

Southeast Community Health Worker Network Meeting Minutes

March 19th, 2024

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

Video Recording: <https://youtu.be/cENpOPE5fhU>

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
- Data collection – there is a survey that will pop up on your screen to collect data for this meeting of what states, regions, and CHW professions are present. Please fill this out at any point during the meeting. Thank you!

We have over 100 people in attendance today! Congrats, SE CHW Network!

2. The HAP Foundation (Hospice and Palliative Care Research and Education) presents “Community Health Workers (CHWs): A Key Ingredient for Culturally Affirming Serious Illness Care”

- Thanks to Kandis Draw (she/her), Southside CHW and Senior Community Health Worker, Advocacy and Research at the HAP Foundation, and Maureen Burns (she/her/ella), Northside CHW and Director of Community at the HAP Foundation, for their presentation!
- Presentation can be viewed [here](#).
- The HAP Foundation Quick Facts Card can be viewed [here](#).
- Flyer can be viewed [here](#).

3. Committee Updates

- Grantee Review Committee – Dayna Arnett
 - We will be opening the Request for Proposal soon once the process is verified with the University of South Carolina.
 - We have \$110,000 available to fund a diverse group of projects, from 4-7 projects in total across different scopes.
 - The RFP will be released via the listserv, so please make sure you’re signed up!
 - Once released, the RFP will be open for a month, followed by a review by a committee.
 - There is an application and budget form to complete this year as opposed to applicants generating their own proposals from scratch to make the process easier. Applicants also need a UofSC vendor ID for their application to be considered.
 - Any questions or concerns, reach out to Rebecca Salter at rsolon@mailbox.sc.edu.

- Strategic Direction Committee – Rebecca Salter
 - Soledad is unavailable today, but we are thankful for her leadership!
 - Subcommittees and workgroups have been created centered around our priorities (i.e., communication, fundraising, etc.)
 - Priority 1 is still the focus—creating LinkedIn and Facebook pages—but we are addressing branding first. There will be a meeting to review the logos before voting goes out over the listserv.
 - We are also working on a government structure for the network. This has been a goal since 2020, but because we want to be inclusive and equitable, we will be taking our time in this process.
- Summit Planning Committee – Erin Caple
 - **Official Summit Dates – September 26th and 27th, 2024!**
 - Two-day event
 - We will be sending out the save the dates soon.
 - We are looking at a few different locations and performing site visits, but it will be in one of the cities that the network voted on! We will be meeting today to make this decision.

4. This Month's State Updates

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

- Alabama – Felicia Barrow, Connection Health
 - First coalition meeting on March 7th – Special Guest Denise Octavia Smith
 - Of the five coalition workgroups, three are headed up by community health workers.
 - Alabama CHW Registry is underway.
 - Partnering with Alabama Arise, long standing advocacy group in Alabama, for sustainability.
 - Advocating for CHW reimbursement along with medicaid expansion.
 - Legislative Day April 2nd
 - Will have our own CHW Legislative Day soon.
 - One of Alabama's HERSA grantees has created five CHW apprenticeships in the registered apprenticeship programs.
 - CHWS in the black belt region (Lowndes County, AL) are partnering with Alabama Department of Public Health and US Department of Justice for environmental justice in the space of appropriate wastewater disposal.
 - HERSA Grantees are starting up training again.
 - Thoughts and Prayers for Dr. Lucinia Dunn whose daughter passed last week.
- Tennessee – Nikayla Boyd, TNCHWA
 - The Tennessee Department of Health Office of Minority Health and National Academy of State Health Policy are hosting a one-day meeting for CHWs and key partners to discuss CHW sustainability.

- Tennessee definition of CHWs and certification.
 - Inviting 4 CHWs to attend due to size.
 - Launching CHW program accreditation with TennCare (state medicaid office).
 - First round of accreditation this summer, program standards have been created through co-creation of CHWs, leaders, and more.
 - Tennessee is halfway through HERSA funds and is looking for more employers to host apprenticeships.
 - Email tnchwa@gmail.com or visit tnchwa.org if you are a potential employer.
 - Other HERSA grantees are still working on the certification process.
- Mississippi – Kizmet Cleveland
 - Summit is June 12th from 9-4pm at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College in Biloxi, MS
 - Sponsored by the Mississippi Department of Health
 - Theme: CHW Heroes
 - Legislation submitted for certification programs.
 - House – HB1688 died on March 14th.
 - Senate - SB2883 is still alive.
- South Carolina – Erica Rhodes (SRHS)
 - Three coalitions – Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties
 - Spartanburg Coalition was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Georgia Health Policy, and Institute for Women and Ethnic Studies. This is one of a handful of coalitions that will pay community leaders for their time and for convenings.
 - In the process of the CHW Needs Assessment for the next CHW improvement plan (models the State Health Improvement Plan – Live Healthy)
 - March CoLab
 - March 20th- Labor Rights of CHWs
 - <https://www.scchwa.org/events/colab-con-promotores-enero>
 - <https://www.scahec.net/learn/programs/3590>
- Virginia – Stephanie Carrington
 - Bills
 - SB594 – Work-study for Medicaid reimbursement for CHWs, but it did not pass.
 - Bill was passed to continue to pay for local health departments to have CHWs.
 - \$6 mil for 2 years
 - Working to train community health workers with the HERSA grant, just graduated one cohort and another cohort is currently in session.
 - First Week of April – National Public Health Week
 - April 4th will be the day they honor and celebrate community health workers.
 - Ambassadors in the CHW association to cover topics like cancer, maternal health, etc.

- Continuing to grow their CHWs pool with 15 new members, Virginia has 300 certified CHWs right now.
- Working to get dual certification for CHWS and doulas.

5. Final Business and Discussion

Larissa Thomas and Carmen Villamizar from the NIH Office of Science Policy

- Looking for individuals who are working and living in the communities they serve to provide them with data in an equitable and responsible fashion.
 - Doing some formative research to discover what this policy will look like while including the voices and experiences of community members.
- Survey for this work and a follow-up focus group will be out soon.
- Carmen will be point of contact for this project.

Dr. Roshuna Ivory, HHS (Roshuna.Ivory@hhs.gov)

- Gaining Awareness: The Impact of Community Health Workers on the National Syphilis Syndemic
 - April 9th, 2024 at 12:00 pm EST
 - HHS Region 4
 - [https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeGhrz\)oErDiV3aJiiulhSBdsYvV FhQ](https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsdeGhrz)oErDiV3aJiiulhSBdsYvV FhQ)
 - See the flyer [here](#).

Fred Goldstein

- Conference at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN – April 10th and 11th.
 - The AI Revolution Will Not Be Televised.
 - Registration [here](#). (\$75 total for event)

Rebecca shared a list of who is signed up to speak for the next several meetings:

- July 16th: FL CHW Training and Registered Apprenticeship Program - MPH Salud
- October 15th: CHW Burnout
 - 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, April 16th, 2024 (third Thursday in April) from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm EST (9:30 am – 11:00 am CST) - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89000951281>

