

### Special points of interest

- CHAN I offered October 28-30, 2002
- Community Health Worker Week celebrated
- Congressional bills would provide grants to support CHWs
- CDC releases immunization guidelines

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## Unity 2003 to be held March 12-14 on Gulf Coast

The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach will hold its annual Unity conference March 12-14, 2003, at the Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel in Biloxi, Mississippi. Unity 2003 is a national conference designed for and about community health workers. The theme for this year's conference is "Community Health Workers: Finding Solutions in Turbulent Times."

Unity 2003 will address the importance of community health workers to the health care and human services delivery systems especially during times of health care provider shortages, tight budgets, and impending public health crises; ways to develop and sustain CHW programs given the current budget cuts facing many programs; and methods of overcoming barriers to CHW program success.

A call for presentations to be made at Unity 2003 can be found on Page 5 of this issue. Community health workers are strongly encouraged to submit presentation ideas. Unity 2003 is an opportunity for community health workers to share knowledge, information, and expertise with other community health workers and interested parties. Travel scholarships are available for presenters.

The conference format will include plenary sessions with addresses from keynote speakers and panelists, as well as numerous breakout workshop

sessions.

Exhibit space will be available during Unity 2003. The center encourages community health worker programs and related service providers and educational programs to exhibit during the conference. A tiered pricing scale for exhibitors is available. The January 2003 issue of this newsletter will include more detailed information for exhibitors.



### Unity 2003 Community Health Workers: Finding Solutions in Turbulent Times

To discuss exhibiting during Unity 2003, contact Susan Mayfield-Johnson at (601) 266-6266 or [Susan.Johnson@usm.edu](mailto:Susan.Johnson@usm.edu).

The conference registration fee is \$150 and includes training, materials, and breakfast and lunch each day. Conference fee waivers are available to community health workers on an individual basis. In order to request a fee waiver, community health workers should submit in writing, along with their registration form, the following information: name, job title, job training completed, a statement of need for the fee waiver, and a statement of how the conference information will be used. (See Page 3.)

Unity 2003 will also be the meeting place for the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach's Advisory Committee. The Advisory

Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 11.

The Mississippi Gulf Coast, with its wonderful restaurants, shopping, cultural activities, live entertainment, golfing, and beachcombing, is an exciting place for a conference. All these activities are located within walking distance or a short cab ride from the Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel.

The Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel is a beachfront hotel with many luxury amenities, including a workout area with state-of-the-art fitness equipment, a

full-service salon and spa, restaurants, unique specialty shops, and Las Vegas-style entertainment.

A special room rate of \$95 per night has been negotiated for Unity 2003 participants who book their hotel rooms before February 7, 2002.

Mark your calendars now to join us for Unity 2003!

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## CHAN I training to be held October 28-30

The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach will provide the Community Health Adviser Network Training Workshop I October 28-30, 2002, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The Community Health Adviser Program is based on a proven, community-driven health promotion model that identifies and trains natural helpers who then seek to improve the health and nutrition status of individuals and the community at large.

The Community Health Adviser Network (CHAN) promotes and supports Community Health Adviser programs. CHAN provides a network of ongoing information, training, and technical assistance to implementing organizations. Today,

CHAN is a model program of the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach.

CHAN Workshop I is focused on community entry and program startup. The trainers will demonstrate methods used to determine which communities have the greatest potential for success with the program. Additionally, the role and selection of a community facilitator will be defined. Techniques to identify and recruit Community Health Advisers (CHAs) and steering committee members will also be explained in detail.

The training cost is \$175 and includes three days of training, breakfast, lunch, and snacks each day, and a copy of the *Community Health Adviser (CHA) Program Community*

*Facilitator Implementation Manual* and the *CHA Training Curriculum*. The facilitator manual is written as a how-to guide, providing step-by-step instructions on implementation of the Community Health Adviser program.

The Center will also be offering CHAN Workshop II in January, 2003. Workshop II deals with the actual Community Health Adviser training, the monitoring and evaluation process, and support and linkage of CHAs.

Registration is limited to 25. For more information or to register, contact CSHO staff member Susan Mayfield-Johnson at (601) 266-6266 or e-mail Susan.Johnson@usm.edu.

## Community Health Worker Week celebrated June 10-14

Spectrum Health of Grand Rapids, Michigan, the area's largest health care system, celebrated Community Health Worker Week June 10-14, 2002.

Information about the work of community health workers was distributed to the health system, posters displayed information, and a celebration luncheon was held June 13. Approximately 40 people attended the luncheon and nurse, social work, and support staff colleagues spoke to the group about how much they admired and appreciated Spectrum Health's community health worker staff. Additionally, each community health worker was honored in an individual way by his or her manager with a small gift.

"This celebration of the contributions of our great community health workers was long overdue," said Christie Peck.

Spectrum Health hopes to make Community Health Worker Week a community-wide event next year.

"We'd also love to see a trend across the country of

CHWs being recognized for the great work they do," said Peck.



These Spectrum Health Community Health Workers were honored during a June 2002 celebration (front row left to right): Danita Thomas, CHW I; Jill DeJong, MSW; Martha Smith, CHW I; Lisa Marie Fisher, CHW I; (back row left to right): Roshawnda Thompson, CHW I; Terri Barrera, CHW II; Maria Alvarez, CHW I; Carmen Roman, CHW I; Susan Rupert, CHW II; Sharon Zinnah, RN. Not pictured are Benicia Kyle, CHW I; Susie Williamson, CHW II; Cheryl Mulder, CHW II; Kay Fricano, CHW I; Laura Chaffee, CHW I; Alecia Kitchen, CHW I.

"This celebration of the contributions of our great community health workers was long overdue."

Christie Peck,  
Spectrum  
Health



Unity 2003  
Community Health Workers:  
Finding Solutions in Turbulent Times  
March 12-14, 2003  
Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel  
Biloxi, Mississippi



**Yes!** I want to attend Unity Conference 2003 in Biloxi, Mississippi!

**Registration Deadline: February 21, 2003**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State and Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

Conference registration fee is \$150.  
Registration fee waivers are available to community health workers on an individual basis.\*  
Conference registration fees include training, materials, and breakfast and lunch each day.

*Contact the Grand Casino Biloxi Bayview Hotel at (800) 946-2946  
for room reservations by February 7, 2003.*

Send registration form and fee to

Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Program Coordinator  
The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach  
The University of Southern Mississippi  
Box 10015  
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0015  
telephone: (601) 266-6266, fax: (601)266-6262, e-mail: Susan.Johnson@usm.edu

\*Conference fee waivers for community health workers will be considered on an individual basis. In order to request a fee waiver, community health workers should submit in writing, along with their registration form, the following information: name, job title, job training completed, a statement of their need for the fee waiver, and a statement of how conference information will be used.

*Interested in displaying information about your program and services at the conference?  
Contact Susan Mayfield-Johnson at (601) 266-6266.*

## Bills would provide grants to support CHW activities

### Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2002 H.R. 5187

The Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Disease Prevention Act of 2002 was introduced in the House on July 17, 2002 by Representatives Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and joined by Bennie Thompson (D-MS) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL). If passed, this bill would create programs to provide the health disparity populations with prevention, early detection, treatment, and appropriate follow-up care services for cancer and other chronic diseases, and would allow "patient navigators" to assist such individuals to navigate the complicated health care system.

The proposed bill defines "patient navigators" as individuals who assist and guide patients with symptoms or diagnosis of cancer or other chronic disease within the health care system to receive care or treatment and those who identify, anticipate and help patients to overcome the barriers within the health care system to receive prompt diagnosis and treatment of cancer or other chronic diseases. The term "patient navigator" expressly includes "representatives of target health disparity populations, such as nurses, social workers, cancer survivors and patient advocates."

The bill proposes to create an outreach prevention program through the Consolidated Health Centers at HRSA, the Office of Rural Health Policy, and the National Cancer Institute to provide a culturally and linguistically competent primary care provider, and to educate the health disparity population on the need for cancer and other chronic disease prevention. The patient navigators play a key role in this bill in that they would be funded to educate and empower cancer or

other chronic disease patients, serve as their advocates in the health care system and to ensure that the patients overcome the barriers that currently exist within the health disparity population.

If passed, the bill would authorize the appropriation of funds ("such sums as necessary") to be made for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 for both the model programs which provide early detection, prevention and treatment for cancer or other chronic disease within the health disparity populations and to patient navigators who implement those model programs. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where it remains.

### Community Health Workers Act of 2002 S. 2139

The Community Health Workers Act of 2002 ("CHW Bill") was introduced in the Senate on April 17, 2002 by Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM). If passed, the CHW Bill would amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the "Secretary") to award grants to promote positive health behaviors for women in target populations, especially racial and ethnic minorities in underserved communities.

The CHW Bill permits the use of grant funds for the support of community health workers' (CHWs') education and outreach efforts concerning: (1) prevalent health problems; (2) learning opportunities targeting behavioral risk factors including poor nutrition, obesity, physical activity, and substance abuse; (3) effective strategies to promote positive health behaviors within the family; (4) health insurance enrollment, including the State Children's Health Insurance

Program, Medicare and Medicaid; (5) the promotion of community wellness and awareness; and (6) health care agencies and community based programs. The CHW Bill creates the grant application procedures for state, local or tribal units, giving priority to experienced providers in geographic areas with high percentages of uninsured or underinsured families, where English is the second language, and the U.S.-Mexico border region. Under this CHW Bill, the Secretary would be required to establish and monitor quality control guidelines for CHWs.

The proposed bill defines "community health workers" as individuals who promote health or nutrition within the communities in which they reside by

- serving as a liaison between communities and health care agencies;
- providing guidance and social assistance to community residents;
- enhancing community residents' ability to effectively communicate with health care providers;
- providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health or nutrition education;
- advocating for individual and community health or nutrition needs; and
- providing referral and follow-up services.

If passed, the CHW Bill would authorize the appropriation of funds in the amount of \$5,000,000 per year for fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005. The CHW Bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, where it remains.

The complete bills are available at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. If you have concerns or suggestions about the bills' content, call Sunanda Holmes at (202) 662-4237 or e-mail her at [skh2@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:skh2@law.georgetown.edu).

*This column will be periodically included to give updates on proposed state and federal legislative initiatives that relate to, or impact, the work of CHWs. If you would like more information or have questions about these or other policy or legislative issues impacting CHWs, contact Jacqueline Scott or Sunanda Holmes at (202) 662-4232. Also, if you have information on particular initiatives that you would like to see featured in future issues, please contact CSO's Georgetown staff at (202) 662-4230.*

## CDC releases smallpox outbreak response guidelines

The Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, has released to state and local public health officials, bioterrorism response planners, state health officials, and others an updated version of the post-event *Smallpox Response Plan and Guidelines* and *The Smallpox Vaccination Clinic Guide*.

The purpose of these guide-

lines is to provide states with important information they can use to effectively and rapidly respond to a smallpox outbreak. The documents incorporate many of the comments and suggestions CDC received from state epidemiologists, bioterrorism coordinators, immunization program managers, and other health care officials.

“These guidelines are a part

of an ongoing process at CDC to help states prepare for a smallpox event,” said Dr. Julie Gerberding, CDC director.

“This is a valuable resource for state and local planners as they develop their respective bioterrorism response plans,” said Gerberding.

The plans can be accessed online at <http://www.cdc.gov/smallpox>.



### Unity 2003 Community Health Workers: Finding Solutions in Turbulent Times

#### *Call for Presentations*

CSHO invites you to share your knowledge, information, and expertise with community health workers and other interested parties at Unity 2003. *CHWs are strongly encouraged to submit their ideas for presentations. Travel scholarships are available for presenters.*

The theme for this year's conference is “Community Health Workers: Finding Solutions in Turbulent Times.” Presentation proposals should address this theme or the following points:

- the importance of CHWs to the health care and human services delivery systems especially during times of health care provider shortages, tight budgets and impending public health crises
- ways to develop and sustain CHW programs given the current budget cuts facing many programs
- methods of evaluating CHW program success
- model CHW programs that address public health needs
- successful administrative strategies for CHW programs
- CHW network development

#### ***Instructions for submitting proposals:***

Presentation proposals should

- a. be no more than one 8 1/2” x 11” page, single-spaced, 12-point font
- b. include the following:
  - contact person: name, title, organization, address, phone and fax number, and e-mail address
  - presentation title
  - format desired (workshop, panel, poster, plenary session)
  - what you expect participants to learn from your presentation
  - description of presentation content
  - list of names, titles, addresses, and organizations for all presenters on your team
- c. be submitted by fax, e-mail, or U.S. first-class mail by November 25, 2002 (receipt date), to Jennifer Downey, Center for Sustainable Health Outreach, Box 10015, Hattiesburg, MS 39406, (601) 266-6247 (telephone), (601) 266-6262 (fax), [Jennifer.Downey@usm.edu](mailto:Jennifer.Downey@usm.edu) (e-mail).

*Potential presenters should also be sure to register for the conference (see registration form in this issue).*

“Unity conference is an opportunity for CHWs to be informed, enlightened, renewed, and celebrated. It’s a place to get new ideas, share war stories, and laugh with others who know what a CHW’s day is like. In short, you don’t want to miss it.”

Pat Dillon, CHW

## Personalized vaccine schedule and flu materials available

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has several very useful Web-based sites with materials related to vaccinations.

The recommended childhood immunization schedule, which outlines when vaccines should be administered, is complex. Many parents do not have a keen awareness of when which vaccines are due.

The CDC, through the National Immunization Program (NIP), has developed a Web-based Childhood Immunization Scheduler using the current vaccine recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. By using the vaccine scheduler, parents, caregivers, CHWs, and health care profes-

sionals can print instant immunization schedules for an individual child. The scheduler can be used for any child 5 years of age or younger, but is especially useful for infants. The schedules provided are personalized by the birth date and name entered. No



entered data are retained.

Parents, CHWs and health-care professionals can print a version of the schedule by visiting [http://www2.cdc.gov/nip/scheduler\\_le/default.asp](http://www2.cdc.gov/nip/scheduler_le/default.asp). The scheduler is available in English

and Spanish. The scheduler program will be updated each time immunization recommendations are changed, so it is advised to make new schedules for children at least once a year.

The scheduler Web site also contains links to several other important CDC immunization Web pages. Among those links is a site containing new patient-education print materials for the coming flu season. These materials can be viewed and reproduced directly from the NIP website at [www.cdc.gov/nip/Flu/Gallery.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/Flu/Gallery.htm).

Black and white copies of the flyers can be downloaded and reproduced on office copy machines or pdfPress files can be taken to a commercial printer for large quantities of materials or color copies.

AA/EOE/ADAI PPS 45548 10015 1002

*We envision CHWs who are valued as essential, integral, and powerful promoters of health, wellness, and disease prevention in their communities.*



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