

Whatcom Community Health Workers' Network

Convened by the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement

August 24, 2018

At Sea Mar Community Health Center, Bellingham

Present:

| Name | Organization (if any) |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Steven Hortegas | Molina Health Care |
| Rochelle Hollowell | Whatcom Family and Community Network |
| Jessica Mata | Sea Mar CHC |
| Katie Zoerb | Sea Mar CHC |
| Claudia Martinez | Sea Mar CHC |
| Maribel Merlus | Sea Mar CHC |
| Megan Stephenson | Unity Care Northwest |
| Laird McHattie | Unity Care Northwest |
| + Lara Welker (WAHA Convener) | |

Welcome and Introductions

Group members introduced themselves. People built onto the Connections Map by adding their name and assets (if they weren't on the map already), new information about themselves (if they were already on the map), and new connection lines.



CHW Definition

The group reviewed the CHW definition with the discussion about some of the key words (created at the June & July meetings), and agreed that this would be okay as a working definition (perhaps to be re-worked in the future if the group decided to).

Comments:

- Even though definitions are supposed to clarify, sometimes they lead to more confusion because they're so brief and/or general.
- Public Health should be defined further; Rochelle will draft some wording to share.
- The definition doesn't say what CHWs actually DO, so it should be used together with roles and functions outlined in the WA Task Force report.
- Using the same definition that the Task Force endorsed seems useful and adds credibility.

Statewide CHW Updates

- Megan shared about the phone calls with the newly forming statewide CHW Association, an effort being led by the Foundation for Healthy Generations.
- There will be a fall in-person gathering of the CHW Association on Sept 26-27 in Wenatchee. CHWs can get their lodging covered and mileage reimbursement. Three people from Unity Care plan to go and are interested in carpooling.
- Megan and Lara will send out information about the state Association calls and registration for the meeting in Wenatchee.

Updates, Announcements and other Discussion:

- In October Sea Mar will be opening 2 new offices for WIC and Maternity Support Services, one on Iowa St, and one in Ferndale.
- Sea Mar has a partnership with WithIn Reach for helping people get Basic Food, and Katie requested that people fill out a short survey about ways to improve the program.
- There will be a CHW Symposium in Whatcom County in late November (sponsors are the Chuckanut Health Foundation, PeaceHealth, and the North Sound Accountable Community of Health).
- There was discussion about the state Department of Health CHW training, and the fact that it's "very basic and broad." There's interest in giving input into any upcoming revisions the state may be doing. It would also be useful to know who in Whatcom County has taken the training.
- As part of its role with facilitating this group, WAHA is asking people to complete a survey to share their ideas about the best ways to make the Network useful for CHWs. People at the meeting filled out paper versions, and Lara will send out a SurveyMonkey version to everyone else.



Many thanks to Claudia and others at Sea Mar for hosting this meeting!

- ➔ The next Whatcom CHW Network meeting is Friday, September 28, 9:00-11:00 AM – location TBD.
- ➔ Bring your fellow community health workers! All are welcome.