



Virginia CHW News & Updates



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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New CHW Certification Law Begins in Virginia



On July 1, House Bill 688 passed by the 2020 General Assembly and signed by Governor Northam became law. The law establishes specific requirements for persons who may use the title "*certified* community health worker." Authority for establishing the certification structure is granted to the State Board of Health. The law requires that education and training providers offering a curriculum that meets certification requirements be approved by a certifying entity approved by the Board. The Virginia Certification Board is the entity approving submitted curriculum. It will continue to certify CHW applicants seeking to become "certified community health workers." The Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council and its Committee on Curriculum, Training, and Certification established the core competency areas persons must be instructed to apply for certification.

Certification is a voluntary process. Persons are not required to become certified to use the title "community health worker."

Nominate A Chair and Vice-Chair for the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council

Go to the nomination site [here](#)

NOMINATE NOW!



Meet Marian Turk, Outreach Coordinator for the Virginia Association of Community Health Workers

Marian Turk is thrilled to join the Community Health Workers Association of Virginia (VCHWA) as its Outreach Coordinator and is looking forward to helping the organization grow and develop.

"I am already enjoying working with Shanteny Jackson (President of the VCHWA), and Stephanie Carrington (Vice-President of the VCHWA) toward the goals of the Outreach Coordinator, and I look forward to getting to know people in the CHW community," Marian said. Marian trained as Jewish clergy and spent ten years working in synagogues as a Cantor and Education Director. Having experienced full-time clergy life, Marian understands the stresses that many CHWs face. Marian is passionate about community building, nurturing relationships, and communication that genuinely helps people understand each other. She is eager to use the skills she developed in nurturing those passions to help Virginia CHWs and the Association reach their full potential. As the Outreach Coordinator, she will be reaching out to community health workers in hot spots to let them know about the advantages of association membership. She will network with programs and providers across the commonwealth to increase awareness of CHW programs and awareness of what community health workers can offer. Marian will also foster the development of CHW chapters across Virginia to enhance the association's social media presence and promote the association's mission and work. If you would like to say hello or have ideas on outreach for the association, please feel free to email Marian at outreachcoordinator@chwofva.com.



ImmunizeVA, a Coalition to Increase Immunization Rates Seeks Input from CHWs in Reaching Vulnerable and Diverse Populations

With support from the Virginia Department of Health, IPHI launched a statewide immunization coalition earlier this year called *ImmunizeVA*. Vaccinations are lifesaving and a critical component of preventative care across the lifespan; however, there are barriers that prevent families and individuals from maintaining immunizations. The coalition was formed to address these barriers, and has since encountered even more pressing needs with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Community Preventive Services Task Force (CPSTF) recommends home visits to increase vaccination rates in children and adults. Because there are many CHWs across Virginia performing home visits within their roles, CHW perspectives will be critical in developing coalition initiatives. *ImmunizeVA* will focus on four priority areas: community outreach and education, professional education, quality management, and advocacy. **There are opportunities for CHWs to participate in workgroups in these areas to provide insight into the best ways to educate diverse populations on immunizations and shape educational opportunities on immunizations for frontline public health workers.** These contributions will be even more critical and lifesaving as we prepare for the flu season. With COVID and the flu co-circulating this winter, we will need to be proactive about reaching communities that are typically under-vaccinated for the flu.

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](#).



Mark Your Calendars

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



All National Association of Community Health Worker (NACHW) members are invited to attend its 1st Annual Meeting (virtual). Join with attendees as the work of NACHW is reviewed at the end of its first year. Hear from leaders in community health, and engage in workshops that support the work of CHWs.

To register: Visit www.nachw.org and click **Login** at the top right of the homepage. After logging in, you will arrive at the **Member Dashboard**. Click on **Events** in the menu, and you will be able to view the registration announcement.

If you are not a member, please visit NACHW's [Membership Page](#) and learn more about member levels and benefits. If you need support with your member login, please email NACHW at info@nachw.org.

Virginia CHW Association Launches Interactive Map

The VACHWA has built a program directory map at <https://chwofva.com/resources-map/>. Help the Association and the CHW workforce across Virginia build a complete map by letting the Association and the CHW Workforce Development Council know about your CHW program.



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 and Online Resources

Día de la mujer Latina free contact tracing training for CHWs/Promotores de Salud in English and Spanish - Behavioral Health Community Navigation Training for CHWs beginning with Anxiety, then Depression, Stigma, and Stress. This will be part 2 of the Telehealth Community Navigation Training. Contact Tracing is in both Spanish and English at Día de la Mujer Latina's website. www.diadelamujerlatina.org. Día de la Mujer Latina offers additional training from its website. Click either the COVID slide or the Events Tab to take any of the organization's programs.

COVID-19 Building Resilience Training Webinar - This is a 57-minute archived webinar produced by the University of Washington. The video was updated on June 23rd. You can access the video [here](#).

Older Adults & Isolation During COVID-19 - This one-hour webinar was produced in March by Mental Health America. You can access the webinar [here](#).

A Path to Reproductive Justice: Research, Practice, and Policies (July 14 from 2:00 - 3:30) - The American Public Health Association's second webinar in its *Advancing Racial Equity* series. Register [here](#).

Research Corner: CHWs and Mental Health

Mobilizing Community Health Workers to Address Mental Health Disparities for Underserved Populations: A Systematic Review (March 2018)

"Forty-three articles (39 trials) were reviewed to characterize the background characteristics of CHW, their role in intervention delivery, the types of interventions they delivered, and the implementation supports they received. The majority of trials found that CHW-delivered interventions led to symptom reduction. Training CHWs to support the delivery of evidence-based practices may help to address mental health disparities. Areas for future research as well as clinical and policy implications are discussed."

[Read the Administration and Policy in Mental Health and Mental Health Services Research Article](#)