

# KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION



## SPOTLIGHT

### KANSAS CHW EDUCATION PILOT

The Kansas Community Health Worker Education program kicked off on August 13, 2020. This program will serve as an education pilot for Kansas CHW curriculum and as a Train-the-Trainer (TTT) course. The TTT course will cover the CHW Core Competencies and Trainer Core Competencies through six modules over three weeks. These modules will contain over 30 hours of education, including 12 hours of live discussion and prerecorded lectures.

The CHW curriculum used is the newly developed Mid-America Regional Council's CHW Core Competency curriculum, developed in 2019. It specifically emphasizes the 12 CHW core competencies, such as self-awareness, advocacy, and documentation. These competencies build on the skills and experiences that CHWs already possess.

The TTT program builds understanding of adult learning theory, professionalism and ethics, cultural competency and humility, and more. It will prepare 12 instructors in Kansas including Coalition members and seven employees from K-State Research and Extension (KSRE). The partnership with KSRE provides a unique statewide network of educators to compliment the CHW profession. They sharing expertise on issues important to Kansas CHWs, such as health, agriculture and food systems, community development, and much more. Their employees live and work in every corner of Kansas. Partnering with KSRE will allow our CHW Education course to be sustainable and more accessible to CHWs who live in rural parts of Kansas.

Education is an exciting next step in sustaining and developing the CHW profession in Kansas! Stay tuned as we learn from this pilot and advance through new opportunities.

## CONTENTS IN THIS ISSUE

### SPOTLIGHT

### NEWS & RESOURCES

### COMMITTEE UPDATES

## 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.

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.

## Create a Cadre of CHWs to Fight COVID-19

This article is written by Dr. Eric Prakslis, a data scientist who works in health, writes about his experiences working with CHWs in Sierra Leone during their Ebola outbreak five years ago. He translates his experiences and work to fighting COVID-19 in the U.S. In his work in Sierra Leone, CHWs were the key factor in building the infrastructure needed to defeat the epidemic and ultimately, sustain the infrastructure that was built in order to address other diseases, such as HIV.

The programs built then were successful and are a testament to the value of CHW programs in creating impact that lasts. In the U.S., boots on the ground workers are needed to contact trace and ensure those with the coronavirus are cared for at home.

[Read more](#) to see this fresh perspective!

## National Immunization Awareness Month

Vaccinations are important to protect ourselves and our communities. Rates of vaccination in U.S. adults remains low and disparities exist in minority groups. The pandemic has worsened disparities and caused vaccination rates to decline as people avoid going out and are not staying up-to-date on vaccines.

It's important for health care workers to communicate the value of vaccines to clients and provide useful information to help them access vaccines. Here are some resources from the Office of Minority Health, the CDC, and more:

- [Learn about Medicare coverage](#) for vaccinations (Flu, Hepatitis B, etc.)
- Check out From Coverage to Care [preventive services flyers](#) to learn about covered immunizations for adults, teens, children, and infants.
- Download [resources from the CDC](#) that you can use to promote the importance of vaccination, especially among [adults with chronic health conditions](#). Resources for Spanish-speaking patients can be found [here](#).
- Use this [CDC toolkit](#) to find key messages and educational resources to communicate the importance of vaccinations.

## Join ASTHO & the National Council for Behavioral Health's New Webinar Series

As public health and direct health care workers, CHWs have been on the front lines of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking care of yourself and developing your own resiliency in these times is vital to maintaining your own well-being. These one hour webinars feature conversations, reflection, and nourishment to help you continue to do the vital work you lead every day. Topics covered include trauma-informed responses to COVID-19, avoiding burnout through self-care and resiliency, systemic racism, and more! Find previous webinar recordings and/or register for upcoming events [here](#).



**LEADERSHIP  
CHECK-UP SERIES:**  
Developing Your Resiliency  
as a Public Health Professional

**[Check out KC Regional CHW Collaborative & MARC's "CHWs as part of the COVID-19 emergency response" fact sheet!](#)**

# UPCOMING MEETINGS

---

The **Advocacy Committee** discussed current observations and opportunities related to CHWs , such as the Families USA fellow program, KDHE Early Detection Works, and more. They discussed current challenges that CHWS are facing as contact tracers, opportunities to address these, and next steps for advocating for CHWs as contact tracers. Their next meeting is on  
**Tuesday, September 8 at 11:00 AM.**

The **Education Committee** held a discussion on the process for the first CHW training cohort. The next committee meeting is on  
**Tuesday, September 15 at 3:00 PM.**

The **Executive Committee** reviewed the Symposium evaluations and ideas for short presentations moving forward. They also brainstormed ways the coalition can support CHWs this fall with COVID-19, such as gathering resources, digital literacy and telemedicine support, and more. The leadership will meet again on  
**Wednesday, September 2 at 1:00 PM.**

The **Symposium Committee** has decided to hold one-hour educational sessions to make up for a shortened Symposium. The committee discussed a range of topics to potentially cover in these sessions. They will be held on various dates throughout this year - stay tuned! The committee also discussed choosing a date for next year's Symposium. Their next meeting will be  
**Monday, September 21 at 11:00 AM.**

The **Sustainability Committee** postponed this month's meeting. Their next meeting will be held on  
**Tuesday, Septemer 22 at 2:00 PM.**



Copyright © 2020 Wichita State University, All rights reserved.  
You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the  
Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition or Symposium.

Our mailing address is:  
Wichita State University  
Community Engagement Institute  
Center for Public Health Initiatives  
1845 Fairmount, Box 201, Wichita, Kansas 67260