



## Virginia CHW News & Updates

**Reminder to Virginia CHWs - Legacy Period ends June 30, 2020**

Questions? - Contact the Virginia Certification Board [here](#)



## COVID-19 in Virginia

The Virginia Department of Health is constantly updating its COVID-19 resource and tracking website at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>. Please continue to visit the site for the latest information and guidance.

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### **IMPORTANT Webinar Series on Virginia CHW Certification**

There will be two webinars describing changes to the certification process for Community Health Workers in Virginia that take effect July 1, 2020.

#### **Recorded Webinar on Updates to CHW Certification in Virginia (June 10)**

**Audience:** CHWs; CHW Employers; Council members

**Objectives of this webinar** were to understand:

- The history of the certification process for CHWs in Virginia.
- The opportunity for CHWs to use the remaining weeks in the legacy period to become certified.

- The new requirements for certification as a CHW in Virginia.
- The value of voluntary certification for CHWs.
- CHW title protection for persons not seeking to become certified.

[Go to the webinar recording here](#)

## June 17, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. - Webinar on Submitting Core Competency Curriculum to be Reviewed and Approved Under New Certification Standards

**Audience:** Organizations and their representatives interested in providing CHW core competency training approved by the Virginia Certification Board; CHWs; CHW Employers; Council members

**Objectives of this webinar** are to understand:

- Requirements for certification after June 30, 2020
- What is required to be submitted to the Virginia Certification Board for review by training and education applicants
- How to complete the curriculum submission form
- What happens if the curriculum submission is found deficient and the process for correcting deficiencies
- Estimated timelines for review and approval
- Answer questions from participants

[Register for the program here](#)

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## IPHI is Hiring CHWs to Support COVID-19 Response in Fairfax County

The Fairfax County Health Department will be partnering with the Institute for Public Health Innovation (IPHI) to hire and train staff for COVID-19 contact tracing. Contact tracing is a vital part of the Health Department's approach to fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. This effort will include the hiring of Community Health Workers and Community Health Worker Supervisors to support the COVID-19 response. Persons interested in applying for positions can go to the IPHI careers page of their website at:

<https://www.institutephi.org/careers/>.

*Please note that these positions will be employed by IPHI, a contractor to Fairfax County. For more information please review the press release [here](#).*

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## ConsumerLab.com on Making a Homemade Mask As Effective as a Medical or N-95 Mask



As states begin to relax restrictions on social gathering many are mandating the wearing of masks. "If made with the right household materials, you can create a mask that may be as effective as a medical mask or even an N-95 respirator, according to several laboratory studies." ConsumerLab.com is a publisher of independent test results, reviews, ratings

and comparisons of vitamins, and nutrition products to consumers and healthcare providers. Read the article [here](#).

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## Oral Health Resources for CHWs

Oral health education is now one of the training components required for Community Health Worker certification in Virginia. The impacts of oral health on overall health and wellness are vast and well documented making this core competency requirement integral in the development of a valued CHW workforce. The Virginia Department of Health, Dental Health Program provides training and resources on oral health topics across the lifespan. Online and virtual training resources are available to programs applying for certification approval and to CHWs seeking recertification. These resources can be found on the VDH website: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oral-health/>. Additionally, Smiles for Life is a national oral health curriculum with online accessibility <https://www.smilesforlifeoralhealth>.

For more information, please contact Pam Blankenship at [pamela.blankenship@vdh.virginia.gov](mailto:pamela.blankenship@vdh.virginia.gov).

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## James City County hopes to integrate CHWs into its successful CONECT Model



community • outreach • network • educate • care • thrive

Ellie Rest, Program Coordinator of the James City County Department of Social Services CONECT (Communicate - Outreach - Network - Educate - Care - Thrive) Program sees adding the role of a CHW as being a vital component of the program. “CONNECT” links individuals with services to manage their health care needs, and provide education, support, and advocacy to promote optimal aging. In addition to the county's Department of Social Services, partners include the James City County Fire Department and Police Department. The program aims to reach out to individuals throughout James City County who are in need of supportive services. This program serves to “connect” citizens and their caregivers with appropriate resources to aid and support individualized needs in the home. James City County emergency services often work with citizens who could benefit from services to address social determinants of health (SDOH) issues. But more often, individuals do not know where to begin seeking help or know what is available to them. Rather than expecting emergency personnel to solve these needs while responding to the emergency, referrals are submitted to CONECT to provide on-going support and address SDOH needs.

With over 24% of the population being 65 years of age or older, a large majority of individuals referred to CONECT are older adults in need of services to help them safely age in their own homes. Approximately 42% of referrals were initiated after emergency services responded for a mobility-related emergency, such as a fall. The program assists clients with chronic disease management, obtaining a primary care home, establishing home health needs, or medication management. Additionally, 64% of service needs identified by CONECT are related to health care SDOH.

You can view a Youtube video on the CONECT Program [here](#).

## Council's Committee on Financing, Measurement and Evaluation Holds Initial Meeting and Strategic Plan Work Group Begins Work



On May 13 the Council's Committee on Financing, Measurement and Evaluation (CFME) held its first meeting via Zoom. Twenty-three (23) persons participated. Discussion included two ongoing initiatives that address evaluation of CHW programs, the Common Indicators Initiative and the Program Levels Standards Advisory Group (PLSAG). Regarding the PLSAG, The Virginia Department of Health, with the support of the PENN Center for CHWs (PCCHW) and the National Committee for Quality Assurance, will form an advisory group comprised of subject matter experts representing CHWs, Managed Care Organizations, the Virginia Department for Medical Assistance Services (DMAS/Medicaid), health plans, and research organizations. The group will draft recommendations for standards around CHW recruitment, training, supervision, and workplace practices. PLSAG will work alongside the CFME to position Virginia for viable options for state-level financing of CHWs.

Priorities for the Committee on Financing, Measurement, and Evaluation discussed at the meeting include 1) highlighting best practice CHW models and return-on-investment; 2) disseminating evaluation standards for CHW programs; 3) disseminating measurement tools; and, 4) identifying qualitative and quantitative methods for evaluating CHW programs. This work is funded through CDC Cooperative Agreement NU58DP006535 – LivingWell in Virginia.

The Strategic Plan Workgroup met on May 11 via Zoom. Participants identified three initial priority areas for the CHW Development Council to consider. These include 1) building awareness of CHWs and CHW programs in order to expand the CHW workforce in Virginia; 2) Promoting and supporting sustainable financing of CHW roles and activities; and, 3) identifying opportunities for certification reciprocity between roles such as Peer Recovery Specialists and CHWs.



### Mark Your Calendars

July 22, 2020 is the next meeting of the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council. Please mark your calendars for the afternoon.

## Free COVID-19 Contact Tracing Online Courses

CHWs can take advantage of two online contact tracing education courses. One is offered by the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and can be accessed at this [link](#).

The second course is offered by the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins University and can be accessed at this [link](#).

If you are not doing contact tracing, these courses can be used to build your skills and also be used as Continuing Education hours toward recertification.

## 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, we still want to hear from you. Go to the brief form on the Development Council's website at this link <https://www.chwva.org/chw-program-identification-form>



## The Virginia CHW Association



The Virginia Community Health Worker Association wants to hear from all CHWs. Contact the Association by clicking on the hands logo.

## CHW Webinar Resources

**National Health Care for the Homeless Coalition** - In 2012, NHCHC produced a series of webinar presentations for CHWs across a range of topics. These topics and their related issues are as relevant today, if not more so, than they were eight years ago. You can access the webinars [here](#).

**National Association of Community Health Workers** - [weblinks, recorded webinars, translated information and self-care/prevention resources for CHWs and the communities they serve](#).

**Webinars for CHW Supervisors (NY Department of Health)** - The New York State Department of Health produced a series of webinars for CHWs and CHW supervisors. The programs, while lengthy, are an excellent resource for CHW supervisors. You can access the webinars [here](#).

## Research Corner: CHWs and Posthospital Outcomes

### **Patient-Centered Community Health Worker Intervention to Improve Posthospital Outcomes (April 2014)**

"Patient-centered CHW intervention improves access to primary care and quality of discharge while controlling recurrent readmissions in a high-risk population. Health systems may leverage the CHW workforce to improve posthospital outcomes by addressing behavioral and socioeconomic drivers of disease."

[Read the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine Article](#)