

Virginia Center for Health Outreach (VCHO)
Supporting Community Health Workers' Contribution to Virginia Health Care
Progress Report for July – September 2003

Education

- Established a cooperative Memorandum of Agreement with Eastern Mennonite University's nursing program to provide learning experiences as appropriate with our outreach activities
- Continued ongoing planning of workshops, speakers, location for 2nd annual Virginia CHW Conference "Weaving a Fabric of Care" to be held November 20 and 21, 2003
- Planned a November 18th pre-conference workshop on Community Capacity Building for community health worker program management staff sponsored by state Department of Social Services
- Conducted and videotaped statewide workshop for supervisors of the Every Woman's Life (breast & cervical cancer early detection program) community lay outreach workers
- Coordinated planning of three regional two-day training locations for Community Lay Outreach Workers with the Virginia Every Woman's Life program

Consultations

- Provided community health worker program information to Georgetown University's Lombardi Cancer Center who is starting a promotora program in DC
- Recommended a Virginia CHW program (CHIP, Inc.) to be interviewed for a Community Health Worker Certification National Study
- Planning to participate with state contracted HIV Outreach Workers to share the benefits of networking through VCHO

Funding

- Because no new VCHO funding was received in 2003, applications are not being accepted at this time
- Congressional visits made to gain support for another federal special initiative

Contractual Services

- Application for an approximate \$1.9 million grant (over 2 years) from the Health and Human Resources Administration for four partners, including JMU, to develop and implement bioterrorism preparedness training materials for Virginia community health workers and health care professionals not funded

Coordination

- Provide ongoing technical assistance to eight regional CHW networks. Attended and supported Region 4 (Northern Virginia) CHW network meeting held in conjunction with the Community Access Program's conference, "Community Health Workers – the Heart of the Community" at George Mason. CHW Regional Network Coordinator, Lyzette Ryan, provided leadership in conference planning and implementation.
- VCHO Advisory Council conference call replaced (due to Hurricane Isabel) with email update of agenda items

Policy

- Sought and received support from Delegate Steve Landes for the community health worker study resolution to be entered in the next general session. Also, plan to seek support from Senator Janet Howell from northern Virginia area and the Virginia Department of Health