

Southeast Community Health Worker Network Agenda

April 18th, 2023

10:30-12:00 pm EST/ 9:30-11:00 am CST

Meeting Recording: https://youtu.be/XB263enBa_M

1. **Welcome and instructions for chat box introductions (Name, state, CHW or ally)**
2. **DC CHW Advocacy Visit – Julie Smithwick, LMSW, CHW – Executive Director of The Center for Community Health Alignment**
 - This was the first time going to the hill and the collective energy and strength of shared voices was amazing! While this visit was focused on advocating for the CHW workforce it was also a time to educate. During this visit the Community Health Workers and Promotoras: Advancing the Workforce to Address Health Disparities (hill day briefing) document was used (attached).
 - Katherine Martinez (NACHW) said that the energy and enthusiasm following this event was amazing! It also showed that advocacy efforts need to be ongoing, and the hill day will be yearly event.
3. **Georgia CHW Awareness Day Recap – Amber Mullen, MPA, CHW – President of GA CHW Network Steering Committee and Natasha Taylor, MA, Senior Director of Policy and Access – Georgia Watch**
 - Georgia CHW Awareness Day Recap Video: <https://vimeo.com/809859217>
 - Such an exciting day and experience – had about 170 people came to awareness day with around 76 being CHWs.
 - The Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner helped kick the event off with her experiences as a CHW. Morehouse School of Medicine was also speaker at the event. They had two CHW panels: one of CHW Employers and CHW Panel focused on the different areas they work in. Then everyone went across the street to talk to political representatives with promotional documents about the different areas and types of CHWs.
 - Would like to build on this event, but also work at local levels on educating about who CHWs are. DPH is supporting this work and a series of videos will be created about increased awareness for the CHW workforce. First video in this series: <https://vimeo.com/806061851>.
 - The CHW network engagement and excitement following the event has been amazing!
4. **SE CHW Network Advocacy Menti - Sarah Covington-Kolb, MSW/MPH – Program Manager at The Center for Community Health Alignment**

- As a network we would like to explore if there are ways, we can help with the Southeast's CHW advocacy needs. We want to make sure we are intentional with resource development and this short Menti will be the first step in exploring the networks needs surrounding this topic.
- Thank you so much for taking the time to share your valuable thoughts on CHW advocacy!

5. Committee Updates

- J&J Grantee RFP Questions: **Applications due Friday at 5:00 pm**
 - The Center for Community Health Alignment has received funding from J&J Our Race to Health Equity and plans to offer \$90,000.00 in funding to 3-8 awardees.
 - Around 10 applicants this year so this process will be competitive! Our committee will be reviewing the applications thoroughly and equitably – a ranking sheet has been created to assist with this process.
 - We are focusing on developing the CHW workforce within the SE and within a network/association vs. individual CHW projects.
 - Past recipients are welcome to apply.
 - **Timeline: Deadline for applications is April 21st, funding notification will be May 21st, funding will be distributed in July 2023, and funds must be spent by June 2024.**
 - Requirements if selected: participate in quarterly learning collaborative events and smaller working meetings with leadership.
 - Past Funded Projects: Start-up state CHW association, NCCHWA strategic plan, TNCHWA supervisor toolkit & competency development, professional, development for MSCHWA board members.
 - Proposal formatting is outlined in the RFP. If you have any questions, please reach out to rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu.
 - If you are interested in serving on the review committee, please drop your information in the chat!
- SE CHW Network Summit Planning & Update (Erin Caple)
 - We have set our date so mark your calendars: **September 14 & 15** – Thursday & Friday. We selected this date based on the poll at the last network meeting – there are a lot of network events happening in October, so September seemed like the best fit.

- o The planning committee is looking at three cities to host the upcoming summit: Asheville, NC; Charlotte, NC; and Knoxville, TN – we are considering ease of travel, cost, CHW involvement in the area. Our site location will be selected this week so be on the lookout for more details.
- o When deciding our theme/areas of focus we always want to hear what YOU need – we have a quick poll to help determine topic areas to focus on (which will help us determine theme) and if you have any specific educational needs related to your work.
- o **Update:** our location has been selected! See you all in Charlotte, NC (save the date attached).
- o If anyone would like to join the planning committee, please drop your information in the chat.

6. This Month's State Updates

Please note: we decided to divide the group in two and ask states to give updates every other month because of time and frequency of meetings. Please try to keep updates to 5 minutes

- *Alabama (Felicia Barron)* – Had our CHW Coalition kick-off meeting in early March. Had a hybrid meeting to increase participation – had about 45 attendees with half in-person and half virtual. Had various organizations and partners present alongside state CHWs. Various CHW leaders and partners presented on the national climate of the CHW workforce. Committees were also established at the kick-off meeting and have made it a priority to have at least 50% CHW representation on these committees. The next meeting will be held in Montgomery, Alabama on May 5th (hybrid format). The Coalition is taking a multiprong approach to help standardize training and curriculum, exploring certification, and establishing an association. The association would be led by CHWs and focus on all things related to CHWs' needs.
- *Georgia (Amber Mullen)* – Had the awareness day in early March, which was a great success. The network has also moved to elect their first officials. They had their first regional meeting and are looking forward to hearing from the areas that we normally don't hear from. Strategic planning is taking place and each member will be representing a different area of the state to ensure that everyone's voices are heard across the state. We encourage all our members to join the various networks: NACHW, SE CHW Network, and Rural.
- *Kentucky (Malea Hoepf Young)* – Have started regional meetings across the state with CHWs and supervisors. Have had a great turn out so far with another meeting coming up! KYCHWA has quarterly meetings that take place in the central portion of the state but expanding with the regional meetings to enhance across the state. Advocacy is very much on our minds, and we are highlighting this at our regional meetings and sharing resources on how to get involved.

- *Louisiana (Nanette Bester)* – Working to establish CHW board to oversee the training requirements for the CHWs in the state. During national maternal women’s black week and Doula Day members attended the capital and were able to speak to representatives and are planning a trip back. We are continuing to offer classes and training for those interested in becoming CHWs. An advanced training program for established CHWs will be offered starting next month in partnership with a local college. They are finalizing plans for their annual summit that will be held on September 8th in New Orleans.
- North Carolina (Lupe Avalos) – Are starting the week off strong preparing for our first Hill Day. They have had over 80 individuals sign up for the advocacy day, if you are interested, please let us know! They are having training surrounding the event today. Many opportunities surrounding Medicaid expansion and they will be looking for two CHWs to help with this and the coverage gap. Certifications are now over 750 certified CHWs and 15 have gone through the legacy track! Will also be offering advanced levels coming out this summer and will also have a new website and logo coming out! Their Summit will be held during early December.
- *Tennessee (Nikayla Boyd)* – We finally have our board of directors with 11 members with the majority CHW representation. This is helping with 501C3 at the next meeting they will be discussing membership for all members. In 2023 NACHW ambassador was selected from TN – we are excited to be representative in the competitive process! Our Medicaid partners are really looking to build the CHW workforce and the technical assistance structure. One of three awardees for the HERSA grant – want to make sure the work compliments each other. Will be working to train up to 90 CHWs with their new training curriculum that is over 144h online curriculum. Trainees will also receive field placement. Have had a wonderful response with over 80 registered. Working to get this program recognized as an official certification program by the state and was directly created by CHW focus groups across the state. More information about certification program: <https://nursing.vanderbilt.edu/projects/chwtpt/index.php>.

7. 2023 SE CHW Network Meetings - Third Tuesday of the Month from 10:30-12:00 pm EST/ 9:30-11:00 am CST

- May 16th: Medicaid Unwinding
- June 20th: CHW professionalization as a double-edged sword
- July 18th: Reciprocity
- August 15th
- October 17th: The C3 Project
- November 21st

8. Final Discussion

- Reminder about the NACHW CHW Unity Awards. A special mention to the Esther M. Holderby Extraordinary CHW Award - Lisa Renee Holderby-Fox’s mother. Esther was a 4-time cancer survivor and extraordinary CHW. If you know of an exceptional CHW, please consider nominating.
 - Esther M. Holderby Extraordinary CHW Award: <https://nachwunity.org/emhaward/>
 - Hope & Care Awards: <https://nachwunity.org/awards/>

- Session 4: Sustaining Efforts for the Long-term: The Implementation of Resources and Tools from Across the Regions will be held on Thursday, April 27th at 3:00 - 4:30pm EST. Register here for Session 4:
https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_cPSe4Q4dTQ-spK5pitPHDw
- Family Connection of South Carolina's 2023 Hopes and Dreams Conference on Wednesday, May 3rd. More information online:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-connection-of-south-carolinas-2023-hopes-and-dreams-conference-tickets-591831573167>