



## 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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### May 6, 2020 2:00 p.m. Webinar on CHWs and Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs

CHWs are well suited to provide diabetes self-management programs and offer ongoing support for adults with diabetes. This webinar will address some of the questions that diabetes management programs have asked as they consider engaging CHWs in their work.

Join the Institute for Public Health Innovation, Virginia Department of Health and the Virginia Diabetes Council for a rich discussion on the role of CHWs in Diabetes Management featuring:

**Valerie McAllister**, CDP, Community Health Specialist, Virginia Department of Health  
**Chaquita Chappell**, Certified CHW, Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS)  
**Tameka Coles**, Certified CHW, PATHS  
**LaKendra Lipscomb**, Certified CHW, PATHS  
**Julie Pierantoni**, MSN, RN, Certified Diabetes Care and Education Specialist, Sentara RMH Medical Center, Harrisonburg, VA  
**Amanda Young**, Project Manager for the CHW Initiative of the Dan River Region in southern Virginia

Through this discussion we will address:

- Who are CHWs/Promotores? What do CHWs do and what is the scope of practice for CHWs in Virginia?
- How are CHWs trained?
- What is the CHW role in preventing and controlling diabetes? How can CHWs support and enhance DSME programs?
- How do DSME programs start with CHWs?

[Register for the program here](#)

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## NACHW Survey Seeks Input from CHWs on COVID-19!

The National Association of CHWs (NACHW) has created a brief [survey](#) that they would like CHWs 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 CHW responses to improve the resources about COVID-19. Please share information and materials with NACHW using the Connect page on their website: [www.nachw.org](http://www.nachw.org). RESOURCES TO HELP COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS NACHW is an updated list of resources for CHWs and allies related to COVID-19. View the list of COVID-19 resources on the NACHW website at this [link](#).

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## Richmond City Health District CHWs Respond to COVID-19



Creighton Court Resource Center

Photo retrieved from <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/richmond-city/resource-centers/>

COVID-19 has added to the work of CHWs with the Richmond City Health District (RCHD). RCHD CHWs are now front-and-center in the city's efforts to provide testing in Richmond's three public housing communities. For Patrice Shelton, Certified CHW (Senior), part of her work has been battling sources of misinformation about COVID-19 that some public housing residents have received. The trust that Ms. Shelton and her CHW colleagues have established in the

community has helped residents navigate through challenges they face in finding accurate information and sources for their health and social needs as the virus has disrupted service schedules. With the RCHD providing CHWs with the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), the CHWs have continued making home visits. In addition to addressing the day-to-day needs of their clients, the CHWs are reinforcing COVID-19 precautions while encouraging and supporting testing. WVTF, Richmond's public radio station, has a short audio clip on the testing efforts in the housing communities that you can listen to [here](#).

## Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council Launches [Website](#)

During April, the Development Council launched its second communication vehicle (the first was the Development Council Newsletter distributed in early April) by publishing its website at [www.chwva.org](http://www.chwva.org). The site will have information about the Council's work, the growth of Virginia's CHW Workforce, and more.

The website will archive Council meeting agendas, materials, and meeting minutes in addition to information on the Council's three Committees. Monthly newsletters will be archived on the site. The site has a form for requesting a speaker for groups interested in knowing more about the CHW Workforce in Virginia or the work of the Council. A CHW Education and Library page lists education and CHW research articles. We encourage your [feedback](#) regarding the site.

## Development Council Approves Core Competency Curriculum Review Process for CHW Certification

During its April 22 meeting, the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council approved the Committee on Curriculum, Training, and Certification's requirements for curricula leading to certification as a Community Health Worker in Virginia. The Council also approved having the Virginia Certification Board receive, review and approve curriculum submissions based on the Committee's seven core competency elements.

Core competency education and training must meet a required minimum of 60 hours. The table below shows the core competency domain areas and the minimum hours necessary for each domain area. Education can be delivered online or via the classroom. A supervised practicum of 120 hours is required and 2,000 hours of experience over three years. For more information contact [cnye@institutephi.org](mailto:cnye@institutephi.org)

Domain Area	Minimum Hours
Community Health Concepts and Approaches	10
Service Coordination and System Navigation	10
Health Promotion and Prevention	8
Advocacy, Outreach and Engagement	8
Communication	10
Cultural Humility and Responsiveness	8
Ethical Responsibilities and Professionalism	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>



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

## Mark Brender, national director of Partners in Health Canada makes the case that CHWs are essential to health care systems

*"It is neither radical nor revolutionary to have paid community health workers present within a health system, ready to respond in times of urgency. Their efforts, and the social support they facilitate, should be a core part of any public-sector provision of compassionate and effective health care."*

Click the image at right to go to opinion piece.



The COVID-19 pandemic shines a light on our failing: We need paid, respected community health workers

 The Globe and Mail | 9d



*Community health workers in the U.S. could take on many Covid-19-related tasks, including preparing personal protective equipment, as these volunteers from Project C.U.R.E are doing in Chicago.* SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

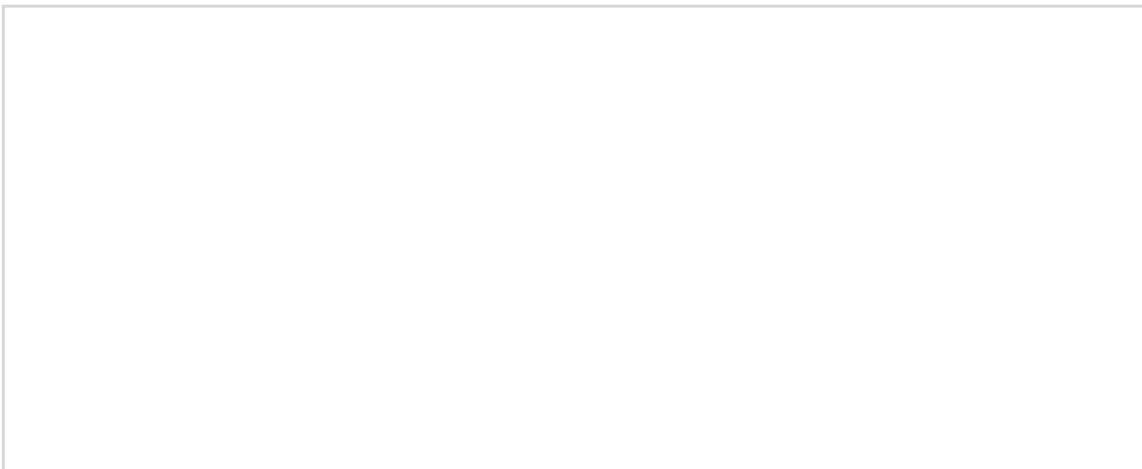
### Create a cadre of community health workers to fight Covid-19 in the U.S.

By ERIC D. PERAKSLIS; MARCH 31, 2020

Mr. Perakslis in a First Opinion article on the Website [Statnews.com](https://www.statnews.com) makes a compelling argument why Community Health Workers are essential in fighting pandemics such as COVID-19. Perakslis draws on his experience fighting the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone five years ago. You can read the article at this [link](#).

## How Roanoke, Virginia, Is Addressing Income Disparities And Their Impact On Health Outcomes

By BOB COWELL Jr.; MAY 15, 2019



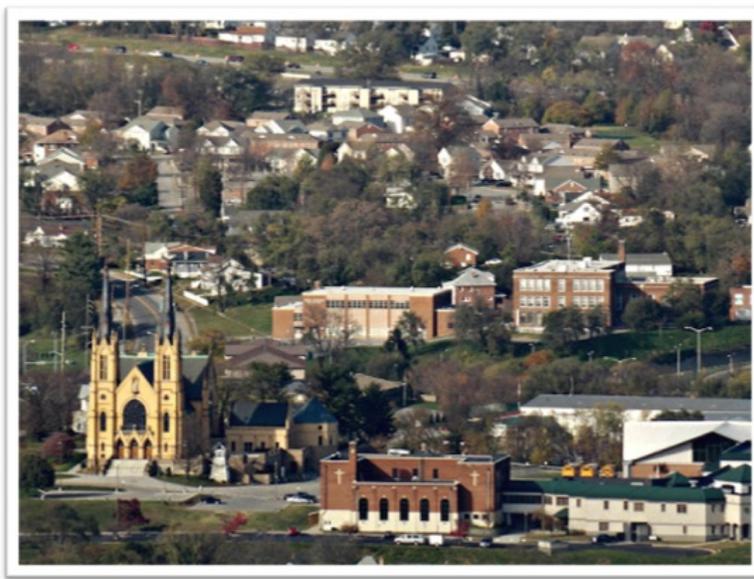


Photo credit - <http://monroega.blogspot.com/2015/11/views-of-roanoke.html>

In an article in [Health Affairs blog](#), Bob Cowell examined the link between poverty and health outcomes and Roanoke's effort to implement the Pathways HUB partnership. "A collection of community partners led by the United Way of Roanoke Valley launched the Pathways HUB partnership to improve coordination of care. This collaborative places community health workers with those seeking care at a myriad of locations across the greater region, helping them identify and overcome barriers and establish progress on pathways to better health. Pathways may include "prescriptions" for healthy foods, exercise, or techniques to manage diabetes. Since its inception in 2017, data showed that more than 244 community members have participated with 347 pathways defined, resulting in a 67 percent decrease in avoidable emergency department visits and a 73 percent decrease in subsequent avoidable inpatient admissions, plus an 87 percent decrease in length-of-stay days."

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## **Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University Offers virtual Lifestyle Coach Training**

This training is open to individuals who are affiliated with organizations that have pending recognition or intend to apply for CDC recognition. Both lay and professionally trained individuals are welcomed to become Lifestyle Coaches. Visit [CDC's website](#) to view the curriculum and learn more about CDC recognition.

Completing the four weeks of guided coursework and attending the four live virtual sessions is required for successful completion of the training and receipt of a Certificate of Completion. Cost of the program is \$649. Find more information on the course [here](#).

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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, 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

IPHI Webinars on COVID-19 for CHWs - April 8 webinar - ["Chat among CHWs: What are some issues and concerns about COVID 19?"](#) ; April 22 webinar - ["Best Practices for Supporting your Clients During COVID-19"](#) ; April 29 webinar - ["Managing Anxiety, Emotional and Mental Stress in a Pandemic"](#)

MCD Public Health COVID-19 Training Module for CHWs - [free at this link](#) - click on red banner to register

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

University of New Mexico's Office of Community Health in partnership with Project ECHO - [COVID-19 Response](#) programs and resources to help Frontline health workers better understand the most current information on Coronavirus (COVID-19) and how it applies to their work. To receive notifications of these sessions, please contact [CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu](mailto:CHWECHO@salud.unm.edu) to be added to the list serve.

## Research Corner: Nevada Study on CHWs and ROI



For every \$1 spent, the Return-on-Investment was \$1.81

### Community Health Worker Return on Investment Study Final Report (May 31, 2017)

A Nevada Study seeks answers to four questions; (1) Do CHW services reduce overall medical costs for super-utilizer clients with three or more ER visits in six months? (2) Do CHW services reduce the number of acute admits, acute readmits, Emergency Room visits, and urgent care visits? (3) Do CHW services increase primary care provider visits? (4) What is the impact of CHW services on prescription costs?

[Read the Nevada Study](#)