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## Virginia CHW News & Updates

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### VIRGINIA CHW WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL TO CONSIDER EXTENDING CHW CERTIFICATION LEGACY PERIOD THROUGH 2021

On the Council's agenda for its April 28, 2021 meeting will be consideration of extending the legacy period beyond April 1, 2021 through 2021. Extending the legacy period is a recommendation being forwarded to the Council by the Committee on Curriculum, Training, and Certification.

CHWs may submit their legacy applications for certification to the Virginia Certification Board. Information regarding submissions can be found at this VCB [LINK](#).

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## **Lisa Brown and Birth Sisters of Charlottesville Tackle Root Causes of Disparities Impacting Pregnant Women of Color**

A couple of years ago Lisa Brown sought a professional change that would keep her closer to home so she could spend more time with her eight-year-old son. After working for a non-profit that raised funds for research, Lisa decided to pursue her long-held desire to become a doula. Lisa completed doula training and joined Sisters Keepers Doula Collective. In 2020, Lisa assisted the Collective in securing funding and reorganizing as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with the corporate name Birth Sisters of Charlottesville (BSC). BSC is a women of color doula collective that supports women of color through their birth journey into motherhood. BSC serves the City of Charlottesville and surrounding counties with a mission to "dismantle root causes of systemic maternal health disparities for Black, Indigenous, People of Color while denying race as a risk factor." BSC has received funding from the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital, and the Early Childhood Funders Network.

During 2020, BSC served over 20 women along their pregnancy and birth journey. BSC expects to serve an even greater number in 2021. Currently, the organization has eight Birth Sisters and 14 Birth Sisters in-training. Birth Sisters are currently available to support clients virtually and in-person within appropriate COVID safety guidelines. While serving as Deputy Executive Director of BSC, her focus is on Birth Sister Doula culture, training, and overall mission advocacy toward systems change. Recognizing the role of social determinants of health on clients, Lisa enrolled and completed a community health worker course developed through a collaboration between the Blue Ridge Health District and Piedmont Community College. In July, 2020 Lisa became certified as a community health worker.

Lisa recognizes the value of community health workers in addressing health disparities and inequities. Because of this, Lisa has been an active participant in several workgroups formed through the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council.

You can learn more about Birth Sisters of Charlottesville by visiting their Facebook page at this [LINK](#). You can also learn more about BSC and their work on behalf of women of color.

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## **The National Association of CHWs Develops Platform Setting Policy Agenda to Ensure Health Equity**



The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) has produced the NACHW National Policy Platform. The Platform is a document that designed to promote professional identity, leadership, and capacity of CHWs and CHW Associations. The document is the result of over one year's work that involved town hall calls with over 30 CHW Associations, three national CHW polls, partner meetings, and NACHW member input into the Biden administration's national plan known as Build Back Better.

The document can be found at this [LINK](#).

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## **Wisconsin Governor Includes \$14 Million for CHWs in State's Medicaid Budget**

"Although there's a long way to go before Gov. Tony Evers and legislators agree to a budget that becomes reality, public health advocates are applauding the Evers administration for its bold proposals to improve the health of Wisconsinites.

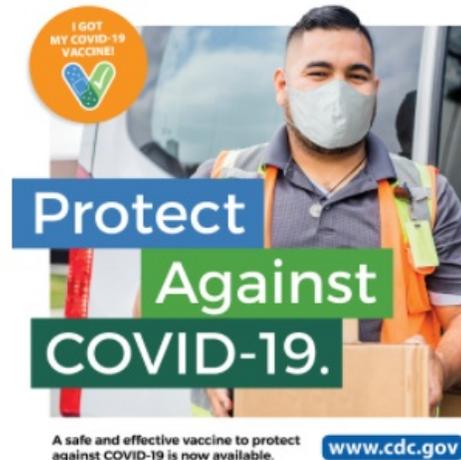
People working in communities that have difficulty accessing quality health care and essential services are rooting for a \$14 million item in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services budget that would provide Medicaid reimbursement for the work of community health workers (CHWs). This relatively inexpensive investment has the potential to close some of the state's deep disparities in the state's health care system, which, according to most indicators, does a poor job of serving low-income Wisconsinites, in both urban and rural settings."

To read more about Wisconsin's budget item for CHWs, go to the Urban Milwaukee article [LINK](#).

## CDC Offers Community-Based Organizations COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit

As communities served by community-based organizations (CBOs) gain "access to vaccines to help protect against COVID-19, the CDC has designed a toolkit to help CBOs." The purpose of the toolkit is to "educate community members about COVID-19 vaccines, raise awareness about the benefits of vaccination, and address common questions and concerns." Resources include posters and flyers, messaging suggestions across media platforms, sample letters and more.

You can access to toolkit page [HERE](#) or click on the image to the right.



## Temple University to Host Virtual CHW Conference, April 29th and 30th, 2021

On April 29 and 30, Temple University will host three hours of workshops each day from 9:00am - 12:30pm . You'll learn and interact with colleagues during the presentations just as you would at an in-person conference. Workshop content will cover a range of topics that will benefit the new CHW or the long-time professional.



For more information please click this [LINK](#) or click on the Temple banner.

More information will be posted as it becomes available so check the link often. You can also email Lindsay Price at [lindsay.price@temple.edu](mailto:lindsay.price@temple.edu) for additional information or to be added to Temple's communications and marketing list.

## CHW Webinar and Online Resources

### Community Health Workers and Reducing Disparities in Diabetes: Lessons Learned from the Front Lines of Care



The Alliance is a program of the University of Michigan. This 54-minute webinar targets

policy-makers and project coordinators as the speakers address the effective use of CHWs to address diabetes among vulnerable population groups.

Link: <https://youtu.be/bVBdOmlawn0>

## Research & Opinion Corner

### **Calculating ROI for Community Health Workers: A Simple Example**

Dasher, a data-driven, customer contact, services operation with the focus on communicating complex messages to diverse populations uses preterm births and data from the March of Dimes to explain one example of how to calculate return-on-investment of CHWs.

[Go to the Dasher Article and Video](#)