

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 October – December 2003

Education

- Coordinated November 18th pre-conference workshop on Community Capacity Building for community health worker program management staff sponsored by state Department of Social Services and conducted by Center for Sustainable Health Outreach staff
- Held the 2nd annual Virginia CHW Conference “Weaving a Fabric of Care” November 20 and 21, 2003. There were 305 registrants, of which 80% were community health workers. Initiated recognition of community health workers (CHWs) presenting eight regional Outstanding CHWs awards, with one of those being the Outstanding CHW in Virginia. Press releases sent to all eight regions of the Commonwealth. Over the course of two days, 18 speakers made presentations or conducted workshops to CHWs, Regional Network Coordinators, CHW program supervisors. During the conference special interest groups (CHW Network Coordinators, CHW program supervisors, collaborative statewide program training) conducted meetings. Ninety-eight per cent of the conference evaluations rated the conference overall as good to excellent. Specific positive comments focused on reasonable conference cost, excellent presenters, great exhibits and the opportunity and recognition provided to CHWs.
- Conducted one 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
- Virginia Dept. of Health has distributed the Community Lay Outreach Worker training manual developed by VCHO to the CDC list serve and CDC PubEd web board. As a result, Breast & Cervical Cancer programs across the nation will be able to view this tool.
- PowerPoint presentation and participation in the networking hour at the Virginia Dept. of Health’s Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program’s annual conference
- Presented the importance of CHW role in preparedness at the Virginia Public Safety Conference
- Provided clinical practicum experience for 16 JMU nursing students and 8 EMU nursing students

Consultations

- Provided community health worker program and program evaluation information to Liana Cassar with the Rhode Island Foundation
- Provided community lay outreach worker program information to an Every Woman’s Life breast and cervical cancer state provider site
- Provided information about local efforts in assessment and service to minority communities to the Institute for Community Health at Virginia Tech
- Provided Sandra Hopper’s chapter, “Establishing a Lay Health Promotion Program in a Hispanic Community,” from Carolyn Chambers Clark’s (editor) text, *Health promotion in communities* per request from Dr. Albert Bandura, Department of Psychology at Stanford University

Contractual Services

- Fiscal year 2004 contract modification requested by the Virginia Department of Health’s Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program to add a community lay outreach part time position and a contractor for health messages and graphics in the amount of \$40,402

Policy

- Participate as a member organization in support the 2004 Platform of the Virginia Coalition for Children’s Health
- Delegate Steve Landes and Senator Janet Howell from northern Virginia area have agreed to submit the community health worker study resolution at the next general assembly session.

Research

- Coordinated a meeting between staff of the AIDS Services Group (ASG) and Dr. Todd Sabato from Health Sciences Department to explore partnering in a research grant application