



Community Health Workers

SPIG



Community Health Workers

*Of all the forms of
inequality, injustice
in health care is the
most shocking and
inhumane*

*~ Martin Luther
King, Jr.*

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables CHWs 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. CHWs also build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

- American Public Health Association CHW SPIG, 2008
- Submitted to U.S. Department of Labor, 2008

Community Health Workers are dedicated individuals who function along a continuum ranging from individual and community development to service delivery, promoting community empowerment and social justice.



Local, regional and statewide professional associations of CHWs are developing in many states as practitioners of the field organize to address relevant issues. Some of these organizations have established web-based resources while others are still building their organizational capacity. A comprehensive and updated listing of these CHW organizations can be found at <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/primary/aphaspigwebsites/chw/Resources/>

In January 2009, the Executive Office of the President of the United States published the 2010 Standard Occupational Classifications (SOC) in the Federal Register. The 2010 SOC now includes a unique occupational classification for Community Health Worker (SOC 21-1094).



Welcome Community Health Workers to the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting!

What to expect:

- Over 13,000 diverse public health professionals, including over 250 community health workers (CHWs), attend the APHA Annual Meeting each year.
- People are organized by smaller groups called Sections, Special Primary Interest Groups (SPIGs), Forums, and Caucuses.
 - ◇ **Section:** Of the four types of groups, Sections are the largest, have the most organizational benefits, including permanent status, a budget, and guaranteed voting seats on APHA's Governing Council, which decides on APHA policies. There are 25 Sections, including sections on food and nutrition, maternal and child health, disability, oral health, and more.
 - ◇ **SPIG:** Special Primary Interest Groups (SPIGs) have a temporary status and have 3 years to become a Section. SPIGs do not have a budget and they are not guaranteed any seats on Governing Council. Currently, CHWs have a SPIG and are in the process of becoming a Section this year.
 - ◇ **Forum:** Forums are composed of APHA members who are working together on a specific issue that is important to public health and crosses disciplinary and section or SPIG boundaries. Forums are temporary and do not have a budget or seats on Governing Council.
 - ◇ **Caucus:** Only 15% of Caucus members need to be APHA members. They gather because of either shared characteristics that cannot be changed (i.e., ethnicity/race, gender, sexual orientation) or to work together on special interests, worksite issues, or social justice issues.
- APHA members can join one Section or SPIG for free as part of their membership dues. Joining additional Sections or SPIGs will cost \$30.00 each. Forums and Caucuses are free to join.
- These group structures make navigating the conference easier. For example, if you are interested in talking to other CHWs, you look up all the workshops and events sponsored by the CHW SPIG.

Not everything that can be counted counts. And not everything that counts can be counted.
~ Albert Einstein



The foundations of health are common to all and include basic requirements such as adequate food, safe water, shelter, safety and hope. These foundations have a more profound long-term effect on health status than the activities of the health system.
~ Robert Beaglehole



CHW SPIG Committee Meetings

Differences in aggregate health status become inequitable when they are systemic and unjust, a result related to a lack of political power.

~ Richard Hofrichter



Material conditions such as poverty, inadequate housing, and excessive air pollution, generated by law, public policy, corporate decision making, and sometimes violence, produce and perpetuate health inequities

~ Mel Bartley and David Blane



Each of the following committees are open to all members:

Education y Capacitación (E y C) Committee meeting

Sunday, November 8, 2009: 6:00 PM

- ◇ **Mission:** The committee provides guidance and support to the development of education and training standards for Community Health Workers throughout the United States.

Policy Committee meeting

Monday, November 9, 2009: 7:00 AM

- ◇ **Mission:** The committee's mission is to engage and organize members who will work to respond to, analyze and help shape public policy at the national, state and local level related to the Community Health Worker profession. (APHA priorities: access to care, reducing health disparities and or supporting public health infrastructure).

General Business Meeting

Tuesday, November 10, 2009: 6:30 PM

- ◇ **Mission:** The General Business Meeting is where missions and visions develop. New work groups, committees, agenda and elections take place to guide the CHWs future involvement with APHA.

Program Planning Meeting

Wednesday, November 11, 2009: 6:30 AM

- ◇ **Mission:** The meeting's mission is to set the coming year's program, specifically the format and content of the sessions. The call-for-abstracts will be designed and the abstract evaluation criteria determined.

**You are cordially invited to
network and celebrate at...**

CHW SPIG Social Hour (334.0)

Monday, November 9, 6:30pm

At-a-glance CHW Sponsored Events and Sessions

Sunday, November 8, 2009

- 3:30-5:00pm: "Annual Meeting and Membership Orientation" (This APHA workshop is designed to help new members navigate the conference. Find the location by looking in "Tab 3" of the large APHA program. This workshop will be listed under business meetings.)
- 4:30-5:30pm: Model CHW Projects (Poster Board Session, 2056.0)
- 6:00-7:30pm: CHW SPIG E y C Committee meeting (287.2)
- 8:00pm: Meet at the CHW SPIG E y C meeting room to join other CHWs for dinner out on the town, all are welcome.

Monday, November 9, 2009

- 7:00-8:00am: CHW SPIG Policy Committee meeting (311.0)
- 8:30-10 am: CHWs and Innovative Programs: Design, Documentation and Evaluation Strategies (3025.0)
- 10:30-11:30: The Impact of CHWs on Health, Communities and Systems (3083.0)
- 12:30-2:00pm: CHWs Responding to Environmental Safety and Natural Disasters (3214.0)
- 6:30-8:00pm: Getting to Know Your CHW: CHW SPIG Social Hour (334.0)

Tuesday, November 10, 2009

- 8:30-10:00am: New and Emerging Roles for CHWs (4018.0)
- 12:30-2:00pm: Learn about CHW Educational Curriculum, What's Out There (4188.0)
- 2:30-4:00pm: The Integral Role of CHWs as a Member of Interdisciplinary Health Care Teams (4273.0)
- 6:30-8:00pm: CHW SPIG General Business Meeting (429.0)
- 8:00pm: Meet at the CHW SPIG General Business meeting room to join other CHWs for dinner out on the town, all are welcome.

Wednesday, November 11, 2009

- 6:30am: CHW SPIG Program Planning Meeting (500.0)
- 8:30-10:00am: CHWs Improving Health Care Delivery (5037.0)
- 10:30-12:00pm: Increasing Leadership and Capacity for CHWs (5098.0)

For additional CHW related sessions visit:

* <http://apha.confex.com/apha/137am/webprogram/CHW.html>

Even as you desire good treatment, so render it.
~ Handsome Lake
Seneca Nation

I have seen that in any great undertaking it is not enough for a man to depend simply upon himself.
~ Lone Man
Teton Sioux



Annual Meeting Tips

- Check in at the registration booth to pick up your ID and bag of information
- Make sure you're enrolled as a CHW SPIG member to help us get to Section status by checking your affiliation at the registration booth near the Expo Center
- Be aware that each person receives a thick annual meeting book that provides information about all the sessions available
- To learn how to use the book, attend the navigation workshop on Sunday at 3:30pm (see schedule of events)
- Visit the CHW SPIG table in the Expo Center for information on CHW SPIG sessions and additional resources
- APHA Annual Meeting can be overwhelming, remember to take care of yourself (drink plenty of water, remember to eat, bring a sweater)
- Create a draft schedule each night for the next day of the Annual Meeting
- Feel free to ask your fellow CHW SPIG members questions
- There isn't a specific dress code for APHA's Annual Meeting. Workshop presenters dress in business casual clothing while people attending the sessions dress more casually

Helpful Links:

- Visit CHW SPIG events calendar: <http://apha.confex.com/apha/137am/webprogram/CHW.html>
- Visit CHW SPIG website: <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/primary/aphaspigwebsites/chw/>
- CHW SPIG newsletters: http://www.apha.org/membergroups/newsletters/spignewsletters/comm_work/
- List of CHW networks across the country: <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/primary/aphaspigwebsites/chw/Resources/>
- Info. on other Sections: <http://www.apha.org/membergroups/sections/aphasections/>
- Learn more about housing, presenting or registering, visit: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/faq/>
- Understand the benefits of joining APHA, visit: http://www.aphaportal.org/misc/topten_join.pdf

Welcome packet created by:

Education y Capacitación Committee, 2009



We often associate violence and injustice with actions that are deliberately carried out by individuals. But injustices are also produced and sustained through institutions, social structures and systems of power.

~ Paul Farmer

