



NOTES

Advocacy Committee Meeting

The goal of the Advocacy Committee is to raise awareness about the value of Community Health Workers in Kansas.

Date: Tuesday, May 14, 2019 • Time: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

- ❖ **Members present:** Broderick Crawford, Eric Wiman, Kristy Anderson, Marne Swain, Matt Thibault, Stephanie Moss, and Alissa Rankin
- ❖ **New business**
 - Advocacy presentations
 - Healthy Communities Initiatives presentation
 - Several hospital administrators across Kansas were interested in implementing CHW programs in their systems
 - There were some folks who were interested
 - Many participants from Southwest and Western Kansas who were interested in CHWs
 - Promotoras from Genesis Family Medicine were present
 - Panel presentation raised increased interest in training about difficult topics.
 - Developing relationships is key to advocacy.
 - When we give our own business cards, what is the perception about the KS CHW Coalition? Do we want to consider providing business cards or some type of item to hand out when we give presentations.
 - While in Washington, DC, Broderick was able to speak with Cherise Davis, Dr. Roger Marshall, Steve Watkins, and Senator Jerry Moran.
 - Alissa and Beth Nech provided a presentation at the 2019 Unity Conference about infrastructure development.
 - Increased contacts from other states wanting to develop new coalition.
 - Todd Moore from the University of Kansas presented at the 2019 Unity Conference.
 - Elections
 - Carissa and Broderick's positions are open for election
 - Advocate and CHW positions are open

- We will be accepting nominations. These nominees will be verified and an election will take place during the Symposium event.
- Broderick has been nominated as the KCHWC Co-Chair
- What is involved with being an Advocacy Co-Chair?
 - Provide ideas for agendas
 - Attend two meetings per month
 - Provide opinions
 - ◆ Attend committee meetings
 - ◆ Attend the Executive Committee meetings (These consist of all co-chairs and a few advisors and staff support.)
 - Other additional tasks (e.g., letter to employers)
 - Minimal outside work
 - Advocacy – in addition to traditional advocacy, increasing awareness about CHWs in KS (e.g., conversations with anyone who is interested in CHW)
- WSU Center for Public Health Initiatives provides backbone support, which includes developing agendas, coordinating meetings, etc.
- There are other positions available as well for

❖ Old business

- Letter to employers draft verbiage to encourage participation of CHW within state, local, regional and national meetings:

Dear Employer,

The Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition is working to strengthen the Community Health Worker workforce in our state. We see the great value for CHWs to attend and be involved in local, regional, state, and national meetings, committee meetings, and conferences. These events offer immense value to the CHWs as well. They are able to gain new information and learn about new organizations and resources available. Further, networking is extremely valuable for CHWs as it helps them stay connected with other CHWs who are best able to relate to their experiences, work, joys, and frustrations. Even as a participant, these gathering opportunities help CHWs grow personally and offers them chances to present and expand professional skills, one of which is public speaking and interaction.

When CHWs attend these meetings, it not only benefits them personally, their employing organization gains as well because CHWs increase in maturity, education, understanding, and experience. Case study reviews allows them increased options for meeting needs of clients in challenging case studies and clients within their own communities.

We are certain that you would agree that CHWs are a valued member of not only your workforce but also that they have something unique to offer to their colleagues and other professionals. They, like all of us, feel the importance of feeling included. Being involved can reduce feelings of professional burnout and reduce a sense of “punishment” if they are not being allowed or encouraged to attend.

If you currently support your CHWs attending but they haven’t traditionally been involved, they may need that extra “push” from you as their employer to attend. We all need to encourage participation outside of visiting their clients and helping connect with the healthcare team. You can assist with the growth and expansion of their knowledge. Further, if cost is a barrier, many times scholarships are available or the employer can cover a portion of the cost (e.g., registration, travel, etc.). If CHWs are allowed the time to attend, they will often find a way through scholarships, sponsorships, and other means. Letters of support from supervisors are often required for these. The Coalition can offer verbiage for these letters if needed. Many times the most important thing to assist CHWs attendance is by having another employee cover their clients for the day or offer options to them.

Thank you for your support!
Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition

❖ KDHE Updates

- KDHE staff is meeting with Barb Brendel to learn about the CHW infrastructure that was developed in Missouri. They may also be looking at other states as examples.
 - Erika Saleski and Alexis Sherrill both would be able to provide input and perspective.
 - Sonja Armbruster and Alissa did a presentation on three different states’ models for reimbursement strategies. Texas is a great politically similar state that would be a good state to look at after Missouri.
 - Texas was also able to align their University systems in CHW education.

❖ Next Steps

- Solicit nominations for the co-chair positions.
- Send draft of letter to Executive Committee for their input.
- Kansas CHW Symposium is June 11th. Please register.

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 11, 2019 (Symposium)
Tuesday, July 9, 2019
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Tuesday, October 8, 2019
Tuesday, November 12, 2019
Tuesday, December 10, 2019