

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION

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November



SPOTLIGHT:

ADVANCING HEALTH EQUITY THROUGH CHWS & PEER PROVIDERS: MOUNTING EVIDENCE AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

A NEW REPORT FROM FAMILIES USA



Families USA partnered to review nine recent studies about Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Peer Providers (PP) supported by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute. These studies provided funding to support CHW and PP work in health care delivery and addressing health inequity. After reviewing the participant groups, interventions, outcomes, results, and limitations in these studies, Families USA found evidence that CHWs and PP act as powerful interventions to close health disparities in multiple health care settings, a multitude of health conditions, and in diverse communities. This evidence shows policy makers and the health care industry that these workers provide is highly effective and that they should prioritize their inclusion in health care delivery.

As a result, Families USA released 12 policy recommendations that would help achieve the goals of creating sustainable financing for CHWs and PPs in order to address health inequities. Further, in order to improve patient outcomes while having a return-on-investment, CHWs should be integrated into health care and transition teams, take advantage of Medicaid reimbursement pathways, and incorporate CHW utilization into advanced alternative payment models. CHWs and PPs are capable of improving health outcomes if providers and payers use them for both physical and mental conditions. They are successful in helping manage patients with multiple chronic conditions in order to reduce emergency care. CHWs should be used in communities that historically experience greater health inequities, prioritizing investment in Tribal health care in communities where safety nets are shrinking.

The report also provides a number of research recommendations, such as studying long-term impacts of CHWs and PPs and not excluding participants with limited English proficiency. This report shows how CHWs and PPs can improve health outcomes, increase access, and generate savings for providers. If you'd like to dive deeper into the report's evidence and policy recommendations, [read more here!](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Native American Heritage Month

In November, we honor Native American Heritage and the accomplishments and traditions they have share with us. A valuable way to celebrate this month is through learning about the history and culture of Indigenous people so we can competently work with them.

- Kansas is home to the Iowa, Kickapoo, Potawatomi, and the Sac and Fox Tribal Nations in Northeast Kansas. You can visit these communities and/or there are many sites, museums, and centers in Kansas/KC Metro to help you **learn more** about Native American history in Kansas.
- Lawrence, KS is home to one of 23 Tribal Colleges: Haskell Indians Nation University. Take time to **learn about** the school's resilient history or visit if you can!
- Consider the fact that **not all people celebrate mainstream Thanksgiving**. Some Indigenous people consider it a day of mourning while others may celebrate in their own way. Try to practice being trauma-informed when asking clients about the holidays.

Rural Health Day!

States across our country recently celebrated Rural Health Day. Over 900,000 Kansans call rural and frontier communities home. Check out **KDHE's regional snapshots** to gather a clearer picture of rural health care in Kansas looks like! Living in a rural community can create a barrier for many people to receive critical preventative and emergency health care. Our CHWs in rural communities are making profound impacts to close the gap between urban and rural health!

November 21, 2019

#powerofrural

National Rural Health Day

Celebrating the Power of Rural



IT'S NOT JUST A DAY, IT'S A MOVEMENT.

IN THE NEWS

CHWs Fill Gaps in Rural Healthcare

Rural healthcare faces a great challenge: Transportation. Those who do have transportation often have to go long distances to receive healthcare and many rural, remote communities do not have access to efficient and timely transit systems. Many communities are utilizing CHWs to overcome these barriers that particularly hurt people who have to manage various health conditions. This article describes an organization in Kentucky where CHWs do referrals, navigation, health education, and coaching for people with chronic diseases. These CHWs are working to address environmental issues and the Social Determinants of Health. CHWs have offered their services as an extension of health care services rather than a competition in order to build partnerships with providers who may view CHWs as competitors. **Read more** about how rural CHWs have worked to develop sustainable funding, built partnerships with community-based organizations, and measured success!

How Health Organizations Bridge the Gap to Community-Based Care

At a recent Value-Based Care Summit in Vermont, panelists discussed "de-medicalizing" services with regard to social risk factors and solutions to addressing Social Determinants of Health. Typically, this organization makes community gardens or health kiosks, but the community connected an issue close to their hearts to creating an educational program in school for kids to improve their community - which resulted in a turtle crossing. Building relationships and de-medicalizing to address Social Determinants of Health is hard, which is why CHWs play an important role in this model. CHWs who live in public housing have helped build trust in their community and advance efforts to bridge the gap to community-based care. **Read more** about this community's work in addressing the Social Determinants of Health.

TELL YOUR STORY

We are collecting Community Health Worker success stories and want to know yours. Please take a few moments to share so that we can raise awareness of CHWs in Kansas.

[Click here](#) to share your story!



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COMMITTEE UPDATES

The **Advocacy Committee** was unable to convene this month. They look forward to discussing their advocacy efforts developed in the strategic plan. Their next regularly scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, December 10 at 11:00 am.**

The **Education Committee** discussed the meeting process for moving forward after the meeting with KDHE Secretary Norman about sustainable, accessible education and certification. They also worked through next steps related to the Strategic Plan and a potential pilot project related to updated CHW Core Competency education. Their next meeting is **Tuesday, December 17 at 3:00 pm.**

The **Executive Committee** reviewed success statements and recommended strategies for three of the focus areas that came out of the Strategic Planning session. They will continue to work on the strategic plan and forward notes out to committees. The committee was then updated about education's presentations and certification discussions.

Their next meeting is **Wednesday, December 4th at 1:00 pm.**

The **Sustainability Committee** reviewed the preliminary report from the and discussed steps the executive committee will take in order to put the plan into action and measure performance. They discussed what success would look like for CHWs and the coalition. They will not meet in December due to the holiday. Their next meeting is **Tuesday, January 28 at 2:00 PM.**

The **Symposium Committee** met to begin preliminary planning and goal setting for the CHW symposium next summer. They discussed potential themes, training, breakout sessions, and qualities they want in a keynote speaker. Their next meeting is **Monday, November 18 at 10:00 AM.**

Want to review the notes? [Click here](#) to find all of the documents you need!