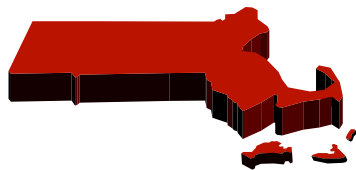


The
Community
Health Worker
Initiative
of Boston

BUILDING BETTER JOBS AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES



MACHW Continues to Soar!

By Lisa Renee Holderby, Executive Director



*MACHW Staff (from left):
Cindy Marti, Lisa Renee
Holderby, Derek Roos*

The Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW) will celebrate its 10th anniversary in March 2010. The organization was born in 2000 during the Department of Public Health's Ounce of Prevention. CHWs met during the conference and expressed the need for an organization that offered support, networking and training opportunities. Although MDPH offered staff support and seed money, the effort to develop an organiza-

tion was CHW led and driven, in many cases by CHWs volunteering time and effort. Today MACHW is a leader in the national community health worker movement. The organization's strength is our board of directors and members, including our affiliate organizations the COWNT coalition in Springfield and the H.O.P.E. coalition in Hyannis.

MACHW provides CHWs in Massachusetts a voice on issues affecting the workforce. MACHW and our members have been vocal on such issues as sustainable funding for CHWs and CHW programs, professional identity, integration of CHWs into health care and human service delivery teams and training, education and certification of the workforce. Members have

advocated funding for outreach and enrollment grants and other line items directly funding CHWs. The organization along with several partners and supporters are seeking creative methods to sustain the CHW workforce. MACHW ensures the interest of CHWs is represented in these conversations.

Community health workers in Massachusetts have almost 50 different job titles according to the 2005 MDPH report, "Community Health Workers: Essential to Improving Health in Massachusetts". This highlighted a challenge for the workforce, professional identity. MACHW works to promote professional identity among CHWs. (continued on p.2)

CHWs in Action: Augusto Angulo, Clinical Case Manager

Q: How and when did you become a CHW?

I became a CHW on January 2007. After attending a job fair I met someone who worked at Whittier Street Health Center and gave her my resume.

Q: What health topic do you focus on and why is it important to you?

Cardio vascular disease and prostate cancer are two major focuses, because the Latino and African community are at risk of getting these diseases and dying from them. 1 out of 4 men will develop prostate cancer by the age of 40. It is

important to start screening at 40 to spot the early signs of prostate cancer. In order to prevent the disease it is important to maintaining a healthy weight, exercising, and eating healthy. Those 3 things will maintain a healthy prostate.

Q: What is your favorite part of the job?

When I do the education part, on prostate cancer, diabetes, cardio vascular disease, smoking, and maintaining a healthy blood pressure. We deal with a lot of guys coming out of the prison, sometimes they have lost hope. They have also lost support from their families

and have CORI issues. We have educated the staff in the clinic about our patients and they are welcomed here. We see guys come out of the prison after being locked up for 10, 20 years. They don't make eye contact, they are embarrassed because they have been inside receiving orders. I tell them don't worry, this will take time. I tell them it will be a transition and to be patient because it might take a day, a week, or months to become accustomed to the outside. I help the men navigate through their issues. I talk to these guys about how to be (continued on p.2)

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The organization organized CHWs, employers and supporters to support a CHW occupational classification for CHWs at the U.S. Department of Labor. Along with assistance from the CHW Initiative of Boston's partner organizations and others across the state many letters in support of the classification came from Massachusetts. CHWs will be included in the standard occupational classification revisions in 2010. In addition to this huge success, MACHW continues to educate CHWs, employers, funders and policy makers about the desire to embrace the CHW term, which was adopted by CHWs in the late 1990's as an umbrella term for the many job titles.

Several states have moved forward with certification for CHWs many without CHW input. Last year MACHW hosted regional discussions to offer CHWs around the commonwealth the opportunity to share their thoughts on certification of CHWs in MA. These conversations directly influenced the training, education and certification recommendations forthcoming in the MDPH CHW Advisory Council Report to the legislature, mandated in Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006 (health care reform law). The input from CHWs also provided information included in MACHW policy briefs on training, education and certification. In January, MACHW filed, "An Act to Certify Community Health Workers in Massachusetts" based on earlier discussions with CHWs.

No one knows what the future brings [for MACHW] but as McFadden and Whitehead stated so well in their R&B hit, "Ain't no stopping us now."

MACHW's accomplishments have also come with challenges. The staff currently consists of 2 full-time employees and an intern. The commitment to be visible and engage CHWs statewide is a challenge with such a small staff. MACHW relies on members, Board of Directors and affiliate organizations to assist with work in the various regions of the commonwealth. MACHW strives to ensure the CHW workforce has opportunities for peer support and training opportunities. The organization connects CHWs many low cost trainings opportunities and encourages paid release time for CHWs to attend. This can be challenging as many CHW employers are attempting to stretch budgets and staff time to cover program needs. Finally, like many organizations sustainable funding is a challenge. The organization charges no membership fee for CHWs to ensure all can join MACHW. The Association currently receives most funding from foundations and contract work. Although there is no membership fee, anyone who wishes may become a MACHW contributing member.

MACHW's future is promising. As the field and professional identity for CHWs grows the need for a professional organization does as well. No one knows what the future brings but as McFadden and Whitehead stated so well in their R&B hit, "Ain't no stopping us now."

For additional information on MACHW or to become a contributing member please visit www.machw.org.

A victory for the CHW Profession!

Below is a notice received from the Federal Office of Management and Budgets.

On January 21, 2009 the Federal Register published the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) notice concerning the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) revision <http://www.bls.gov/soc/soc2010final.pdf>. A pdf version is attached for your convenience.

In this notice OMB presents its final decisions for revising the 2000 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) for 2010. The 2010 SOC structure is available on our website www.bls.gov/soc. The Standard Occupational Classification Policy Committee (SOCPC) and OMB received and reviewed over 1,200 public comments in response to the information presented in the May 22, 2008 Federal Register notice. OMB and the SOCPC reviewed and carefully considered all of the comments received in the process of making its final decisions. Questions regarding this Federal Register notice can be e-mailed to Paul Bugg at pbugg@omb.eop.gov.

This is a significant victory and a direct result of the advocacy efforts of MACHW, MPHA, and numerous agencies across the state and country!

CHWs in Action: Augusto Angulo!

Continued from Page 1



Augusto Angulo is the Clinical Case Manager for Men's Health at Whittier Street Health Center.

a better person, their physical, mental, and spiritual health. I listen to them. The most rewarding thing is when someone returns, shakes my hand and tells me how they are looking for work, lost weight, and improved their blood pressure.

Q: What is your biggest challenge as a CHW?

I would like to do more work with the patients but I am limited because I need to get a degree. I want to do more

for my community in order to help the underserved.

Q: What would you like people to know about the work you do?

I want people to know that I care for others as I want others to care for me. I apply that philosophy to how I approach people, no matter what their background, race, believe system, we must treat everyone like a human being. I want to make a positive change in the men's way of life.



Hot Jobs in Community Health !

Outreach Worker / Community Health Worker – Part time

https://careers.partners.org/psc/EA/EMPL OYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_CE.G BL?HRS_JOB_OPENING_ID=2180512& SiteId=2&Page=HRS_CE_JOB_DTL&Act ion=A

Youth Workers - Juvenile Justice

<http://jobview.monster.com/GetJob.aspx?JobID=76811577&from=indeed>

Outreach Worker – Spanish speaking

<http://www.simplyhired.com/job-id/siquijick/outreach-worker-jobs/>

Community Outreach Worker (Haitian Community) – Growth & Development

<https://bmc.taleo.net/careersection/2/jobdetail.ftl?lang=en&job=0900507>

Health Screening Technician and Health Educators

<http://www.phfr.com/jobFinder/Candidate/details.aspx?jobId=3772>

Development & Operations Assistant (Roxbury)

<http://boston.craigslist.org/gbs/np/1051363972.html>

Counselor/Intake Coordinator

<http://www.idealists.org/en/job/337467-174>

Youth Workers and Youth worker 1's - Metro Boston Youth Services: Eliot Community Human Services

http://hotjobs.yahoo.com/job-JICB94M-QGOP;_ylc=X3oDMTEwcjUwdTd1BF9TAzM5NjUxMDMzNQRjYXODTk9OBHBjb2RIAzUwNTg0?source=partner&scode=50584

Over 80 CHWs, advocates, and legislators come out in support of Community Health Worker Day at the State House.



Representative Gloria Fox joined by several CHWs and advocates!

Thursday, March 5, 2009 marked the Commonwealth’s 3rd Annual Community Health Worker Day held at the State House in Boston. The event, organized by the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers, Massachusetts Public Health Association, and an entire host of education, training, out-

reach, healthcare, and workforce development partners was held in Nurse’s Hall.

Speakers like Durrell Fox, a founding member of MACHW, stirred the audience when he shouted “Reach Communities” and the audience responded “Support CHWs!” Other speakers included Lisa Renee Holderby of MACHW; Jennifer

Chow of Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation; Dr. Heidi Behforouz of PACT; Violet Matos of COWNT; and Rep. Gloria Fox—a strong advocate for CHWs and supporter of Bill H247— which would establish a Board of Certification for Community Health Workers. For more info call MACHW @ 617 524-6696.

CHW Initiative of Boston welcomes its new Program Director— Kenya Elisa-McLaren, MPH!

Last December, ABCD hired a new Program Director for the Community Health Worker Initiative of Boston.

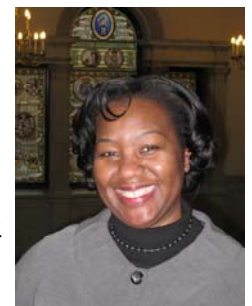
Kenya Elisa-McLaren began with the Initiative on December 15, 2008 and brings over 13 years experience in Public Health, Human Services, and Workforce Development.

Most recently Kenya served as the first Assistant Director for the City of Somerville Public Health Department where she worked on various projects including implementing the first city-wide Emergency Preparedness Drill and developing the department’s strategic plan.

Previous experience includes working for the City of Boston over 7 years managing several grants includ-

ing REACH 2010 and the Senior Community Service and Employment Program (SCSEP) at the Boston Public Health Commission and the Commission on Affairs of the Elderly.

“I am excited to join such an important partnership and look forward to serving the needs of CHWs, employers, and the community” Kenya states.



The Community Health Worker Initiative of Boston

BUILDING BETTER JOBS AND HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

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*Kenya Elisa-McLaren,
Program Director*

Keyse Angelo, Academic Coach

Arlene Riendeau, Career Coach

Mark Isenburg, ABCD Vice President, Workforce Development

Robert M. Coard, ABCD President/CEO

The CHW Initiative of Boston is a project of
Action for Boston Community Development,
funded through the generous support of
SkillWorks.

SkillWorks
PARTNERS FOR A PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

Our Mission

To enable community health workers access to education and skills training leading to sustainable jobs, living wages and career pathways, while promoting policies that ensure appropriate employer funding to achieve these goals.

The Community Health Worker Initiative of Boston began in 2006 as a resource for CHWs who live or work in Boston.. We continue to assist individuals in the field with by providing both Academic and Career Coaching . We partner with many employers of CHWs to look at ways to improve the skills of their workforce by providing education and training opportunities which creates a better trained workforce and results in higher retention. If you would like to learn more about our free coaching services and join our initiative, please contact us at 617 348-6590.

Upcoming Events for ...

General Public

Community Health Education Center (CHEC) will offer its Advanced Comprehensive Outreach Education Certificate (COEC) Program. Classes begin June 1, 2009. For more information or to pre-register call 617 534-5181.

You may visit CHEC's website:

<http://www.bphc.org/programs/initiative.asp?i=216&p=201&b=7&d=>

Paving the Way to Health Care Access

**A Day of Learning for Interpreters and the
Health Care Team: Access to Care & Quality
Delivery of Care**

June 24, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center

222 Maple Avenue

Shrewsbury, MA 01545

For info contact: Janet Culpepper

508 856-4311

janet.culpepper@umassmed.edu



CHW Initiative Partner Organizations

SkillWorks Capacity Building Workshop: Assessment Tools Training

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2009

9:00 am—1:30 pm

SkillWorks Capacity Building Workshop: Helping Adult Literacy Learners in Tough Economic Times

Date: Tuesday, June 16, 2009

9:00 am—3:00 pm

For more information or to RSVP, contact Rebecca Harris:

rharris@cedac.org

SkillWorks
PARTNERS FOR A PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW)

Boston Regional Meeting for Community Health Workers

Thursday, June 11, 2009

9:00 am to 11:00 am

ABCD, 178 Tremont Street, 3rd Floor

For more information or to RSVP, contact: Cindy Marti:

cmarti@mphaweb.org or 617 524-6696 x 108

