

Community Health Worker Collaborative of South Dakota

An introduction to Community Health Workers and the CHWSD

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What is a Community Health Worker?

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What is a CHW? American Public Health Association (APHA)

The CHWSD has adopted the American Public Health Association’s (APHA) definition of a Community Health Worker (CHW):

“A community health worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.”

- APHA 2020¹

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Where do CHWs Work?

Community Health Workers can work in all different areas, from hospitals to insurance companies, and behavioral health to chronic disease management. Some of the more common locations where CHWs work includes:

- Hospitals
- Medical clinics
- Community health centers
- Chronic disease management
- Behavioral health
- Addiction and substance abuse
- Head start programs
- Child abuse prevention programs
- Employee benefits programs
- Insurance companies
- And many, many more areas and specialties

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Community Health Worker Titles Additional/Alternative Titles

- Case Work Aide
- Community Care Coordinator
- Community Health Advisor
- Community Health Educator
- Community Health Promoter
- Community Health Representative
- Community Health Worker
- Community Outreach Worker
- Consejera/Animadora (counselor/organizer)
- Environmental Health Aide
- Family Service Worker
- HIV Peer Counselor
- Lactation Consultant/Specialist
- Lay Health Advisor
- Lead Abatement Education Specialist
- Maternal/Infant Health Outreach Specialist
- Neighborhood Health Advisor
- Outreach Specialist
- Patient Navigator
- Peer Educator
- Promotor (a) de Salud (health promoter)
- Public Health Aide
- And many, many more titles

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Community Health Worker Scope of Work

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CHW Scope of Work South Dakota-specific²

Health system navigation and resource coordination, including helping a patient find providers to receive a service, helping a patient make an appointment for a service, arranging transportation to a medical appointment, attending an appointment with the patient for a medical service, and helping a patient find other relevant community resources such as a support group.

Health promotion and coaching, including providing information or education to patients that makes positive contributions to their health status, such as cessation of tobacco use, reduction in the misuse of alcohol or drugs, improvement in nutrition, improvement of physical fitness, family planning, control of stress, pregnancy and infant care including prevention of fetal alcohol syndrome.

Health education to teach or promote methods and measures that have been proven effective in avoiding illness and/or lessening its effects, such as immunizations, control of high blood pressure, control of sexually transmittable disease, prevention and control of diabetes, control of toxic agents, occupational safety and health, and accident prevention. The content of the education must be consistent with established or recognized healthcare standards.



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Community Health Worker Collaborative of SD Overview

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Mission and Vision Community Health Worker Collaborative of SD

Mission

To promote, support, and sustain the Community Health Worker (CHW) profession in South Dakota.

Vision

A well-established statewide network of CHW professionals who provide a wide range of services for South Dakotans.

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Organizational Origins Timeline of CHW Activities

2015

South Dakota Department of Health (SD DOH) conducted an environmental scan and statewide analysis of the CHW workforce

2016

SD DOH and SD DSS facilitated a workgroup to develop recommendations for CHWs in South Dakota

2019

SD DSS announced CHW services as a covered services of SD Medicaid

2020

SD DOH introduces CHWSD to promote and develop the CHW Workforce in South Dakota

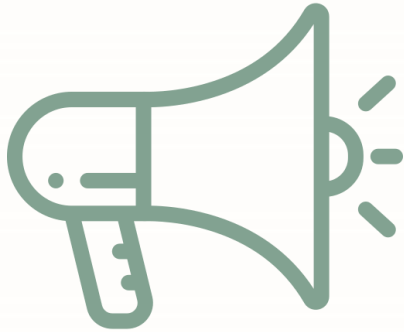


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Areas of Focus Collaborative Work

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Awareness

- Introduce the CHW profession
- Explain and summarize the CHW profession
- Share CHW success stories



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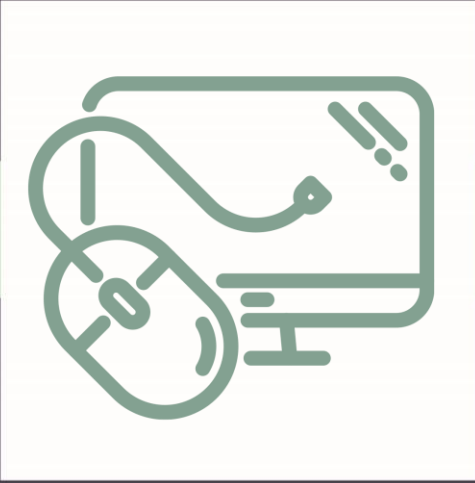


Training

- Promote current CHW training programs
- Assist organizations in developing CHW training programs
- Promote CHW training to non-traditional and traditional students



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Workforce Development

- Promote the CHW position
- Promote the CHW scope of work
- Promote integration of CHWs into medical and social services organizations



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Reimbursement

- Educate organizations regarding CHW reimbursement through SD DSS Medicaid
- Work collaboratively with other payers to cover CHW services



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Career Ladder / Lattice

- Promote career advancements for CHWs
- Promote cross-training of CHWs to other positions/trainings




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Thank You!
Contact Information

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Contact Information

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Sources

1. **American Public Health Association.** 2020. <https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers>
2. **South Dakota Department of Social Services.** 2019. <https://dss.sd.gov/docs/medicaid/providers/billingmanuals/Community%20Health%20Worker%20Services.pdf>



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