

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION



SPOTLIGHT

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SYMPOSIUM RECAP

On June 11, 2020, 147 Community Health Workers (CHWs), Promotoras(es) de Salud (PdS), academicians, healthcare partners, a variety of state agencies, non-profit organizations, and other key stakeholders attended the fifth Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium. For the first time ever, the event was virtual! Overall feedback from participants was very positive. Funding for the conference was made possible by the United Healthcare, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Sunflower Health Plan, Health Forward Foundation, REACH Health Care Foundation and Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE).

The conference began with a welcome from the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition Co-Chair and CHW, Diana Lady. Participants attended the keynote presentation provided by Dr. Justin Moore, "CHWs and Telemedicine." They were then able to attend a breakout session of their choice.

Options included:

- "Breastfeeding Support During COVID-19: The powerful role of CHWs" by Diana Lady and Treva Smith
- "The Role of a Doula as a CHW" by Carmen Valverde, and
- "Quitting Tobacco for Life: Resources for Clients, Staff, and Community Partners" by Rick Cagan.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Olivia Borland, *Community Engagement Institute*

Alissa Rankin, *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.

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kschw.org
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Spotlight Continued

...The last session was an introduction of the Kansas CHW Education Pilot provided by Dr. Elaine Johannes and Alissa Rankin. They also gathered input from participants on the final elements of the project.

The Kansas CHW Coalition Symposium Committee awarded the first ever Kansas CHW of the Year award, highlighting an exemplary CHW. The committee selecting the award had a terrific response for the nominations. In fact, the response was so good that we decided to announce an honorable mention as well as the finalist of the CHW of the Year. Sheena Wolsey is the honorable mention for the 2020 award. She goes above-and-beyond to assist clients and resolve issues. She possesses all of the CHW Core competencies and is able to facilitate meetings, help with community food drives, and acts as a top performer on her CHW team! The finalist for the 2020 CHW of the year is Guadalupe Tredway of the University of Kansas Medical Center. She shows that she exceeds the expectations of a CHW in Kansas. She has been working as a CHW since 2016 but prior to that she served as a volunteer in the community for several years. She is passionate and empathetic with her patients and always goes the extra mile to make sure her patients' needs are met. We congratulate you both and are fortunate to have you serving Kansas!

All recorded sessions will be available online soon at kschw.org/symposium/. Please contact Alissa Rankin at alissa.rankin@wichita.edu for more information.

Statement on Recent Instances of Racist Violence and Anti-Racism Resources

Content Warning: Racism, police brutality, and violence

In the past few months our nation has called for change after witnessing the violent deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, and so many other People of Color before and after them. This state sanctioned violence is occurring in the mist of a pandemic that has disproportionately affected Black people and other communities of color. We condemn police brutality against Black folks and those protesting for change. As CHWs, we must fight systemic racism that contributes to the historic and present racist society that contributes to many of the health disparities the people we serve face. We also want to acknowledge that many of our coalition's membership is Black: We see you. We hear you. Your life matters.

Scholar and activist, Angela Davis says "In a racist society, it is not enough to be non-racist. We must be anti-racist." We urge our non-Black coalition members to not be complicit in racism through learning, reflecting, and taking action. Here are resources for getting started on this journey:

- [Non-comprehensive list](#) of books, podcasts, films, and more on anti-racism
- List of organizations, mutual aid funds, memorial funds, and more that you can [donate](#) to that are supporting and working towards change for Black people. Don't forget to research before donating!
- For Black CHWs: The Community Healing Network & Association of Black Psychologists' [toolkit on family, community, and self-care & healing from racial trauma](#)

COMMITTEE UPDATES

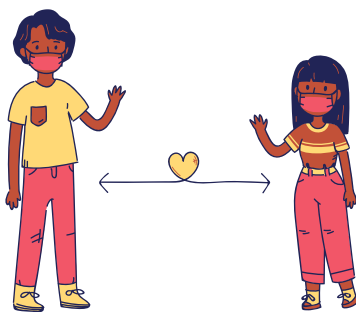
The **Advocacy Committee** discussed strategies to get agencies or groups of people to present about the CHW role. They also shared challenges that CHWs are facing due to COVID-19. Their next meeting is on **Tuesday, July 14 at 11:00 AM**.

The **Education Committee** is continuing to plan their train the trainer update. The training will be held online, over the course of three weeks, meeting via zoom for class discussions. The next committee meeting is on **Tuesday, July 21 at 3:00 PM**.

The **Executive Committee** went over updates regarding the annual symposium, next steps for strategic planning, and encouraging collaboration between committees on similar activities. COVID-19 resources were discussed as well. The leadership will meet again on **Wednesday, July 1 at 1:00 PM**.

The **Symposium Committee** held a very successful event on June 11, 2020. To read about this, please go to <https://kschw.org/symposium/> and their event debrief will be on **Monday, July 20 at 11:00 AM**.

The **Sustainability Committee** reviewed the education program that is being developed. They provided recommendations to the Education Committee. Their next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, July 28 at 2:00 PM**.



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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the
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