

Community Health Worker Initiative of Sonoma County



Our vision:

A supportive, culturally diverse community of frontline health workers committed to supporting the career development of all the professionals that work in the many job titles recognized; effective in January 2010; by the Department of Labor as Standard Occupational Classification 21-1094; Community Health Workers.

Our mission:

To collaboratively co-create a grassroots, culturally diverse, community of Community Health Workers; in conjunction with a panel of experts from the agencies and institutions that train and employ us; that is committed to the Sonoma County Health Action mission of creating the healthiest County in California by 2020

Through outreach, continuing education, research, policy development and advocacy we aim to:

- Bring grassroots frontline health workers together as a culturally diverse community
- Provide a local focal point for the exchange of ideas, knowledge and resources
- Promote and support lifelong learning
- Encourage professional development and capacity building
- Promote cultural diversity of the health care workforce
- Facilitate cultural and linguistic understanding ; learn another language
- Support frontline health workers in their search for meaningful paid employment
- Actively promote the role of the CHW with current and potential employers
- Participate in health workforce development round table discussions
- Ensure that CHW are part of the public health policy decision making team
- Build relationships between CHWs and other health professional
- Advocate for health policy that supports social justice and equal access for all
- Promote professional advocacy at local, state and national level
- Build bridges and collaborations
- Promote the idea of a collaborative CACHW and help make it a reality
- Help to develop a nationally coordinated communication system for CHWs
- Support individual health choices in the context of real life circumstances
- Maintain a holistic community health centered perspective
- Think globally
- Act locally “

“Be the change you want to see in the world” Mahatma Gandhi

APHA Definition of a Community Health Worker

“A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.”

<http://www.apha.org/memberships/sections/aphasections/chw>

Our diversity is both our strength and our challenge:

Some of the working titles that Community Health Workers (CHW) have in Sonoma County are: Promotores de Salud(P); Community Health Outreach Worker (CHOW); Patient Navigator(PN); Community Health Representative(CHR); Family Outreach Workers(FOW), Peer Councilors(PC), Youth Outreach Workers(YOW); Post Prison Health Worker(PPHW) and many more...

Resources

- **“Foundations for Community Health Workers”** Edited by Tim Berthold (Editor), Alma Avila (Editor), Jennifer Miller (Editor) ISBN: 978-0-470-17997-0 Paperback, 592 pages August 2009 <http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-047017997X.html>
- **MDPH Community Health Worker Advisory Council Report now available online:** <http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/docs/dph/com-health/com-health-workers/legislature-report.pdf>
- **Promoting Policy and Systems Change to Expand Employment of Community Health Workers (CHWs)** http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/pubs/chw_elearning.htm
CHW doi: 10.1377/hlthaff.2010.0081 HEALTH AFFAIRS 29, NO. 7 (2010): 1338–1342
- **Community Health Workers - Part Of The Solution.pdf**
72K [View](#) [Download](#)
- **The Promotor Model - A Model for Building Healthy Communities** A Framing Paper March 29, 2011
TCE_PromotoresPaper.pdf 3722K [View](#) [Download](#)

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Zyla Oru
Website Support <http://CHWISC.org>
CHW Initiative of Sonoma County

Website: <http://CHWISC.org>

Facebook: “ Community Health Workers” <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Community-Health-Workers/254588313994>