

Whatcom Community Health Workers' Network

Convened by the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement

September 28, 2018

At the Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement, Bellingham

Present:

Name	Organization (if any)
Brooke Eolande	Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Services
Steven Hortegas	Molina Health Care
Jessica Mata	Sea Mar CHC
Claudia Martinez	Sea Mar CHC
Australia Cosby	Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement
Molly Benedetto	Whatcom Alliance for Health Advancement
Megan Stephenson	Unity Care Northwest
<i>Lara Welker (WAHA Convener)</i>	

Welcome and Introductions

Group members introduced themselves. It's a small group today!

CHW Symposium Update

- The group reviewed the outline for the Symposium planned for November. Australia and Lara are involved with the planning, and it's being sponsored by the Chuckanut Health Foundation, PeaceHealth, and the North Sound Accountable Community of Health.
- The Symposium audience includes CHW direct service people AND local administrators and community leaders. The goal is to learn and create a collective vision for CHW roles, programs and police
- It was suggested that it would be good to bring more stories into the Symposium, from CHWs and also from clients CHWs have helped. Maybe it would be possible to make a short video that could be used at the Symposium and other ways as well.
- The question was also asked: Does the planning committee know about this CHW Network? Australia and Lara said yes, and that everyone in the Network will be invited.

Updates and Discussion about CHW efforts in WA State

- The first in-person meeting ("Fall Forum") of the new Washington CHW Association was held Sept 26-27 in Wenatchee.
 - Megan and others from Unity Care, Sea Mar CHWs, Lara and several others from Whatcom County attended.
 - CHWs did visioning and goal setting, and committees were formed to continue the work.

- The Foundation for Healthy Generations is supporting getting the Association and its committees going.
- The Washington Department of Health is going to reconvene its CHW Task Force.
 - The Task Force was first formed in 2014 and released a report with recommendation in early 2016.
 - Members are CHWs and other stakeholders.
 - This time the task force will be developing education and training recommendations for the Legislature.
- The state Dept of Health runs the CHW Training program and also hosts an annual conference.
- The Foundation for Healthy Generations is a non-profit based in Seattle that has supported a lot of CHW work in different parts of the state. They partnered with the DOH to convene the CHW Task Force in 2014, and now they are supporting the formation of the WA CHW Association.
- Promotor de salud/CHW programs, mostly out of migrant/community health centers, have been doing this work for a long time and have a lot of experience.
- Washington has four local CHW network groups -- Spokane, Pierce, Clark (Whatcom is the 4th/newest).
- **It's confusing how all local and state efforts work together to advance the importance of need of CHWs! Lara and Australia will work on a visual timeline put it all in context. 😊**
- ➔ The next Whatcom CHW Network meeting is Friday, October 26, 9:00-11:00 AM at the Lummi Nation Administrative Building, 2665 Kwina Rd, Bellingham.
- ➔ Bring your fellow community health workers! All are welcome.