

Virginia Center for Health Outreach (VCHO)
Supporting Community Health Workers' Contribution to Virginia Health Care
And Building a Community of Community Health Workers
Progress Report for January - March 2004

Communication

- VCHO database updated
- 16 Listservs set up to facilitate communication with VCHO special interest groups, e.g., the eight CHW Network Coordinators, Program Coordinators, CHW Statewide Network, etc.
- 938 VCHO newsletters, *The Advisor*, mailed
- Provided VCHO and Virginia CHW program information to the Family Health Foundation and Northwest Vista College in Texas, who have established a CHW Resource Pages link on their web site

Education

- Conducted the final workshop of three regional two-day training locations for Community Lay Outreach Workers with the Virginia Every Woman's Life program for the early detection of breast and cervical cancer. Twenty-six women trained for this new role in the program.
- Conducted a training via Polycom with nine Every Woman's Life supervisors of community lay outreach workers
- Provided internship site for Kinesiology graduate student and Political Science undergraduate student
- Co-led a cultural competency training in Shenandoah County with participants who work with small children and interact with Hispanic parents
- Community capacity building workshops currently being planned in partnership with Northern Virginia AHEC and Georgetown Harrison Center of Poverty Law
- Jane Kowalski, CHW Region 2 Network Coordinator, represented VCHO at the Unity 2004 conference in Mississippi

Consultations

- Provided community health worker program and program evaluation information to Lucas Williams, a grant writer at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas' Institute of Minority Health, Education, and Research, Inc. searching for information on how Promotores de Salud programs began and the curriculum that is used
- Provided community health worker program information to Pamela McBurney at Value Options in Massachusetts, who was looking for an outreach worker activity log that is in a check list layout
- Coordinated a Virginia CHW program response to a national CHW survey being conducted by the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach

Funding

- Submitted a grant application in partnership with CHIP of Virginia, Inc., Healthy Families of Virginia and the Virginia Dept of Health's Resource Mothers' program to the Quality Health/Delmarva Foundation seeking \$47,260 to develop and implement the project, Advancing Mental Health Equity in Virginia, which will provide community health workers with appropriate mental health training
- VCHO special initiative funding passed as part of the federal budget, but no official announcement has been received.
- Evaluation report received from Healthy Families Rappahannock Area reveals that increased Spanish language materials provided by VCHO award in 2003 facilitated home visits and made the clients feel "welcomed" and "respected."

Policy

- Community health worker study sponsored by Delegate R. Steve Landes and Senator Janet Howell and agreed to by the House and Senate during the general assembly session 2004
- Produced VHS/DVD formats of video, Advocacy 101, which is available to VCHO's statewide constituency. Receiving requests for purchase at nominal cost of \$5.
- Submitted an abstract, Advocacy 101, for presentation at the November, 2004 meeting of the American Public Health Association annual meeting

Research

- Tested and sent out an electronic survey to assess CHW program training. Dr. Martin Atherton of George Mason University converted the paper survey to a web-based electronic version housed on the GMU web server. Dr. Atherton will run frequencies on results, make a tabulated summary of the results and give us the database for our own drilldown purposes.