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 by providing a communication platform and celebrating the health worker (CHW) profession.

In this Issue - Fall 2020

CHW Committee News.....2
About this Newsletter.....2
Covid-19 Resources 3
Cultural Competence.....3
Additional Resources 6

Welcome

Welcome to this Special Edition of the CHW/Promotores Newsletter!

We hope this finds you and your family doing well. We see the amazing work you are doing in your communities and we encourage you to keep up the great work.

We know this is a challenging time for many. People are facing illness, loss of a loved one, mental health, unemployment, food insecurity, childcare issues and so many more issues. To help, we compiled a list of resources to share.

Our CHWs are needed now more than ever. We see the CHWs engaging in conversations and focusing on many public health platforms and issues.

We thank you for your service and encourage you to continue to be the valuable resource that you are!

National CHW News

The National Association of CHWs (NACHW) annual conference was on August 27, 2020. We encourage you to become members. This organization is a great way to network and stay informed on updates and policies for CHWs.

Texas State CHW News

Want to get involved in your CHW region? The Texas CHW website has local training centers certified by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and CHW associations. You will find education and networking opportunities as well for Promotores/CHW and CHW Instructors.

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

Texas CHW Certifications (as of June 2019)

CHWs = 3,962

CHW Instructors = 282

CHW Advisory Committee Members

The Promotor(a)/CHW Training and Certification Advisory Committee, created by Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 48, advises DSHS and the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) on the implementation of standards, guidelines, and requirements relating to the training and regulation of persons working as promoters or CHWs. The DSHS Commissioner appoints members to the CHW Advisory Committee to serve a term of three years. The Committee includes five CHWs or promotores currently certified by DSHS, one public member, one higher education faculty member and two professionals working with CHWs or promotores in a professional setting.

The committee meets four times per year in Austin, via webcasting or Microsoft Teams. If you would like to attend a meeting, check the CHW Advisory Committee website for information on attending future committee meetings. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings will be conducted online using Microsoft Teams only.

The committee reviews rules and policies and make recommendations to the department. The committee carries out other tasks also as requested by the HHS executive commissioner.

Newly appointed committee members Dr. Elizabeth Vaughan-Cardenas, Ms. Tasha Whitaker and Ms. Silvia Garcia were introduced at the July 31, 2020 meeting.

About the Texas CHW/Promotores Newsletter

The Texas Department of State Health Services publishes the Texas CHW/Promotores Newsletter. We work in collaboration with the CHW Advisory Committee. The CHW Communications and Outreach subcommittee collaborates on the Newsletter. Do you have ideas for an upcoming issue? We want to hear from you, email us with any comments, questions or suggestions.

COVID-19:

Definition:

On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for a novel coronavirus outbreak. The new name is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19.

There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

Resources

Texas COVID-19 Data :

dshs.texas.gov/coronavirus

Other Helpful Information:

coronavirus.gov

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/toolkits/index.html

nashp.org/states-engage-community-health-workers-to-combat-covid-19-and-health-inequities/

What can you do?

Wear your mask, social distance and educate your community to do the same.

Provide resources and educational materials to clients. Help them find testing sites, food pantries, utility assistance and other resources.

Cultural Competence Resources

Definitions

Culture - 'Culture' refers to integrated patterns of human behavior that include the language, thoughts, communications, actions, customs, beliefs, values, and institutions of racial, ethnic, religious, or social groups. (**ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK361128/**)

Cultural Competence - A set of congruent behaviors, attitudes, and policies that come together in a system or agency or among professionals that enables effective interactions in a cross-cultural framework. (**ahrq.gov/ncepcr/ tools/cultural-competence/definition.html**)

Continued on page 4.

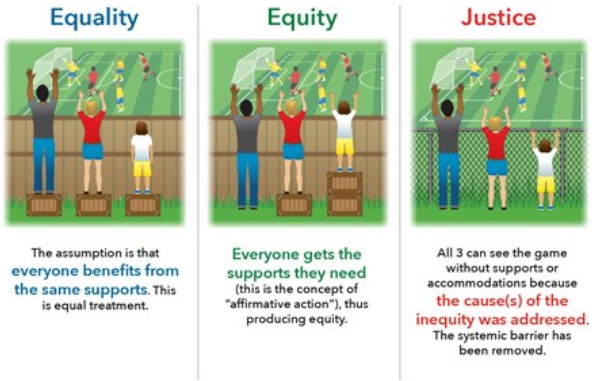
Cultural Competence

(continued from page 3)

Culturally competent care is defined as care that respects diversity in the patient population and cultural factors that can affect health and health care, such as language, communication styles, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors. (**effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/products/cultural-competence/research-protocol/**)

Health equity - Equity is the absence of avoidable, unfair, or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically or by other means of stratification. "Health equity" or "equity in health" implies that ideally everyone should have a fair opportunity to attain their full health potential and that no one should be disadvantaged from achieving this potential. (**who.int/topics/health_equity/en/**)

Health equity is when everyone has the opportunity to be as healthy as possible. (**https://www.cdc.gov/**)



Culture Shapes Our World

Culture is an integrated pattern of learned beliefs and behaviors that can be shared among groups including thoughts, styles of communicating, ways of interacting, views on roles and relationships, values, practices and outcomes (Rose, 2011).

Culture is a learned set of shared interpretations. These interpretations affect the behavior of relatively large groups of people. Culture has an impact on perceptions, judgments, history and ideas of one's self and others. These aspects all shape our culture.

Culture often affects our subconscious behavior. Culture is multi-layered and is in a constant societal flux.

Continued on page 5

Cultural Competence

(continued from page 4)

Also, every person belongs to multiple cultures and some of those cultures have multiple layers.

Multiple cultural layers involve: internal and external factors, organizational influences, where people grew up and or where they currently live as well as foundational experiences.

Diversity and culture are interrelated components. These components include: race, color, age, class, gender, ethnicity, ability, experience, language, religion, social and political status, identity and economic position.

Cultural Competency is a process of learning that leads to an ability to effectively respond to challenges and opportunities posed by the presence of social and cultural diversity in a defined social system (Ross, 2011). Cultural Competency involves a process that takes place over time. It requires an understanding of key social determinants, namely socioeconomic status and its impacts on health disparities from a racial and ethnic vantage point (Rose, 2012).

To be culturally competent does not mean you are an authority in every culture's values, beliefs and morals.

It means you respect cultural differences, even if you do not understand them.

Some benefits of Cultural Competency are: celebration of diversity in communities, awareness of one's own culture and the awareness and acceptance of cultural differences.

Understanding Cultural Competency helps us to address personal bias and sensitivity.

Conferences

Interested in attending a CHW conference? We have our CHW Calendar for the most current events and educational opportunities.

Additional Covid-19 Resources:

CHW Toolkit—**ruralhealthinfo.org/toolkits/community-health-workers**

COVID-19 Toolkit—**cms.gov/outreach-education/partner-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-partner-toolkit**

Texas Demographics — **census.gov/quickfacts/TX**

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - CHWs are valuable assets to public health in low resource settings. CHWs work as community advocates, conduct outreach and community engagement for public health programs, and provide health education and services. CHWs are to provide necessary sensitization, training, and support to communities to allow people with COVID-19 to be safely cared for at home. Protecting the health and safety of CHWs is critical. With training about prevention and appropriate infection prevention and control measures, CHWs can protect their own health while serving as good examples in the communities they serve. (**cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/global-covid-19/home-based-care.html**)

Addressing PPE Needs in Non-Healthcare Settings—**fema.gov/fact-sheet/addressing-ppe- needs-non-healthcare-setting**

Contact Tracing Training

CDC Training—cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/general-training-modules.html

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Training—learn.astho.org/products/making-contact-a-training-for-covid-19-contact-tracers

DSHS approved a four-hour certified continuing education course for CHWs entitled "DSHS COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training." The course was developed by the DSHS Office of Border Public Health.

For instructions to access the course, e-mail **CHW@dshs.texas.gov**

Additional Cultural Competence Resources

Cultural Competency Toolkit— emscimprovement.center/education-and-resources/toolkits/cultural-competency/

National Institutes of Health Inclusion Outreach Toolkit—orwh.od.nih.gov/toolkit/recruitment/cultural-competence

Promoting Fair Access to Health cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/index.html
Promoting Healthy Choices and Community Changes: An E-learning Program for Promotores De Salud (Spanish) promotores.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/ (non-certified)

2-1-1 Texas is a free statewide 24-hour information and referral service. By simply dialing 2-1-1, callers can receive information about community and social services, such as food pantries, emergency shelter, rent assistance, utility bill assistance, child care, and senior services to name a few.