Many outstanding nominations were received for the 2021 Community Health Worker of the Year Award, making it challenging for the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition (KCHWC) Symposium Committee to select one person. Ultimately, the KCHWC Symposium Committee presented the award to Diana Lady, a health promoter with the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program, during the Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium on June 8.

Currently, Lady connects Kansas farmworkers and their families to preventative, primary, prenatal care, and mental health services in her position. When asked what motivated her work, Lady expressed, "It’s being able to help our clients overcome their challenging situations. We typically meet our clients where they are at, and it is rewarding to see them make progress and grow."

To Lady, this award means having a platform for advocacy work. She says, "This award feels like it is giving me a platform to communicate with others about community health work that we are currently working on. It also helps me promote the community health workforce, and is something that allows me to continue to support the coalition group and the work - especially, around issues of equity."
IN THE NEWS
FINNEY COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN RADX-UP PROGRAM

Check out this recent news article from The Garden City Telegram! “Community health workers and promotores de salud have been on the frontlines helping the most underserved during the pandemic,’ said Mariana Ramirez, one of the co-Investigators in RADx-UP Kansas.”

RESOURCES
WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK

August 1st marks the start of World Breastfeeding Week! You can find sharable images, events and more at https://worldbreastfeedingweek.org/

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY
EXPANDING LACTATION CARE: INCORPORATING INCLUSION INTO PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

Join the Partnership for Maternal & Child Health for this series of webinars held each Thursday in August! You can learn more and register by clicking here.
COMMITEE UPDATES

The Executive Committee met and discussed updates to the website. Ideas centered on addressing vaccine hesitancy, vaccine information, and success stories. Additionally, the committee discussed future planning for non-profit status. The Executive Committee will meet again Wednesday, August 4, 2021 at 1 PM.

The joint Advocacy and Sustainability Committee met and discussed several developing grants for CHWs in Kansas. The RADXUP grant will focus on 10 counties in Kansas while the other grant is supporting the hiring of 60 CHWs in 20 Kansas counties. In Wyandotte County, CHWs are canvassing and planning events to inform the community about new COVID-19 variants. The Advocacy and Sustainability Committee will meet again Tuesday, August 17 at 1:30 PM.

The Symposium Committee met and reviewed the feedback for the 2021 Symposium. They plan to follow up with thank you notes to presenters and speakers. The Symposium Committee will meet again on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 10 AM.

The Education Committee met and discussed recent class topics: breastfeeding, oral health, and healthy eating. Students were very engaged and interested in learning more. The next meeting will be Tuesday, August 17 at 3:00 PM.

For more information about Kansas CHW Coalition meeting dates, please contact alissa.rankin@wichita.edu.

KC REGIONAL CHW COLLABORATIVE

Have you participated in the Kansas City Regional CHW Collaborative meetings? The mission of this collaborative is to integrate CHWs into the health and human services systems through capacity building, advocacy, and sustainability. You find more information here or contact Hannayd Ruiz at hruiz@marc.org.

CAPACITY BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE
Monday, Aug. 26, 9:00 am

ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE
Thursday, Aug. 22, 8:00 am

KC REGIONAL CHW FORUM
Thursday, Aug. 22 9:00 am

KC REGIONAL CHW COLLABORATIVE
TO BE DETERMINED