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Alliance News

Message from Cathy Weik, Board Chair

Our vision: Equitable and optimal health outcomes for all communities.

We're excited about the outcomes and momentum from our statewide conference, "New Horizons in Community Health" on May 23, 2018 at the TIES Center, attended by 200 of our colleagues from across Minnesota. Our one-day conference brought us together for learning and networking, enabled us to recognize CHW leaders, and partner to envision the next stage of our work. Please see our 2018 conference webpage to access and share presentations by our excellent plenary and breakout session faculty at <http://mnchwalliance.org/conference/>

I have organizational updates to share with you following our announcement

earlier this spring about the retirement of Alliance Executive Director Joan Cleary, MM. We continue to move through a series of transitions as we position ourselves for the next exciting chapter for the Alliance. Moving through a leadership transition brings with it an opportunity for our nonprofit to reflect and assess where we have been and strategically identify where we want to go. There have already been some early learnings and discoveries for us, most notably that it takes a team to manage the Alliance's programmatic initiatives as well as our organizational and structural work.

First, on behalf of the Board, I wish to thank Anne Ganey, MPH who initially stepped into the role of Executive Director. Anne is a vital member of our team and we greatly value all that she brings to carrying out our mission. Anne is moving into the role of subject matter expert and consultant. In addition, Joan remains with the Alliance as a senior advisor and continues to assist with specific projects. As noted in our March announcement, LaTanya Black, CHW Certificate Holder with experience as a CHW, CHW supervisor, and small business owner, will continue to serve as community engagement consultant. Amanda Wasielewski, MPH serves as our education consultant and Julia McCarthy is our newsletter publisher. We are grateful to Anne, Joan, LaTanya, Amanda and Julia for their wealth of expertise and deep knowledge. We also appreciate the on-going leadership of Jean Gunderson, DNP and Angie Stevens, CHES, co-chairs of the CHW Supervisor Roundtable; CHW Certificate Holder LaShawna McKinney, facilitator of our CHW Circle; and Julie Mumm, PhD, co-chair of the Alliance's Education Committee comprised of faculty from the seven post-secondary schools that offer the CHW Certificate Program.

Further, we have hired an interim management firm, Strategic Consulting & Coaching (www.strategic-cc.com), to provide executive leadership and support and strengthen our bandwidth to work on critical programmatic issues. Renae Oswald Anderson is serving as our interim executive director and is supported by Strategic Consulting & Coaching's team of highly experienced professionals.

As we move through this time of transition, we have identified three primary areas of focus for the Alliance:

- Education and training for CHWs and those organizations that employ CHWs
- Advancing the field
- Continuing policy support in the areas of health access and equity, workforce diversity, and the Triple Aim through federal, state, local, and institutional policy change

On behalf of our Board, thank you for all you do in support of the MN Community Health Worker Alliance. Please feel free to contact me if you have