

Texas CHW/Promotores Newsletter

Connecting Community Health Workers in Texas

Mission: To connect Community Health Workers (CHWs)/Promotores de Salud and CHW Instructors to educational and career development resources in Texas. To provide a communication platform and celebrate the community health worker (CHW) profession.

Welcome to Our First Issue!

Welcome to the first issue of the statewide CHW/Promotores Newsletter! We are excited to share resources and information of how CHWs are impacting the state of Texas.

This year we celebrate the 20th year of the Texas 76th Legislature's recognition of Promotores/CHWs. Texas was the first state to provide certification for CHWs in the nation. We are proud to hold that title.

CHWs are implementing various initiatives and projects throughout the state. Please read about them. We encourage you to share your stories. We may feature you next!

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Outstanding CHW Award

The Outstanding CHW/Promotor(a) Award spotlights the impact a CHW is making in their community. The first award goes to Ms. Deyanira Perez! As a CHW, who serves the Rio Grande Valley, she works with local partners and stakeholders. She stays informed of new partner services in the area that will benefit the community.

Out of 16 nominations submitted, Deyanira's passion for her social service work was impressive. Her efforts have impacted the community and she has not gone unnoticed. She will receive a certificate to celebrate this accomplishment. Congratulations Deynira and keep up the great work!



Deyanira Perez

National CHW News

The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) launched in the spring. It occurred at the 2019 Unity Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada in April 2019. NACHW encourages you to become a member. You can network with others to stay informed of new updates and policies for CHWs at nachw.org.

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National CHW News *(continued from page 1)*

Recap of Unity Conference: More than 800 CHWs and allies attended the 2019 Unity Conference. They represented various communities throughout the nation. More than 50 CHWs who attended represented Texas. Several individuals presented at sessions and had positive feedback. Tonya Bradley from Houston received recognition for her work. She is an advocate of Lupus awareness in community education. Tonya and Otila Garcia from Laredo were finalists for the Esther M. Holderby Dedicated CHW Award. This is the CHW of the year award.

The NACHW Ambassador for Texas is Dolontria Williams from Houston. In her current job, she is researching the inequity of literacy and how it affects health. Her research is about how CHWs can influence populations who face literacy barriers.

Dolontria also is a board member of the Texas Association of Promotores and Community Health Workers (TAPCHW). She enjoys sharing with CHWs to never stop professional growth. She encourages CHWs to use the resources that many associations offer. They can assist in career growth and other opportunities. By using educational and referral information, CHWs can help their client's situation.

Texas State CHW News

To get more involved in your CHW region, visit the Texas CHW website (dshs.texas.gov/chw.aspx). You will find a list of local DSHS-certified training centers and CHW associations. They have education and networking opportunities.

Texas CHW Certifications (as of June 2019)

CHWs = 3,962
CHW Instructors = 282

Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee

The CHW Advisory Committee reports to the Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) executive commissioner. It advises on rules that affect community health workers. The committee also carries out other tasks requested by the commissioner.

To connect more, this newsletter lists regional information. It includes CHW Advisory Committee members representing the eight Health Service Regions (HSRs).

Visit dshs.texas.gov/chw/AdvComm.aspx to view the committee roster.

Texas Regions CHW News

Health Service Region 1

CHW Advisory Committee Region 1 Representative: **Linda McMurry**

Highlights: Texas Tech University started a Behavioral Health CHW program in August 2019. This program is in the Health Services Center School of Nursing CHW Program. It offers 30 behavioral health hours within the curriculum.

Health Service Region 2/3 North

CHW Advisory Committee Region 2/3 North Representatives: **Dr. Julie St. John** and **Tasha Whitaker**

Highlights: Baylor Scott and White Health employs over 100 CHWs throughout its healthcare system. That is the largest number of CHWs in the Dallas/Fort Worth area and Texas. These CHWs work in a variety of roles. Some help navigate clinical services and work as a part of a multidisciplinary team. Others provide community health education outreach services. The Baylor Scott and White Health and Wellness Center trains CHWs who enter the system. The center also provides continuing education opportunities to CHWs statewide. They offer courses in English and Spanish.

The Healthy Cities Program is making an impact with CHWs in Dallas. They promote healthy habits for longer, happier lives in the city. They partner with community organizations and healthcare entities. The goal is to improve the lives of the area's citizens. CHWs provide services focusing on deep community integration, food innovation and technology.

The program works with the City of Dallas and other key area community organizations. The data is showing positive results. That includes achieving a mean A1C reduction of .36(±.79) in the last 2 quarters and mean BP reduction of 3.0/1.6. The program takes place in Dallas area recreational centers, in low-income communities and food deserts.

Read an article on how Baylor Scott and White Health CHWs are impacting their communities:

fwddf.com/baylor-scott-white-health-community-health-workers-best-serve-high-risk-patients-and-underserved-communities/

Texas Association of Promotores and Community Health Workers (TAPCHW)

The Texas Association of Promotores and Community Health Workers (TAPCHW) kick-off meeting occurred on August 29. It happened during the 2nd Annual DFW CHW Conference in Arlington, Texas. It's mission is to

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Texas Association of Promotores and Community Health Workers (TAPCHW)

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support and expand opportunities for CHWs at the state and local level. They do this through advocacy, education, employment, empowerment and policy.

Conference attendees were able to meet the TAPCHW board. They had the chance to become an association member as well.

Membership Benefits: TAPCHW member benefits include opportunities for professional development, education and scholarships. They also can take part in advocacy efforts, have access to a network of CHWs and more.

Need more information or have questions? Visit facebook.com/tapchw for more information. Email the association at info@tapchw.org for questions.

Health Service Region 4/5 North

CHW Advisory Committee Region 4/5 North Representative: **Kim Bush**

Highlights: The Northeast Texas Community Health Worker Coalition hosted its 5th Annual Conference. It took place on July 19 in Tyler, Texas, with over 100 registered attendees.

At each conference, attendees have a chance to give to a local community organization. Attendees can donate an item to the organization for a community service project.

This year Caring Heart Helping Hands Organization received all donations. Attendees donated socks and zip lock bags for local homeless shelters.

Health Service Region 6/5 South

CHW Advisory Committee Region 5/6 South Representative: **Alma Swisher**

Highlights: The University of Houston Community Health Workers Initiative's inaugural conference, *Trust in Health*, was well attended and successful.

Save the date for the next *Trust in Health* conference. It will take place at the University of Houston main campus on Saturday, November 2, 2019. CHW and other professional continuing education units are available.

Health Service Region 7

CHW Advisory Committee Region 7 Representatives: **Ibeth Parra** and **Costa Ndayisabye**

Highlights: Governor Greg Abbott recognized April 8, 2019, as Community Health Worker Day in Texas. Over 75 CHWs traveled to Austin with Dia De La Mujer Latina Inc. for the *8th Annual Expanding the Role of Promotores/CHW Conference*. The group listened to a presentation from First Lady of Texas Cecelia Abbott. They toured the Texas Capitol and visited with the senators from their communities.

Promotores/CHWs celebrated 3 events:

- 20th anniversary of Texas 76th Legislature Recognition of Promotores/CHWs
- Governor Abbott's proclamation of April 8, 2019 as "Community Health Worker Day in Texas"
- April is nationally recognized as Minority Health Awareness Month and week of April 8 is Minority Health Awareness Week

Celebrating 20 Years

Texas 76th Legislature established a training and certification program for Promotores/CHWs effective September 1999.

Health Service Region 8

CHW Advisory Committee Region 7 Representative: **Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schekler**

Highlights: The Healthy Neighborhoods program with the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District is impactful. The program focuses on the community deciding what is best for them and dictating what they need. Read more at sanantonio.gov/Health/HealthyEating/HealthyNeighborhoods.

They highlighted some projects during their Texas Public Health Association presentation. One was a walking school bus that now includes 50 children, parents and police officers. A skate boarding clinic for children encourages physical activity outdoors . It also helps them to stay out of trouble. They have a project that maps fruit trees in the neighborhood. The excess fruit is given to families in need.

Another program involving CHWs is the Grow Healthy Together Care Coordination Pathways HUB. It is part of the Bexar County Health Collaborative. Read more at growhealthytogether.com. The CHW's primary role is to serve as a community care coordinator. They work in the care coordination agency within the Pathways HUB.

CHWs help individuals navigate and overcome barriers they encounter. This includes contacting places such as clinics, hospitals and human service agencies. Community care coordination embraces a holistic approach. It addresses the physical, social, and behavioral determinants of health.

Health Service Region 9/10

Not represented by a CHW Advisory Committee member.

Highlights: None at this time.

Health Service Region 11

CHW Advisory Committee Region 11 Representative and Presiding Officer:
Merida Escobar

Highlights: Established in 1998, the South Texas Promotora Association (STPA) was the first Promotora/CHW Association in Texas.

It became the first Promotora/CHW and Instructor training site in 2011.

STPA was the first DSHS-certified training program to provide education

on Zika and opioids. Hundreds of Promotores/CHW Instructors took part in this certified continuing education. It served as the first presiding chair of the Texas Promotora/CHW Advisory Committee. STPA is also one of the largest Promotora/CHW associations in the United States. Promotores along the border help with and organize all their conferences. Their *Annual STPA SPI Get it D.O.N.E Border Conference* in South Padre Island took place October 6 -7, 2019.

Join a CHW Advisory Subcommittee

The Promotor(a)/CHW Training and Certification Advisory Committee meets quarterly. We invite you to get involved by serving on a subcommittee.

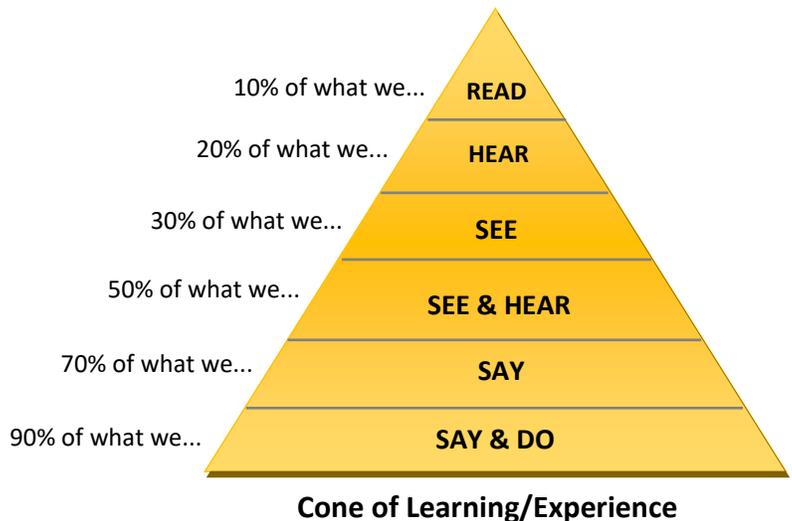
Current subcommittees are:

- * Workforce Solutions and Employment Opportunities
- * Program Rules
- * Training and Certification
- * Communication and Outreach

CHW Instructor Corner

Are you looking for innovative ways to deliver your courses?
Do you want to engage students in class and online?

After 2 weeks, we tend to remember...



Source: Edgar Dale (1969)

CWH Advisory Committee Meetings

CHW Advisory Committee meetings take place quarterly.

Attend in person at 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756 or view the meeting via webcast.

Visit dshs.texas.gov/chw/AdvComm.aspx to learn more.

Events and Educational Opportunities

Visit the CHW Calendar at dshs.texas.gov/chw/EducationCalendar.aspx for the most current events and educational opportunities.

Date	Event	Type	City
December 6–7	CHWs in the Mix: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice in the Care of Vulnerable Populations	Conference	Lubbock

About the Texas CHW/Promotores Newsletter

The Texas CHW/Promotores Newsletter is published by the Texas Department of State Health Services in collaboration with the Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee.

Contact the CHW Program at chw@dshs.texas.gov for questions or comments.