



## Virginia CHW News & Updates

**! Get Coronavirus (Covid-19) Updates from the Virginia Department of Health [here](#).**

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This is the first monthly newsletter of the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council. Through the newsletter, we will share updates on the issues impacting CHWs in Virginia, spotlight best practices for growing the CHW workforce, provide legislative and policy updates, share information on CHW certification and training, highlight CHW research and much more.

If you are interested in having your CHW program featured in an upcoming newsletter, or wish to provide us with feedback, please contact us at [cnye@institutephi.org](mailto:cnye@institutephi.org). Please send submissions for the April newsletter by April 10, 2020

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## CHWs and COVID-19

CHWs are vital members of the health workforce and critical supports in the response to this pandemic in some of our most vulnerable communities. We need everyone's help to stop the spread.

During the growing community spread of COVID-19, we strongly encourage CHWs and CHW employers to utilize resources from the [Virginia Department of Health](#) as you support individuals to access services and respond to questions about this virus.

A reminder:

- VDH urges all Virginians to stay home and practice social distancing. If you have to go out, stay 6 feet away from others.

- Avoid public spaces, public activities, and group gatherings. Do not take public transportation such as buses, trains, taxis, or ride-shares, if possible.
- Put distance between yourself and others if you are sick. Call ahead before seeking medical care. (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/>)

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## CHWs Take the NACHW Survey Today!

National Association of CHWs has created a brief [survey](#) that they would like you to take today! they will use your anonymous responses to advocate for CHW needs and solutions with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other national sources. NACHW will also use your responses to improve the resources about COVID-19 we have listed below. Please share information and materials with NACHW using the Connect page on our website: [www.nachw.org](http://www.nachw.org).

### RESOURCES TO HELP COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

NACHW has compiled and continue to update a list of resources for CHWs and Allies on their website related to COVID-19. [View the list of resources on the NACHW website.&nbsp;](#)

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## VA 2020 CHW Legislation

### House Bill (HB) 688 Approved by the House and Senate, awaits Governor's signature!



After being signed by the House Speaker and President of the Senate on Friday, February 27, HB 688 is headed to the Governor for signature. The bill will become law July 1, 2020. The legislation received unanimous

support in both chambers. The Bill states, in part, the following... **"No person shall use or assume the title "certified community health worker" unless he is a community health worker who (i) has received training and education as a community health worker from an entity approved by a body approved by the Board and (ii) is certified as a certified community health worker by a body approved by the Board. No entity shall hold itself out as providing training and education for certified community health workers required by subsection B unless its curriculum and training program has been approved by a body approved by the Board.** The Board shall adopt regulations setting forth requirements for (i) use of the title "certified community health worker" and (ii) education and training programs necessary to meet the requirements for certification as a certified community health worker."

What this means is that **beginning July 1, 2020**, a person who has not been certified as a CHW during the legacy period must complete training from a training entity approved to provide instruction. Training entities cannot claim to provide certification training unless they are approved first! Receiving training from an approved training provider will be one component of the application to become a certified CHW in Virginia.

***CHW certification is voluntary in Virginia.*** Persons using the title Community Health Worker are not required to seek certification. Virginia is one of many states offering voluntary certification while recognizing the roles that certified and non-certified community health workers play in improving the lives of members of their community.

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## Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council Holds First Meeting

On January 22, 2020 the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council held its first meeting in Richmond at the offices of the Richmond Memorial Health Foundation. There were 25 people in attendance representing 19 agencies and organizations including community health workers.

### CHW Workforce Development Council evolves from

## Advisory Group

The Development Council is an evolution from the CHW Advisory Group that was formed in 2014. The goal of the Council is to "identify and promote policy and systems level strategies to advance and sustain the CHW workforce in Virginia." The Council structure has three standing committees. The committees are the CHW Curriculum, Training and Certification Committee, the Financing, Measurement and Evaluation Committee and the Policy and Communication Committee.

### Interested in Joining the Council or a Committee?

If you are interested in participating in the Council or one of its committees or, if you just want more information please contact [IPHI](#).

### Council Website Under Development

A website that will have Development Council actions, resources and news is currently being constructed. We will let you know when it is active!



*Shanteny Jackson, C-CHW and President of the Virginia Community Health Worker Association gives an overview of the Association at the first Development Council meeting.*

**APRIL 22, 2020  
is the next  
meeting of the  
Development Council**

Mark your calendars for the afternoon. Details to follow.

## Curriculum, Training and Certification Committee work ongoing

The Curriculum, Training, and Certification (CTC) Committee of the CHW Workforce Development Council continues to meet on a regular basis to develop the elements required for certification as a CHW after the legacy period ends July 1, 2020. The Committee is also working to develop the process education providers will need to follow to have CHW curricula approved to meet certification standards. The Committee is joined by the Virginia Certification Board who will be receiving curricula for approval. Once the CTC Committee's recommendations are finalized, they will be forwarded to the CHW Workforce Development Council for adoption.

## CHW Legacy Period Extended to July 1, 2020

The legacy period for achieving certification as a Community Health Worker in Virginia has been extended to July 1, 2020. Persons who have been working as a CHW with 2,000 or more hours are encouraged to learn how they can take advantage of this process before the extended deadline ends. Contact the Virginia Certification Board at the link below for more information or the VA CHW Association.

[Virginia Certification Board](#)

[VA CHW Association](#)

## Piedmont Virginia Community College and the Thomas Jefferson Health District Launch CHW Education Course

On Tuesday, February 4, 2020 *Studies in Community Health Worker* held its first of 22 class sessions with 17 students at Piedmont Virginia Community College in Charlottesville. The course

will run through April 30, 2020 and is a collaboration between PVCC and the Thomas Jefferson Health District (TJHD). The course was designed over the preceding nine months and involved representatives from PVCC, including PVCC's Network2Work program and the Division of Health and Life Sciences, TJHD, and IPHI. The curriculum is based on review of existing curriculum and local needs. Focus areas include system navigation and linkage to existing services and resources, how the body works, and CHW skills aligned with CHW core competencies as recommended by the Development Council's Committee on Curriculum, Training and Certification. Upon passing the course, students will receive four semester credit hours and will have met the required classroom hours for CHW certification. Students are supported by a state rural health grant through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) under grant number H95RH00138. Putnam Ivey de Cortez, the Healthy Communities Coordinator for TJHD is faculty for the course. Ms. Ivey de Cortez has led previous education sessions in English and Spanish for TJHD. For more information you can email Ms. Ivey de Cortez at [Putnam.ivey@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:Putnam.ivey@vdh.virginia.gov).

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## **Project ECHO is ramping up to address the need for information and training around the COVID-19 pandemic.**

On March 11<sup>th</sup> UNM's Office of Community Health in partnership with Project ECHO presented a [Coronavirus 101 for Frontline Health Workers](#) training specifically for Frontline Health Workers to help them better understand the most current information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it applies to their work. [Watch the video](#) that focuses on separating myths from facts, examining CDC recommendations, and sharing resources for yourself and others.

**Project Echo is offering two weekly teleECHO trainings on Coronavirus (COVID-19) specifically for Frontline Health Workers.  
every Wednesday (English) from 3:30 – 4:30 MDT  
and every Friday (Spanish) from 2:30 - 3:30 MDT**

The trainings will focus on separating myths from facts, examining CDC recommendations, and sharing resources for CHWs and the communities CHWs work with. To receive notifications of these sessions, please contact [CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu) to be added to the list serve.

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## **Join the National Association of Community Health Workers for a CHW Certification Webinar Series**

The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) will launch a webinar series in March 2020 to explore the state of state legislation and CHW perspectives on workforce certification. Did your state pass certification? What worked in your state's pathway to certification? Have you begun to see the impact of certification with employment opportunities? What are important next steps? Use the NACHW [Connect page](#) to send your thoughts to them!

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## **EdX offers a FREE Virtual Course on Strengthening Global CHW Programs**

EdX has developed a free course on strengthening the CHW workforce globally, with a focus on CHWs as part of primary health care teams, making the case for CHW programs, building coalitions to support CHW workforce, building and strengthening CHW programs globally, evidence regarding effectiveness of CHW interventions and implementing CHW programs. Click for [more information](#).

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## Help us Identify CHW Programs in VA

Are you aware of CHWs or CHW programs around Virginia? We would like to know what you know as we build a database of programs. Even if the person is not titled "community health worker" but is performing CHW roles such as addressing client social needs, helping persons navigate the health and human service system, helping persons find insurance resources, etc., we still want to hear from you. Email [IPHI](mailto:IPHI).



IPHI proudly supports the Virginia Community Health Worker Association. Find out how you can support the Association by contacting them. Simply click on the hands above to go to the Association's website.

## Research Corner: New Research Demonstrates Value of CHWs

CULTURE OF HEALTH

By Shreya Kangovi, Nandita Mitra, David Grande, Judith A. Long, and David A. Asch

### Evidence-Based Community Health Worker Program Addresses Unmet Social Needs And Generates Positive Return On Investment

### Health Affairs Article notes CHW Return-On-Investment

New research from the University of Pennsylvania finds that CHWs addressing unmet social needs of disadvantaged persons returned \$2.47 for every \$1 invested. Click the image at right to go to the article.