH, Program Coordinator, submitted a proclamation to the Brazos County Commissioner’s Court in August 2021 to recognize the contributions of CHWs and the NCHWTC, and proclaim the month of August 2021 as CHW Month.

In addition to these local efforts, the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott declared April 16th, 2021 [Texas CHW Day](#) which was celebrated and recognized by several CHW employers, local CHW associations, and advocates across the state as well as the [Texas Association of Promotores & Community Health Workers \(TAPCHW\)](#).



Denise Martinez (center), Training Center Manager poses with the declaration issued by Brazos County amongst NCHWTC peers and Brazos County elected officials

About NCHWTC

In 2010, CCHD established the NCHWTC in response to partner community needs identified in South Texas. The NCHWTC is a Department of State Health Services certified Community Health Worker (CHW) training center that provides CHW and CHW Instructor certifications and continuing education units in-person and online, in English and Spanish. In addition to training, the NCHWTC has participated as a collaborator in several research projects utilizing CHWs across the state. To date, over 7000 trainees have been served by the NCHWTC.

Speak for Health 2021

Katie Sutkowi, MSW CHW Section Action Board Representative, Action Board Chair

It's always a great time to [#SpeakForHealth](#)

Represent the CHW Section in the Speak for Health Challenge!

Speak for Health is the annual APHA effort to engage with elected officials. It's a great opportunity for all APHA members to get engaged in advocacy. The Action Board is hosting the Speak for Health Challenge to encourage action - through this challenge, the Action Board will recognize an APHA member unit with exceptional Speak for Health participation.

For each action you take during Speak for Health, complete this form and note that you are a CHW Section member. You can submit as many times as you'd like - every time you take an action, submit the form! Actions include the following:

- Responded to an APHA action alert
- Wrote a letter to my elected official(s) about an APHA advocacy priority
- Sent an e-mail to my elected official(s) about an APHA advocacy priority
- Phoned my elected official(s)'s office to voice my opinion on an APHA advocacy priority
- Met with my member of Congress or their staff (virtually or in person) to discuss an APHA advocacy priority
- Made a congressional visit or attended a town hall in my home district (virtually or in person)
- Used APHA's resources to promote APHA's advocacy priorities on social media
- Wrote an Op-Ed or letter to the editor on an APHA advocacy priority

Taking Action

There are a million ways you can get involved in public health advocacy.

Connect with Your Elected Officials

There are so many ways to connect with your elected officials! APHA issues action alerts to members often on key public health issues. It typically takes less than two minutes to respond and is a great way to let your elected officials know that you care. You can also send them an email or call their offices - it just takes a few minutes. U.S. House of Representatives: 202-225-3121 or U.S. Senate: 202-224-3121. Want to know what alerts we have active now? Check out the Action Alerts page on APHA's website. You can use the action alert text to help guide a phone call to offices of your elected officials!

APHA Advocacy

Did you know APHA submits letters, statements, and amicus briefs on key public health issues every month? The APHA website has hundreds of documents that you can use as part of your advocacy. For example, you can take an APHA letter and share it with you elected officials on various legislative and non-legislative topics for Speak for Health!

Remind me, what's the Action Board?

The Action Board helps coordinate the association's grassroots and grassroots advocacy activities and encourages participation in advocacy initiatives among the association's Sections, SPIGs, Caucuses, state and regional Affiliates and other member units. The Action Board works year round to support members in taking action on [public health priorities](#).

Have a question? Feel free to reach out and I'm happy to help. You can email katherinesutkowi@gmail.com at any time to learn more about the Action Board and how to [#SpeakForHealth](#) in your state.



APHA > Policy Statements and Advocacy > Advocacy for Public Health > Letters to Congress and federal agencies

Letters to Congress and federal agencies

Policy Statements and Advocacy

Advocacy for Public Health

Letters to Congress and federal agencies

Coming to D.C.?

Priorities

Speak For Health

Policy Statements

August 2021

July 2021

- Health organization letter to EPA Administrator Michael Regan urging the agency to adopt more stringent measures to reduce the emissions of methane and associated pollution from both new and existing oil and gas operations (July 30)
- APHA letter in support of the House FY 2022 Labor-HHS Education appropriations bill (July 27)
- Organization letter to House and Senate leaders in support of including \$45 billion in federal funding in upcoming infrastructure legislation to fully replace all lead service lines in the nation (July 23)
- Organization letters to Senate Majority Leaders Schumer and House Speaker Pelosi in support of including the safety advances included in H.R. 3684, the INVEST in America Act in any final infrastructure legislation (July 22)
- Organization letter in support of S. 1314, the Tobacco Tax Equity Act of 2021 (July 16)
- Letter from APHA to the House Energy and Commerce Committee in support of H.R. 379, the Improving Social Determinants of Health Act of 2021 (July 9)
- Dear Colleague endorsed by APHA and other health organizations in support of increased funding for maternal health appropriations priorities (July 8)

Get out there and [#SpeakForHealth](#)



CHW Section Session Schedule

Note: All times listed in Mountain Time Zone, The online program may display the sessions in your local time.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	VIRTUAL	PS1029.0 Poster Session: CHW Core Competency Trainings and Workforce Supports
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	VIRTUAL	PS1077.0 Poster Session: Adapting Programs and Trainings during the Pandemic
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	VIRTUAL	PS1078.0 Poster Session: CHW Models and Trainings Addressing Social Determinants of Health

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2021

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Special Session	VIRTUAL	2015.0 Building Capacity for Community Health Worker-Centered Evaluation and Research
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	VIRTUAL	2072.0 National and Regional CHW Funding and Workforce Supports

MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2021

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	VIRTUAL	303.0 Education and Capacitacion Committee Meeting
7:30 AM – 8:30 AM	VIRTUAL	304.0 Policy Committee Meeting
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	VIRTUAL	3068.0 Roundtable: CHWs and the COVID-19 Pandemic
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Special Session	IN-PERSON	3109.0 Advancing National Policy to Support Community Health Workers' Health Equity Roles
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	VIRTUAL	3166.0 Innovative Models of Clinical and Community CHW Team Integration
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	VIRTUAL	338.0 CHW Section Social Hour

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	VIRTUAL	4015.0 CHWs Confronting COVID-19 Health Disparities
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	IN-PERSON	4071.0 Strengthening the Workforce- Mental Health and Professional Supports for CHWs
12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	VIRTUAL	4116.0 Roundtable: CHW Models Addressing Health Disparities
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM	VIRTUAL	411.0 CHW Section General Open Business Meeting

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021

1:30 PM – 3:00 PM	IN-PERSON	5114.0 Collaboration and Innovation- CHWs and Institutions Working Together for Workforce and Community Capacity
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CHW Related Sessions from other Sections

DATE & TIME	FORMAT	SECTION	SESSION TITLE
10/24 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM	VIRTUAL	CHPPD	2074.0 Community Health Worker (CHW)-Led Models That Address Local Inequities, Bridge Gaps in Care, and Enhance Social Connectedness during the Pandemic and Beyond
10/25 4:00 PM- 5:30 PM	VIRTUAL	Oral Health	3189.0 Communication and Education for Oral Disease Prevention
10/26 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM	VIRTUAL	Latino Caucus	4170.0 CHWs, <i>Promotores</i> , and Allied Health Professionals: Connecting Latinx Populations to Health Care and Material Resources
10/26 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM	VIRTUAL	Latino Caucus	4125.0 Roundtable: Diverse Media to Address the Digital Divide, Social Connection, and Social Isolation: Public Health Implications
10/27 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM	VIRTUAL	Academic and Practice Linkages in Public Health Caucus	5000.0 Innovative Approaches to Public Health Workforce Development and Training

The full schedule of Community Health Worker Sessions can be found here:

<https://apha.confex.com/apha/2021/meetingapp.cgi/Program/2131>

If you have any questions about the schedule, please e-mail us at chwsectionprogram@gmail.com