

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 April - June 2004

Communication

- VCHO Listservs use increasing to its constituencies with positive acknowledgement of its usefulness
- VCHO interim newsletter, *The CHW ID*, mailed out
- 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
- Jane Kowalski, CHW Region 2 Network Coordinator, approved for voting membership with the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach Advisory Committee
- VCHO staff member, Sandra Hopper, interviewed about CHW staff development issues for upcoming Comprehensive Health Investment Program (CHIP) of Virginia newsletter
- VCHO listservs proving effective vehicle for communication to and among its constituencies

Education

- Facilitated three-hour cultural diversity training with JMU health & human services and psychology students
- Community capacity building workshops currently being planned in partnership with Northern Virginia AHEC and Georgetown Harrison Institute for Public Law

Consultations

- Provided information about community health worker program development and implementation to Collin Elias, MPH, National African Diabetes Program Coordinator with the Ethiopian Community Council in Arlington, VA
- Provided a resource website (English/Spanish) to two CHW programs

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. JMU application sent June 11, 2004 to Office on Rural Health Policy to comply with funding cycle to begin August 2004.

Policy

- Community health worker study approved by the House and Senate during the general assembly session 2004 began committee membership selection and meetings. First stakeholders meeting held in May to set up timeline for draft report completion by November 2004
- Abstract, Advocacy 101, *accepted (unconfirmed at this date)* for presentation at the November, 2004 meeting of the American Public Health Association annual meeting

Research

- VCHO was referred to Dr. Martin Atherton by Dr. Ellen Dawson, both of George Mason University to assist in the development of an electronic survey. Tested and sent out an electronic survey to assess CHW program training. Dr. Atherton of George Mason University converted the paper survey to a web-based electronic version housed on the GMU web server. JMU's Center for Assessment & Research Studies tabulated the raw data via SPSS. Results of the survey and other information requested completed and submitted in a report format to the Collaborative CHW program training committee.