

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION

SPOTLIGHT

Support Groups in Kansas

by Teresa Strausz

We are living and working in a time of change and disruption. Not only disruption of what we do and how we do it, but disruptions in relationships integral to our personal and professional lives. As a result of these circumstances, we may experience anxiety, stress, sadness, loneliness, grief, and so on. Connecting with people who share similar experiences during this time can be critical for our physical and emotional health. To help you navigate these changing times, the WSU Community Engagement Institute has added a list of resources to the [Kansas Support Groups Website](http://supportgroupsinkansas.org). This includes information on resources related to physical and mental health, self-care, safety, and more.



The website also houses an online database with information on various local, state and national support groups and resources. This database is available year-round and is searchable by county or topic.

Find resources related to COVID-19 and others at: <http://supportgroupsinkansas.org/coronavirus> or email supportgroups@wichita.edu for more information.



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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Teresa Strausz, *Community Engagement Institute*

Olivia Borland, *Community Engagement Institute*

We are collecting Community Health Worker success stories and want to know yours! Please [click here](#) and take a moment to share so that we can raise awareness of CHWs in Kansas.

Want to receive this newsletter regularly? [Click here to subscribe](#). You can update your preferences or unsubscribe if you want to change how you receive these emails.



[@kschwcoalition](http://kschw.org)



WSU VISTA Fellows Now Hiring Full-Time and Summer VISTA Positions



The WSU VISTA Fellows program currently has several openings for full-time and short-term opportunity to help in communities in Kansas. If you know someone who is interested in using their knowledge and skills to help those in disadvantaged circumstances turn their dreams into reality, please check out service opportunities in Wichita, McPherson, Olathe and St. John. AmeriCorps VISTA members earn a stipend for serving full-time at nonprofits, government entities and schools. There are year-long and summer positions available on their website! Take a look at current VISTA Opportunities [here](#).

CHWs Play Critical Role in Addressing COVID-19

In the past few weeks, articles have been showcasing how community health workers have risen to the challenge of supporting their clients and acting as front line workers to fight COVID-19. An article from Illinois Public Radio, discusses how CHWs and other health care workers have been retrained and redeployed to serve as "pandemic health workers". These workers are providing not only physical need to people with COVID-19, but emotional support as well. [Read more](#).

An opinion article from Devex (a social enterprise organization) discusses why CHWs matter now more than ever, both in the United States and globally. It makes the case for why CHWs matter and tells the story of Bisharo Farah, a CHW in rural Minnesota who continues to support her clients through COVID-19. [Read more](#).

In St. Louis, the STL Community Health Worker Coalition is collaborating with other organizations to share resources and provide information about COVID-19 in neighborhoods most at-risk through an initiative called [PrepareSTL](#). CHWs are leading the charge in community outreach and sharing information in more traditional formats - such as flyers - in order to ensure those without Internet or social media have access to resources. [Read more](#). These articles are just a few examples of how CHWs are making impacts throughout this time. We know Kansas CHWs are also a part of the amazing work that CHWs are doing to support their clients and communities during COVID-19. Thank you!

Engaging CHWs to Increase Cancer Screening

Based on an analysis of systematic review of interventions using CHWs independently and/or in a team, the Community Preventive Services Task Force recommends interventions that engage community health workers to increase screening for breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer. The interventions in the review were seen as not only effective in increasing screenings, but they were also cost-effective interventions for increasing screenings and ultimately, improving health. To learn more about this what type of interventions were effective and find resources/information about interventions for each cancer type, [read here](#).

COMMITTEE UPDATES

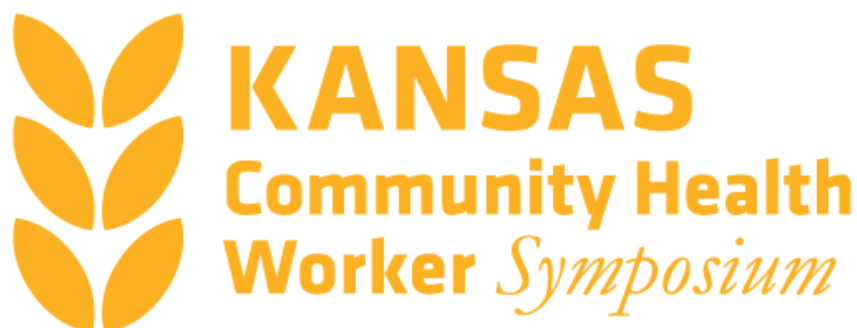
The **Advocacy Committee** discussed the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on CHWs and the communities that they serve. They shared innovative ways that they are serving their clients during this time. The next regularly scheduled meeting is on Tues., 5/12 at 11am.

The **Education Committee** continued the planning of the CHW education pilot project. They debated implementation dates and determined the benefits of online instruction versus face-to-face instruction. The next meeting is on Tues., 5/19 at 3pm.

The **Executive Committee** shared about changes and sought input regarding the Symposium event in June. They received updates about the education pilot project. The team finalized the strategic planning that begun in September of 2019. They will meet again on Wed., 5/6 at 1pm.

The **Symposium Committee** elected to change the 6/11 event to a virtual meeting format. They reviewed the structure of the day and set the agenda. The responses to the request for proposal were reviewed. An additional planning meeting will be held on Mon., 5/4 at 11am.

The **Sustainability Committee** was rescheduled to Tues., 5/5 at 2pm



<https://kschw.org/symposium>

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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the
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