

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 2007

Communication

- Developed new information about CHWs to update VCHO website
- Developed needs assessment tool prior to planning a pilot training in CHW communication
- Updated VCHO mailing lists for *The VCHO Advisor* and *The CHW I.D.*
- Published quarterly issue of *The VCHO Advisor*
- Used VCHO listservs to disseminate information about various potential educational and funding opportunities to Virginia's CHW programs

Education

- Met with James Madison University's College of Graduate and Outreach Programs to explore establishing a statewide CHW Academy for CHW training and education
- Began planning transition from a November to May annual CHW conference
- Gave presentation on VCHO and proposed CHW training initiative to EFNEP/SCNEP area coordinators from across Virginia
- Began planning three regional CHW communication trainings for autumn 2007
- Provided relevant workplace experiences for three student interns from different JMU colleges

Consultations

- Provided information on VCHO and CHWs to Ms. Aryana Khalid with the Governor's Health Care Reform Commission Workforce Committee

Policy

- Initiated earmark process through the office of JMU's Vice President for Research and Public Service
- Met with Senior Policy Analyst for the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services to explore third party reimbursement and related issues around the utilization of CHWs
- Attended meetings of the Governor's Health Care Reform Commission Workforce Committee

Coordination

- Worked with key stakeholders to develop work plans for statewide CHW training initiative

Research

- Conducted qualitative research around CHW training in the core competency area of communication with key informants
- Conducted literature review around CHW training and/or certification programs across the United States
- Reviewed and analyzed 2006 Virginia CHW Conference evaluations