***Working Definition of Community Health Workers***

***PA CHW Policy Task Force***

***March 25, 2016***

A “community health worker” is a trusted individual who contributes to improved health outcomes in the community. Community health workers may serve the communities in which they reside or communities with whom they may share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status, or life experiences. A community health worker proactively:

A. serves as a liaison between communities and health care agencies;

B. provides guidance and social assistance to community residents;

C. enhances community residents’ ability to effectively communicate with health care providers;

D. provides culturally and linguistically appropriate health education;

E. advocates for individual and community health;

F. provides referral and follow-up services or otherwise coordinating care; and

G. identifies and helps enroll eligible individuals in federal, state, and local private or nonprofit health and human services programs.