

Southeast Community Health Worker Network Meeting Minutes

January 16th, 2024

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

Video Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vWte7V4-b4>

1. Welcome and instructions for chat box introductions (Name, state, CHW or ally) – Rebecca Salter

- Be sure to connect to the listserv!
 - <https://communityhealthalignment.org/se-chw/get-connected/>
- Review of the agenda
- Happy New Year!

2. CHW Career Advancement - Julie Smithwick, Executive Director, Center for Community Health Alignment

3. Committee Updates

- Johnson & Johnson Our Race to Health Equity – Kim Rawlinson, CCHA
 - **The network has been awarded funding for a fourth year to continue our efforts!**
 - Funding is to help keep Rebecca on board as well as help with the summit.
 - Currently looking for volunteers to serve on the Subgrantee Committee to review and set the Review for Proposal Process as well as reviewing subgrantee applications.
 - Want to remain equitable and inclusive in scoring such a competitive application process.
 - If you want to be involved, please send your name and email to Kim Rawlinson (comerkd@email.sc.edu) or Rebecca Salter (rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu) by Friday, January 19th.
 - Will send out a meeting poll to set that first meeting.
 - Funds are not for specific projects, but for networks.
 - If committee members apply, they can be a part of the RFP review process but cannot review and vote on the proposals past the deadline.
- Strategic Direction Committee – Soledad Bolden
 - A survey was taken during the SECHWN Summit, and we have five goals that we are addressing.
 - Next meeting is Tuesday, January 23rd at 12:00 noon EST/11:00 am CST and will last 45 minutes.
 - Will discuss roles and what comes with being a part of this committee as well as how you can support.
 - Email Rebecca (rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu) or Soledad (sbolden@mailbox.sc.edu) if you would like to participate.

- Summit Planning Committee – Rebecca Salter
 - Excited to start the planning process again this year as we work off the survey the network completed toward the end of the year.
 - Meeting is to solidify dates and locations based upon that survey.
 - Going to look at a few different states instead of just picking a state and then finding a location.
 - The committee has about 20, almost 30 people.
 - If you can't attend every meeting, which meets once a month, we send out meeting minutes.
 - Erin Caple – now is the time to get involved!!!!
 - If interested, please email Rebecca (rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu).

4. This Month's State Updates

States slated to give updates for this meeting: Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, and South Carolina.

- Alabama – Felicia Barrow, Connection Health
 - CHW Coalition continues to meet quarterly, last meeting being in December to forecast for the new year.
 - Adopted the CHW definition from the state of Alabama. Mission and vision statements were also adopted.
 - In 2024, want to invite others to speak to the coalition.
 - The goal is to increase the participation of CHWs to 51% and have CHWs serve in leadership roles (they have one CHW leading the Supporting Development committee).
 - Working to establish a CHW association and will be reaching out to other established associations.
 - Looking at CHW Sustainability – Alabama Department of Public Health is looking to increase the workforce with CDC funding and are looking to CHWs in Alabama and establishing a statewide certification/classification.
 - Looking at standardizing their training, help is appreciated.
 - Connection Health has expanded their CHW training and are interested in apprenticeship programs.
 - Rebecca mentioned a resource the network offers - <https://communityhealthalignment.org/sechwtrainingandcertification/>
- Florida - Unavailable
- Mississippi - Various
 - Kathy Farrington mentioned that the state is currently locked down due to weather.
 - CHW at the State Capital Event on February 15th.
 - An in-person meeting took place with the Mississippi State Department of Health to discuss the catalog for CHWs that covers everything from training and certification to reimbursement. It is not public yet.
 - Collaborating with the State Medicaid Department to put on the Mississippi CHW Summit in conjunction with the Health Disparities Conference in Biloxi, MS.

- Also asked about the video that Johnson & Johnson was supposed to release, Rebecca provided some updates around change of staff and other complications.
- South Carolina – Terri Jowers
 - Work is happening around recertification and state classification for CHWs.
 - Professional Development listened to CHWs in South Carolina to develop other skills to progress in their profession, so there will be workshops happening all year.
 - First session in February is about creating an Excel Sheet.
 - CHW State House Advocacy Day on February 8th.
 - January CoLab – Agricultural Workers and Their Rights
 - January 17th at 12:00 noon EST/11:00 am CST
 - A Spanish session will be held on January 18th same time.
- Tennessee – Nikayla Boyd, TNCHWA
 - Tennessee Department of Health was the recipient of the Nashbe (sp?) Grant, so they are hosting an in-person one-day convening to hear what CHWs want.
 - Hosting a CHW virtual meeting on January 30th.
 - Nikayla placed a link in the chat.
 - Certification – meeting with the two other HERSA Grant recipients to formalize a process.
 - Recruiting participants for trainings.
 - Also recruiting community health workers for their summer training; tuition and stipend will be provided. Links were dropped in chat – tnchwa.org
 - Hiring a Director of Operations.
 - Working with TennCare to develop program standards and quality assurance so state medicaid can look at accreditation as a means of sustainability.
 - Started an upskilling program, which begins February 1st.
 - If February is too soon, they will accept applications for the July cohort.
 - Johnson & Johnson – using funds to work on a strategic plan.

5. Final Business and Discussion

Virginia – Shanteny Jackson

- Covered VACHWA’s mission and vision.
- Awareness and Education Day at the General Assembly on January 18th, 2024.
 - Also created 2 days of training to discuss advocacy, identify and understand the differences in lobbying and advocating, and other topics.
 - Gave an explanation of the day of, what led up to it, and the “why” of this event.
 - M. Greg Green will be speaking.
- Check out the Push to Action Link!

If interested in speaking, email rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu. If there is something you want to learn more about, same email.

Thank you so much for attending our monthly network meeting! We could not do this without you!
Be sure to attend our next meeting:

**Tuesday, February 20th, 2024 (third Thursday in February) from 10:30 am –
12:00 pm EST (9:30 am – 11:00 am CST) -**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89000951281>

