

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION



SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

The Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB) is a non-profit organization that serves as a liaison between the National Indian Health Board and the 44 federally recognized tribes in the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and portions of Texas. The board's purpose is to improve tribal public health outcomes for American Indians through partnerships, advocacy, education, data, research, and training.

As a Kansas Public Health Specialist for SPTHB, Olivia Pewamo explained her role focuses on providing public health messaging and learning about community members' health concerns. When Olivia first began her role, she met with all the tribes' elected officials, known as their Tribal Council. Olivia explained, "Each tribe has their own reservation boundaries in which is governed by that tribe's elected officials." Although Olivia is an enrolled tribal member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, she noted, "Being a tribal member of a tribe did not entitle me to be on every reservation doing my work."

Understanding tribal sovereignty and distinguishing between tribes highlights how Indian Health Service Community Health Representatives (CHR) may have different guidelines depending on the tribe they work with. CHRs, the counterpart to CHWs for Indian Health Service, play an important role in supporting the health of tribal members. Olivia discussed how CHRs act as paraprofessional health providers to conduct community outreach, promote health and wellness, and engage in disease prevention on behalf of their tribes and communities. In Kansas, outreach is primarily done by CHRs providing transportation for clinic patients and home visits. Olivia added, "Each tribal and/or Indian Health Service clinic in Kansas sets their own guidelines for their CHR teams and boundaries of service transportation."

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Olivia Pewamo, *Southern Plains
Tribal Health Board*

Samantha Bradfield, *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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COVID-19 Symptoms Compared to the Flu, Cold, and Allergies

In consideration of the upcoming seasonal diseases and allergies, there are several helpful resources to differentiate between COVID-19 symptoms and other ailments. KDHE has provided a guide to compare COVID-19, flu, cold, and allergy symptoms in children and another guide to address the differences in adults. Additionally, the CDC has published an article comparing COVID-19 and the flu.

The Pandemic: An Opportunity for Greatness - Webinar

The IDD Provider Networking Group is hosting a webinar to help providers develop way to engage the people they support during COVID-19 and help people find opportunities in this difficult time. The webinar is presented on November 20, 2020 from 9:00-11:00am. This webinar requires a \$10 registration fee. More information can be found here.

Flu Vaccinations During COVID-19

Stanford Medicine has recently published an article answering five frequently asked questions about the flu vaccinations in the midsts of COVID-19. Some questions answered in the article include:

- Do we know the risks of having flu and COVID-19 at the same time?
- How do the flu and COVID-19 differ?
- Is COVID-19 changing anything about this year's flu vaccine?

The answers to these questions and others can be found here.



COMMITTEE UPDATES

The **Advocacy Committee** did not hold a meeting for the month of October. The next regularly scheduled meeting is
Tuesday, November 10 at 11:00 AM

The **Education Committee** discussed possibilities of integrating breastfeeding information into CHW education and Train-the-Trainer. Additionally, the committee discussed possible next steps for addressing outdated statistics. The next meeting is on
Tuesday, November 17 at 3:00 PM

The **Executive Committee** met on 10/7 and reviewed the one-hour presentations that the Symposium Committee is coordinating. They included September, given by Dr. Elaine Johannes on Self-Care and Stress Management, October provided by Crystal Doran of the Kansas Early Detection Works program, and November will be provided by Guadalupe Tredway on Hypertension Management. The December session topic will be provided soon. Updates were also given from the Education Pilot Project and all committees and regional representatives provided updates on their work through October.
Wednesday, November 4 at 1:00 PM

The **Symposium Committee** discussed potential themes and topics, speakers, and location of the 2021 Symposium. Their next meeting is
Monday, November 16 at 11:00 AM

The **Sustainability Committee** did not hold a meeting for the month of October. Their next meeting is
Tuesday, November 24 at 2:00 PM

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You are receiving this email because you expressed interest in the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition or Symposium.

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