

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION



spotlight

KDHE CHW Section Director

The Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition (KCHWC) would like to welcome Stefanie Olson who is the new Community Health Worker (CHW) Section Director at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Stefanie worked as a doula for 14 years, helping over 400 families welcome babies in hospitals, birth centers, and home settings, and has a strong knowledge of CHW work. She also previously acted as a program manager for KDHE's sexual violence prevention and education program. Furthermore, she has experience in Adverse Childhood Experiences training.

Her team will employ 16 CHWs in clinical settings and train 180 over three years through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding. (Continued on page 2.)

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

*Monique Buchanan, Student,
Community Engagement Institute*

*Alissa Rankin, Community
Engagement Institute*

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spotlight

KDHE CHW Section Director (Continued)

Stefanie's hope is to increase opportunities for patients of clinics to receive culturally appropriate services by being connected with a CHW who will help guide them through the recommendations of a physician's care plan. Her program has partnered with eight clinics in counties with high COVID rates, high rates of chronic disease, and clinics where the social vulnerability index is high. Stefanie's team hopes to have the role of a CHW become a consistently paid and respected profession and within 10 years CHW services would be an expectation of healthcare.

She stated, "The rewarding part of working with CHWs is the building of support systems and agency with their community." Stefanie is very dedicated and enthusiastic about the work she will be doing; she will be instrumental in advancing CHWs and their involvement in the health of Kansans.

Fall Learning Sessions

The Kansas CHW Symposium Committee has coordinated a series of educational sessions to be offered throughout the fall. Save these dates & times and stay tuned for registration information.

November 10, 2021, at 10 am-11 am - **Trans Health** (Speaker TBD) Registration opens soon.

November 30, 2021, at 9:30 am-10:30 am - **RADxUP & Communities Organizing to Promote Health Equity (COPE)** [Click here to register.](#)

December 7, 2021, at 1 pm-3 pm - **SNAP-Education** Registration opens soon.

COMMITTEE UPDATES



KSCHW Quarterly Meeting & Guest Presentation

- Tuesday, December 7th 1:00-2:00p

Executive Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 3rd 1:00p-3:00p

Advocacy/Sustainability Meeting Tuesday, November 16th 1:30p-2:30p

Education Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 16th 3:00p-4:00p

Symposium Committee Meeting Monday, November 15th 10:00a-11:00a

*For more information about Kansas CHW Coalition contact
janeshia.wilson@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. The KC Regional CHW Collaborative is looking for nominations for the executive committee. The following positions are open:

- Kansas-Side co-chair
- Capacity building co-chair (Vanessa can be re-elected)
- At-large position
- Advocacy co-chair (Guadalupe can be re-elected)

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHWS

- NACHW has a new partnership page for any organization that would like to participate: <https://nachw.org/partner-with-nachw/>
- On 10/28/21 NACHW had the first Learning Collaborative. NACHW is looking to provide Continuing Education Units at upcoming events. Future focus areas include mental health, immigrants and refugees, Spanish-speaking Promotoras, CHW organizational leadership, Community Health Representatives. The next meeting will be on 01/20/22. Check the website for details.
- NACHW membership is only \$20 a year. Missouri is ranked 4th in NACHW membership and has been allowed to present alongside Denise Smith, NACHW Executive Director, to the National Government on CHW work.

Our mailing address is:

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