



! New CHW Certification Process Now in Effect !
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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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Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council Announces Chair and Vice-Chair





Amanda Sorrells Young is the first Chair of the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council. She serves as the Project Manager for the Community Health Worker (CHW) Initiative of the Dan River Region (City of Danville, VA, Pittsylvania County, VA, and Caswell County, NC). The CHW Initiative is a partnership among eight organizations tasked with increasing the region's ability to help citizens manage chronic disease through individual health planning, community engagement, and workforce development. As Project Manager, Amanda is responsible for the overall direction, coordination, implementation, execution, and completion of the CHW Initiative.

Amanda previously served as the Director of Entrepreneurship and Business Development for a statewide non-profit focused on improving economic development in North Carolina's 80 rural counties. Amanda serves on several boards and committees including The Health Collaborative Coordinating Committee, the advisory board for the Area Health Education Center at Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS) Community Medical Center, and on the Clarksville (VA) Economic Development Authority.

She previously served on several state-level boards in North Carolina. Amanda earned her undergraduate degree in Social Work from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and her Master's degree in Business Administration from Western Carolina University. She is a graduate of the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Institute and the Danville Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Southside program.



Patrice Shelton is the first Vice-Chair of the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council. She is the founder and Executive Director of Hillside Court Partnership, and a Certified Community Health Worker (Senior) for the Virginia Department of Health/Richmond City Health Department.

Patrice serves as Hillside Court Resident/Tenant Council President, where she has lived since 2010. With her knowledge of her community and equity and justice issues, Patrice has launched more than 14 groups and teams in the Hillside community, including partnering with Shalom Farms and Feed More to bring food to the community for free and low cost. As a result of her work, she serves as Vice President for the Richmond Tenant Organization.

In addition to her work in housing, Patrice serves on the Citizens Advisory Board of the Maggie L. Walker Initiative for Expanding Opportunity and Fighting Poverty. The board collaborates with the Initiative to identify the structural roots of entrenched poverty in the City of Richmond and to identify policy strategies with the potential to transform the landscape of opportunity for city residents suffering from poverty and its consequences. She also serves on the board of RVA (Richmond, Virginia) Thrives, the Board of the Central VA Legal Aid Society. She is the Central VA Legal Aid Society Client Council Board President.

Patrice is a 1991 graduate from Louisa County High School in June 1991. Ms. Shelton worked at Walmart from 1992 to 2008. Patrice was also a fellow for Richmond Memorial Health Foundation from March 2018

July 22 Development Council Meeting Clarifies CHW Recertification

Mary Jo Mather, Executive Director of the Virginia Certification Board, clarified several timeline issues important to CHW recertification. A summary of the issues is below:

- 1) Recertification is due on the anniversary date (two years) of the original certification day and every two years after that. Expiration dates, unique to everyone, appear on the CCHW certificate.
- 2) CHWs will receive 90, 60, and 30-day reminders before the recertification date. If your email changes, be sure to let VCB know at info@vacertboard.org.
- 3) Certified CHWs should configure their email software to make sure communications from the VCB do not go into their junk or spam email folder.
- 4) A one-year window exists where a CHW can recertify beginning on the date the CHW was initially recertified. However, the CHW is not a certified CHW until they go through the recertification process.
- 5) If the CHW still has not recertified one year past the original recertification date, they have to go through the process for whatever the current certification requirements are in place

For more information on recertification [click here](#).



Virginia CHW Association Offering Virginia CHWs Chronic Disease "Toolkit"

The Virginia Community Health Worker Association (VACHWA) is pleased to offer a CHW Toolkit to community health workers (CHWs) in Virginia. The kit is designed to help CHWs enrich their conversations about health and wellness and resources for diabetes and chronic disease literacy.

The toolkit is part of VACHWA's Health and Education Program sponsored by a Virginia Department of Health Innovate grant. The toolkit comes in a handy travel bag and will contain a pill dispenser, a pedometer, a magnifying glass, a glucose monitor*, and a blood pressure monitor* (*items on a loaner system). **To receive a toolkit, CHWs should complete our intake form and reserve a kit [here](#).** Toolkits will be distributed starting in mid-September.

For further information about the VACHWA Toolkit Program, please contact Marian Turk, VACHWA Outreach Coordinator, at info@chwofva.com.

**Survey being Developed to Assess CHW Workforce in Virginia:
Participation will be Key in determining the size of CHW Workforce**



IPHI is developing a CHW Assessment Survey. The survey will focus on skills, roles, training, target populations, and CHWs and CHW programs' location. IPHI will be collaborating with CHWs and CHW stakeholders across the commonwealth in developing a final version of the final assessment. The assessment will be distributed in the fall of 2020. The survey will be available for completion online via Survey Monkey.

Once the assessment is finalized, groups will have the opportunity to work with IPHI in editing the survey to add specific or unique information they would like to have about CHWs working in their organizations.

Washington Post Article Highlights how Health Illiteracy is Magnified by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This is an Opportunity to Engage Community Health Workers



"Most care does not happen in an exam room." "Health literacy is not about reading skills or having a college degree. It means you know how to ask a doctor the right questions, read a food label, understand what you're signing on a consent form, and have the numeric ability to analyze relative risks when making treatment decisions." These are just several of the quotes from a [Washington Post article](#) written by Eve Glicksman on how the COVID-19 pandemic has shined a bright light on the problem of health literacy. The Post article does not address the cultural and linguistic skill sets necessary to convey education to each patient's unique needs. While healthcare systems recognize the value of providing information that is understandable to the patient or client, physicians, and other caregivers may not be the most competent persons to deliver information in a manner that is understood by traditionally vulnerable populations.

In April 2019, Erin Seger, Health Professions Coordinator with the Health Sciences Library System at the University of Pittsburgh, spoke at the Unity Community Health Worker (CHW) Conference. Her presentation was titled [Link your Community with Quality Health Information: A Skill Building Workshop](#). In addition to her presentation at the Unity Conference, Ms. Seger had an article titled [Community Health Workers: An Important Partner in Promoting Health Literacy](#) posted in Issue 2, 2019 of the MAREeport, the quarterly newsletter of the NNLM (National Network of Libraries of Medicine) Mid-Atlantic Region. In the article, Ms. Seger, in addition to explaining the role of CHWs, also cited that "CHWs... are clearly important in healthcare, but are similarly valuable for promoting health literacy. CHWs can help members of their community locate and use trusted health information. This comes recommended by the Institute of Medicine in their 2012 paper, [Ten Attributes of Health Literate Health Care Organizations](#). This paper outlined ten actions healthcare organizations can take to enable access to health information and

services. One of these recommendations is to provide easy access to health information and services, as well as navigation assistance (1). A suggestion of how an organization might do this is to “[s]upply navigators (or community health workers [promotores], lay health advisors, peer coaches) to answer questions, problem solve, advocate, lend support, and give guidance and assistance in overcoming barriers to accessing information and services.”

Although the article does not mention Community Health Workers, CHWs have been viewed as essential resources in improving the health literacy of vulnerable populations long before the pandemic. CHWs are critical in reaching vulnerable population groups impacted by health illiteracy as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. The article creates an opportunity to stress the role of CHWs in promoting health literacy.

There's a new look for the Council website at www.chwva.org

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

October 28, 2020 is the next meeting of the Virginia CHW Workforce Development Council. If you have not received a calendar invite, 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.



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

heal SAFELY Opioid Prevention Toolkit - Tools and resources to encourage people to choose safe, effective options to heal safely." [Download the Toolkit from this page.](#)

American Public Health Association - "If you missed the [Racism: The Ultimate Underlying Condition](#) or [A Path to Reproductive Justice: Research, Practice and Policies](#) webinars, you can watch the recordings at the links above. You can check out other APHA racism and health resources, including APHA's popular book, [Racism: Science & Tools for the Public Health Professional.](#)"

Research Corner: Making CHWs Fundamental - Information for State Policy-Makers

Making Community Health Workers (CHWs) Fundamental: New Research Strengthens the Case for State Policymakers to Include CHWs in Care Delivery Teams (Dec. 2019)

"There is considerable evidence that community health workers (CHWs) are an effective and versatile workforce that can improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs for diverse groups and health conditions.^{1, 2} CHWs have a unique capacity to serve as bridges between communities and the health care system, to foster greater trust between patients and providers, and to enhance the health system's ability to provide higher-quality, culturally centered care that results in improved health."

[Read the FamiliesUSA Research Article](#)