



Virginia Center for Health Outreach (VCHO) Supporting Community Health Workers' Contribution to Virginia Health Care Progress Report for July-September 2002

Education

- VCHO website, undergoing redesign, continues to educate, communicate, and disseminate resources.
- Statewide conference information sent out to CHWs and program constituencies. Conference plans in place for up to 200 registrants.
- VCHO Advisory Council met for a third time. Using the videoconference system of the Virginia Dept. of Health enabled Eastern Shore and Southwest Virginia CHW program/CHWs' participation.
- Responded with information about CHWs to the federal Dept. of Health & Human Services request for suggestions to their five-year strategic plan.

Consultations

- Solutions for Progress, Philadelphia requested information regarding the use of community health worker program initiatives for racial and ethnic equality in increasing access to health care.
- Rural Opportunities, Inc. a regional HIV program for Farmworkers interested in information about HIV community health worker programs in Virginia.
- Rappahannock AHEC requested information about health surveys for their Hispanic population.
- Center shared its research reports and other information, including exploration of future mutual projects with an Old Dominion University doctoral student whose research interest area is community health workers.
- Northern Virginia Community College Office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development initiated discussions regarding potential partnerships on behalf of community health workers.
- HIV Educator requested meeting to discuss CHW program models. Information provided with arrangements to visit a local program.
- Center participating in Community-Based Health Improvement Initiatives, a study commissioned by the Virginia General Assembly
- Program evaluation survey mailed to 17 CHW program sites that requested assistance on the program survey during the spring

Presentation

- Making Community Based Programs Work: Lessons Learned, A Hispanic Lay Health Promoter Program at the National Leadership Summit to Eliminate Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health July, 2002, Washington, DC

Program Identification

- Increased efforts focused on discovery of CHW programs and CHWs. Mass mailings of 190 introductory correspondences sent to health and human service agencies to educate them about VCHO and inquire about CHW program identification. Currently listed in the VCHO database are 42 distinct programs with multiple sites throughout the state and an equal number of titles for community health workers. CHWs number 119 in a growing VCHO database. Anticipate accelerated identification with the addition of CHW Regional Network Coordinators

Funding Awards

- Office on Children and Youth feasibility study, "Traumatized Children and Youth in Harrisonburg-Rockingham County" (\$7,635). Reported findings indicate that any approach to these populations must occur within a family system context, not for children and youth alone.
- Five applications reviewed with funding approved for three. These include the provision of culturally competent educational materials and training to the Healthy Families Rappahannock Area (\$4,500), for the development of a Parent Education Resource Center utilizing a CHW parent educator coordinator at CHIP/Healthy Families Chesapeake (\$23,250) and provision of a bilingual outreach worker with the Prince William Northern Virginia Family Service (\$20,800). The Center will fund the latter two after VCHO funding for fiscal year 2003 approved by Congress.

Staff

- Administrative Assistant, Paul Campbell accepted a position outside of VCHO. Marissa Crown, who has considerable non-profit organization experience in health care, is the new Adm. Assistant.
- Seven Regional CHW Network Coordinators hired and first meeting conducted with them.
- CHW Policy Liaison hired to facilitate communication about policy and advocacy issues.