

Minutes
Minnesota Community Health Worker Project
Policy Council
January 12th , 2005

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Diane Dubois, Kaying Hang, Dorii Gbolo, Carol Berg, Karen Brubeck, Nila Gouldin, Coral Garner, Pat Radabaugh, Chris Reisdorf, Kathy Huntley, Jennifer Ditlevson, Andrea (?), Nancy Reed, Teresa Schaffer, Tenessa Greene, Gloria Lewis and Anne Willaert.

II. Curriculum Updates:

Anne gave the council an update on the curriculum. The curriculums for both schools have been approved by MnSCU and will be starting their pilots at the end of January and beginning of March. Anne encouraged partners to have students enroll ASAP. Anne handed out a format which shows to date scholarships and students who will be attending the CHW curriculum. It also showed contacts being made in the communities to promote the students and organization involvement. We are still looking for internship sites so partners were encouraged to let Anne know so she can work with them to connect with the schools to complete contracts. Nila wondered if students who were CHW working in the field could perform their internship at their place of work. It was decided that this would be ok as long as they were following the assignments and criteria that was required from the curriculum. Grants that are pending to receive funding for scholarships are: Medica, MJSP through Life Track Resources, Minneapolis Foundation, Bush and Midwest wireless.

III. Scholarship Updates:

Group looked at three levels of scholarship funding; Now, Long Term and On-going. A selection workgroup was formed to help disperse the available scholarships to students. This workgroup will set up criteria for students who receive scholarship funding. The workgroup will be; Anne Willaert, Anne Ganey, Coral Garner and Carol Berg.

III. Supervision/facility training:

Money was received from Fairview Health Services which will be used to develop training for supervisors of CHWs. Anne W and Jeanne Nelson are working on this development. Anne has contacted Sergio Matos who runs a program in NY to receive info on existing trainings so that we can build our trainings from other curriculums.

The hope is to have this curriculum on-line through the HEIP web site so that supervisors can easily access it.

IV. Sub-Committees:

Three sub-committees were formed to help promote the work of the policy council in a more efficient way and to help address the needs that are developing as this project moves into the second phase of evaluation, placement and employment. The subcommittees are:

- **Reimbursement/Payers Committee**

Members to date: Carol Berg; UCare Minnesota, Kaying Hang Blue Cross Foundation, Karen Brubeck; Fairview, Teresa Schaffer Blue Cross, Nancy Reed; MDH, Chris Reisdorf; DHS

CHW Project: Reimbursement/Payers Committee minutes:

Summary of suggested action steps

1. Identify and develop employment opportunities
 - Create a presentation of the “business case” for CHWs (have help from a consultant to pull this together-Anne will see what grant funding could support this).
 - Use presentation to educate health plans, county based purchasing plans, hospitals, clinics, community based organizations who do not currently employ CHWs regarding their potential role in helping to serve their patients/clients.
 - Identify timeline for who can present to various partner organizations in 2005.
2. Establish sustainable funding mechanisms for CHWs
 - Identify general codes for health education (e.g., S9445) and related services (e.g., DOT (Directly Observed Therapy) provided by CHWs that can be billed through employers who have contracts with third party payers.
 - Nonprofit organizations (community based organizations) could work with health care organizations to develop letters of agreement for services if they can't bill through a contractual arrangement.
 - Draft language and find authors (such as Karen Clark) for a new state statute establishing CHWs as a covered provider type for state public programs (look at DOT services language in current state statute). Proposing a new provider type would need a fiscal note (how it will save money using CHWs). This may be difficult because doulas, who have a certification process, have not succeeded to date in obtaining this statute from the legislature.
 - Continue leveraging grant support to help support CHW positions.
 - Look at what other states are doing for reimbursement models for CHW services.
3. Identify others to participate in this work group
 - Indian Health Services: They have incorporated CHW salaries into their operational budget.

- **Research Committee**

Members to date: Pat Radabaugh; MNA, Nila Gouldin; MDH, Coral Garner; City of Mpls, Jennifer Ditlevson; Portico Health, Andrea (?) MIHV, Mary Jo Borden; MDH, Junie Svenson; MDH,

Research Group Minutes

January 12, 2005

1. Discussed the two evaluations needed
 - a. Survey of existing CHW workers and their employers.
 - b. Course evaluation
2. Survey of Current CHW workers
 - a. Determine effectiveness of the using CHW to improve outcomes for diverse populations
 - b. Reimbursement concerns
 - c. Costs
 - d. Survey would be used to help increase program awareness and benefits of CHW to improving health care among diverse populations
 - e. Need:
 - i. Blue Cross Blue Shield survey
 - ii. List of current employers of CHWs
3. Course Evaluation
 - a. Needs to be based on overall course objectives
 - b. Needs to reflect effectiveness of internship to learning
 - c. Would like to focus the survey on the four defined areas which CHW will work
 - i. Utilization
 - ii. Navigation
 - iii. Advocacy
 - iv. 1:1 education
 - d. Would like to review the evaluation tools used in AZ and FL if we could get a copy do them
 - e. Need a copy of the finalized curriculum

Respectfully submitted
Patricia Radabaugh

- **Conference Committee**

Members to date: Gloria Lewis; MDH; Diane Dubois; MIHV, Dorii Gbolo; MDH and Kathy Huntly; AHEC, Patricia Ohmans (pohmans4238@msn.com)

Potential Date: October 2005

Potential Venues:

- 1) Augsburg (close to Fairview, St. Kate's) – They may be holding a second annual health care conference in the fall; perhaps our

conference could be held the next day (be Day 2 of the same conference). Gloria will check this out more with Bruce Rubin.

2) MCTC (possibility but concern about parking)

Key Points Discussed:

- Florida has been a key state both in terms of EHDI and use of CHW's – perhaps we could bring in a few national speakers (from FL and/or another state)

Topics to be included at the conference:

- Lessons learned from international CHW model (MIHV very interested in this)
- Lessons learned from other domestic CHW programs
- How do you educate employers about CHWs (to get at system change)
- Highlight the “Minnesota model” - would be great to include key EHDI grantees who use CHW's in their projects
- CHW Peer Network (will be started in early 2005 by MIHV)

Foundations, Employers, and key people that could be approached:

Foundations:

- St. Paul Foundation
- PACE Foundation – Closing the Gap
- Target
- Medica Foundation

Employers:

- Jenny O's (perhaps for corporate sponsorship) – they employ “cultural brokers”
- Menards
- Best Buy
- Hotel in Mpls. that employs a lot of Somalis (Sheraton perhaps?)

Univ. of MN:

- Academic Health Center – Gloria could speak with Frank Cerra

Individuals:

- Patty Bowler – City of Minneapolis
- Rep. Karen Clark (is a strong advocate for interpreters)
- Jill Briggs – at MDH

Notes submitted by Diana DuBois, MIHV and reviewed by sub-committee members

V. Meeting dates and locations:

Meetings will be rotated between Blue Cross Blue Shield building in Eagan and at Snelling Office Park, 1645 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm, on the first Wednesday of every month.

- February 2nd
- March 2nd
- April 6th
- May 4th
- June 1st
- July 6th
- August 3rd
- September 7th
- October 5th
- November 2nd
- December 7th

Anne will send out an agenda before each meeting to remind individuals. If you know of others who would be interested in joining the policy council please notify Anne or Carol. Anne will also send out information on location of next meeting to be held at BCBS.