

## **NACHW, Partners in Health, and National CHW and Promotora Organizations Gather for Historic Congressional and Capitol Hill Visits in Washington, D.C.**

Advancing Our Workforce Identity, Leadership, and Impact on Communities

By Denise Octavia Smith, *CHW, PN, MBA*, Angie Kuzma, *CHW, MPH* and Katherine Martinez, *BS*

March 17, 2023| In response to unprecedented interest and momentum to integrate the Community Health Worker (CHW) profession into state and federal policies and initiatives, The National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) and Partners in Health United States collaborated to coordinate the first ever Community Health Worker and Promotora federal briefing on March 8, 2023.

Over twenty CHWs, Promotoras, and Allies from eleven different organizations from across the country partnered to make this Hill Briefing successful. Partners initiated their own Hill Visits with their congresspersons and senators immediately following the Briefing.



*NACHW, Partners in Health and National Partners meet for Hill Briefing and Hill Visits. (See a list below of all partner names, locations, and websites partners).*

NACHW participated in this event through generous funding from Johnson and Johnson as part of our Advance CHWs Project which provides [national data](#), leadership development, and opportunities for action to sustain CHWs and their organizations. Learn more about the [Advance CHWs Initiative Project](#).

This historic briefing educated hill staffers on the long history of Community Health Worker and Promotora leadership, community trust, and impact on the health of diverse communities and populations in the U.S.

Three panelists and a moderator discussed foundational components of CHW and Promotora identity and sustainability, including key American Public Health Association (APHA) policies that promote CHW leadership in all workforce development activities and the CHW Core Consensus Project, nationally recognized as creating guidelines to define core CHW competencies and roles.



***Briefing Panelists from the left: Katie Bollbach, Executive Director, PIH US and Briefing moderator; Brea Burke, Community Health Worker, Project CHAMPP; Lisa Renee Holderby-Fox, Co-Founder, NACHW and Director of CHW Leadership Development at the Center for Community Health Alignment; and Maria Lemus, Executive Director, Visión y Compromiso.***

Lisa Renee Holderby Fox, Hill Briefing Panelist and Founding Board Member of NACHW also shared the NACHW National CHW Policy Platform, a first of its kind resource with recommendations for public and private institutions to respect, protect and authentically partner with CHW, Promotoras and Community Health Representatives from tribal nations.

More than sixty congressional staffers RSVP'd for the Briefing and were observed taking detailed notes as speakers offered perspectives on how policymakers can support CHW and Promotoras' critical work to address health disparities. Attendees received a [one-pager](#) endorsed by all of the partner organizations and took additional printed materials back to

their offices, including the [NACHW National Policy Platform](#) and [recent recommendations, infographics](#) from the 2021 National CHW Survey, and a [CHW evidence summary](#). Additional materials from partner organizations can be found [here](#).



*Honorable Representative Sylvia Garcia (D), 2nd District, Texas shares opening remarks during the CHW and Promotora Hill Briefing for congressional staffers.*

To deepen our awareness-raising efforts immediately following the briefing, over forty individuals from partner organizations participated in approximately twenty meetings with Representatives, Senators, and staff from eight different states and various affiliations.

NACHW and our partners look forward to continuing conversations with these and additional lawmakers as part of our concerted efforts to unite CHWs and Promotoras nationally to support communities in achieving health, equity, and social justice.



*Julie Smithwick, Executive Director, South Carolina CHW Association; founding board member of NACHW; and co-founder of Southeast CHW Network and Andrea Heyward, Director, Community Health Worker Institute meet with Senator Tim Scott (R), South Carolina*

## **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS OF THE CHW AND PROMOTORA HILL BRIEFING**

- [American Public Health Association](#) (NC)
- [Arizona Community Health Worker Association](#) (AZ)
- [Blueprints](#) (PA)
- [Center for Community Health Alignment](#) (SC)
- [Center for Inclusion Health Allegheny Health Network](#) (PA, GA)
- [Common Indicators Project](#) (OR, NH)
- [Community Healing through Activism and Strategic Mobilization](#) (NC)
- [Dia de la Mujer Latina](#) (TX)
- [Envision Equity](#) (WI)
- [Georgia CHW Network](#) (GA)
- [John Snow, Inc.](#) (GA)

- [Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network](#) (LA)
- [Louisiana School of Public Health](#) (LA)
- [National Association of Community Health Workers](#) (National)
- [Partners in Health US](#) (NY, MI, AZ)
- [Venn Strategies](#) (D.C.)
- [Vision y Compromiso](#) (CA)