

CHW Advisory Committee *“About the Committee”*

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Juan Carmona

Patient Navigator, Project Access New Haven

Juan helps the uninsured and underinsured individuals in New Haven County to navigate an often complex and difficult system, specifically by connecting volunteer community doctors with patients. He is serving on the Committee to make a difference in the way CHWs are looked at in Connecticut.

Loretta Ebron

Senior CHW, Optimus Health Care

Loretta oversees a staff of seven Certified Application Counselors/outreach workers and an AmeriCorps member, enrolls and educates through AHCT, and works in seven local schools as a School Based Health Center worker. She is serving on the Committee to share her views and concerns in order to enhance the CHW workforce and build its capabilities throughout the state.

Liza Estevez

Patient Navigator, Northeast Medical Group

Liza is the only Patient Navigator in her organization, bringing with her many years of experience as an oncology consult coordinator in the Bronx. She is serving on the Committee to ensure that the underserved and language challenged communities have an opportunity to understand an evolving healthcare system.

Milagrosa Seguinot

President, CHW Association of CT

In addition to serving as the President of the CHW Association of CT, Milagrosa is the Community Health Worker Project Coordinator and the CHW Core Competency Training Instructor at Southwestern AHEC. She is serving on the Committee because it is important to her to ensure that the CHW workforce is well represented in the SIM initiative and that the role and skills required of CHWs is well understood.

Mayce Torres

Bilingual Outreach and Enrollment Specialist, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Mayce is responsible for educating and enrolling eligible consumers, both in PPSNE health centers and in the community, either through Medicaid or an AHCT insurance plan. She is serving on the Committee because she believes CHWs are important to building trust in health care within their communities, leading to improve quality of care through education, support, and advocacy.

ADVOCATES

Ashika Brinkley

Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Directors of Health

Ashika leads the work of CADH, a nonprofit comprised of Connecticut's local health directors, by convening engaging, mobilizing, and supporting local health departments and fortifying their leadership role in establishing healthier communities. She is serving on the Committee because in addition to CHWs being key CADH stakeholders, she offers unique insight into work stress experienced by CHWs through her research.

Grace Damio

Director of Research and Training, Hispanic Health Council

Grace leads research and training for the Hispanic Health Council, including CHW research and statewide initiative training health and human services students, providers, and faculty in the foundation of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for effective interaction with diverse individuals. She is serving on the Committee to offer her many years and unique blend of experience with CHWs to the design of CHW work in Connecticut.

Tiffany Donelson, MPH

Vice President of Program, Connecticut Health Foundation

As a member of the Connecticut Health Foundation team, Tiffany focuses on obtaining health equity for people of color in Connecticut, including advocating for sustainable funding and certification for CHWs. She is serving on the Committee because she sees a critical need for CHWs to help be a link between the needs of people in the community to the healthcare system.

Jacqueline Ortiz Miller

Outreach Education Coordinator, Curtis D Miller Center for Health Equity, St. Francis

In her role, Jacqueline works with marginalized populations that are from underserved communities to provide access to healthcare services, enrolling them in insurance, and assisting them with obtaining services to meet their basic needs of health housing, transportation, language services, food, and shelter. She is serving on the Committee because the value and integrity of the CHW workforce in the community is important to her, and she would like to serve as an advocate and educator for her fellow CHWs.

GENERAL

Migdalia Belliveau

Program Manager, Nurturing Families Network, Generations Family Health Center

Migdalia is responsible for the supervision of an intensive home visitation program that provides health education and risk reduction interventions, as well as the implementation of a national Fatherhood Initiative program. She is serving on the Committee because of her experience as a Certified Health Education Specialist and a strong feeling that credentialing would be of value in the CHW profession.

Yolanda Bowes

Community Outreach Supervisor, United Community and Family Services

Yolanda leads the Community Outreach department at a federally-qualified health center which provides services including insurance application assistance, SNAP assistance, Healthy Start case management, and care coordination for children with special health care needs. She is serving on the Committee because she feels that CHWs provide a valuable service by helping to reduce barriers to health and well-being and would love to see this important role supported financially so that more people could benefit from these services.

Thomas Buckley, MPH, RPh

Associate Clinical Professor of Pharmacy Practice, UConn School of Pharmacy

Thomas coordinates the public health and health policy curriculum at the School of Pharmacy, in addition to a clinical rotation in which he precepts PharmD students at Khmer Health Advocates. He is serving on the Committee because he has found that the provision of effective health services is not possible without the critical role of the CHW, and it is important that the CHW is recognized and reimbursed for this work.

Darcey Cobbs-Lomax

Executive Director, Project Access New Haven

Darcey leads the work of Project Access New Haven which provides navigation to underserved patients, with the mission of increasing access to medical care and services for those patients in Greater New Haven. She is serving on the Committee because she knows firsthand the importance of the work of navigators and CHWs and believes that furthering certification efforts and determining a sustainable means of reimbursement will make a difference for individuals and employers in our communities.

Linda Guzzo

Dean of Continuing Education, Capital Community College

Linda leads the strategic development and planning of credit and non-credit programs that train individuals for high demand jobs, provide professional development skills, and are customized for employers in the development of their workforce, as well as serves as a liaison between business, government, and non-profits. She is serving on the Committee to share her experience at Capital in providing training for CHWs, developing partnerships with employers, and developing the original curriculum for the CHW training program.

Nicholas Peralta

Practice Manager, ProHealth Physicians

Nicholas is the Practice Manager for ProHealth Physicians and previously worked as a Physician's Assistant prior to his retirement. He is serving on the Committee in order to improve patient care.

Lauren Rosato

Director, Strategic Healthcare Initiatives, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

Lauren's role is to identify emerging healthcare trends, locate opportunities, update and advise senior management of these opportunities, and then coordinate PPSNE's internal resources to implement them. She is serving on the Committee because for many patients, PPSNE is the "point of entry" into the healthcare system, and their unique role in communities as a family planning/reproductive health provider supports the CHW goal that "patients receive greater accessibility to healthcare."

PROVIDERS

Michael Corjulo

Pediatric Care, Children's Medical Group

Michael has been the site director for the CMS Innovation Grant funded community asthma program (CAiR) for the past three years, as well as a Primary Care Provider at Children's Medical Group, the administrating organization for this program. He is serving on the Committee because of his very productive experience creating and managing a CHW role in the asthma home visit program which he is working to expand into a sustainable system for all of Connecticut, utilizing the team approach and highlighting the CHW role.

Peter Ellis

Internist, Board Vice President, Project Access New Haven

Peter is a co-founder of Project Access New Haven, which provides urgent medical care to the uninsured and underinsured by relying on physician-donated care and patient navigators and CHWs. He is serving on the Committee in order to explore and advance policies in Connecticut to standardize training, certification and utilization of well-trained CHWs who can improve health outcomes and well-being, similar to that of other states.

Terry Nowakowski

Director of Behavioral Healthcare Services, The Connection, Inc.

Terry oversees eight outpatient behavioral health clinics, all residential programs, permanent and supportive housing, and outreach and engagement activities for The Connection, Inc. She is serving on the Committee to improve the behavioral health care system in the state of Connecticut and to increase capacity for those who are most vulnerable and use behavioral health services the most.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

Chioma Ogazi

Nurse Consultant, Comprehensive Cancer Center, CT Department of Public Health

Chioma coordinates clinical components, develops protocols and policies, and oversees assessment and implementation of professional education needs related to cancer care. She is serving on the Committee as a representative of DPH to redefine the CHW structure in Connecticut.

Robert Zavoski

Pediatrician, Medical Director, CT Department of Social Services

Robert is the first full-time physician leader of the state of Connecticut's designated Medicaid agency and is responsible for maintaining the quality of care and access to services for over 600,000 Connecticut citizens. He is serving on the Committee to provide the perspective of DSS at better integration of CHWs in the health care setting.