

Whatcom Community Health Workers' Network

Convened by the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement

May 25, 2018

Nooksack Health Center, Everson

Present:

Name	Organization (if any)
Becky Robertson	Nooksack Valley School District
Brooke Eolande	DVSAS
Claudia Martinez	Sea Mar CHC
Laura Reardon	Unity Care Northwest
Megan Stephenson	Unity Care Northwest - Outreach & Enrollment (Navigator)
Peter Kelly	Nooksack Health Center
Rafael Ayala	Sea Mar CHC
Rochelle Holloway	Whatcom Family & Community Network
Tanya Rojas	Educational Service District 189
Victoria Joe	Nooksack Health Center
+ Australia Cosby, Christina Ortiz, Lara Welker (WAHA)	

Welcome and Introductions

People introduced themselves and reflected on what's satisfying about their work. They shared stories of specific experiences when they thought, "THIS is why I do this work."

Network "Housekeeping" Decisions and Agreements

1. It's OK to post meeting notes showing attendance on WAHA's website.
2. It's OK to post photos of participants on WAHA's website, or use for other purposes such as reports.
** WAHA will provide photo release forms.**
3. It is not necessary to create Group Agreements (ground rules or meeting guidelines) at this stage.
4. It makes sense for meetings to include getting to know each other, collective learning about topic/issue/information, and updates and announcements/resource sharing/open conversation.
 - Getting to know each other will happen through the discussion, so don't need to give it a lot of time.
 - Resource sharing and open conversation would be the most useful to the most people (7).
 - Collective learning also useful (6 people).
 - Suggestion to have time for one organization or program to go into more detail about their services and programs ("spotlight" it) with time to ask questions. The organization that hosts could be spotlight organization for that meeting.
5. Start a meeting idea "bank" where anyone can add things they'd like the group to discuss (issues, challenges, information, topics to learn more about...).

CHW Definition

The group reviewed the CHW definition developed by the American Public Health Association: “...A frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.”

While this might not be the “right” definition it’s currently the working definition being used in WA State.

There were questions about the meaning of some words and phrases: “public health”, “unusually close”, “health”, and “community”.

➔ Add to Meeting Idea Bank: 1) Create own CHW definition. 2) Clarify the various communities that each CHW works with (What/who are our communities?)

CHW Connection Map

People wrote some of their assets (head, hands and heart) on big stickers and placed them on a large piece of paper on the wall. Each person drew a line from themselves to another person and chose a word that described their feeling of connection.

Next Meeting

Date and time: Friday, June 22, 9-11AM

Place: Unity Care Northwest in Bellingham.

Spotlight: Unity Care Northwest

Main Discussion Topic: CHW definition



Many thanks to Victoria and Peter at the Nooksack Health Center for hosting this meeting!