The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach presents

Unity 2015 Conference

Community Health Workers:
Transforming Communities through Trust, Compassion, and Commitment

July 13-15, 2015
Sheraton Memphis Downtown Hotel
Memphis, Tennessee
On behalf of the Center for Sustainable Health Outreach at The University of Southern Mississippi, we extend a warm welcome to all of our Unity 2015 participants. Our conference theme, Community Health Workers: Transforming Communities through Trust, Compassion, and Commitment, underlines the core values of Community Health Workers. The Community Health Worker Section of the American Public Health Association noted in a 2009 policy statement that, “A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW 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. A CHW also builds 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.”

http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/policysearch/default.htm?id=1393

CHWs strive to meet the demands of a changing health care system and increasingly diverse communities with trust, compassion, and commitment. The stories you will hear while in Memphis this year will speak to CHWs’ indomitable ability to impact health outcomes through individual and group education, community organization, client follow-up, and navigation through the complex health and social services networks. This is done with dignity and respect for all persons within a strength-based approach and capacity building manner. The conference promises to be an excellent opportunity for CHWs and their supporters to share knowledge, information, and expertise with each other.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our sponsors, collaborators, exhibitors, and the outstanding speakers who are presenting this year. We would especially like to thank our sponsors, Sanofi US, NeedyMeds, Mariposa Community Health Center Paticamos Salud, Center for Health Impact, MHP Salud, Community Resources, LLC., CHW Network of NYC, and Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital for their commitment to support Community Health Workers to attend this year’s conference and for their generous support of Unity 2015. Exhibitors like Rutgers University, The CHAMP Program at Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, The CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project, MHP Salud, Needy Meds, Rutgers University, Sanofi–US, and United Voices Wisconsin, are essential to share needed information and resources with our communities. From these resources, Community Health Workers can learn from each other and their supporters so they can better overcome the barriers facing them as they fulfill their important role in improving the health of Communities.

To our conference participants, your presence and voice are essential to our efforts. It is our hope that while you are here with us, you will learn about and be a part of creative solutions that you can apply back home in your communities and in your work settings. We always look forward to the Unity conferences as a time for renewing acquaintances with old friends and getting to know new ones. If there is anything we can do to make this a memorable Unity conference for you, please let us know.

The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach
UNITY 2015
Community Health Workers: Transforming Communities through Trust, Compassion, and Commitment

CONFERENCE AGENDA

Sunday, July 12, 2015
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration
Heritage Foyer
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set-Up
Heritage Foyer

Monday, July 13, 2015
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration
Heritage Foyer
8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Exhibits
Heritage Foyer
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Welcome and Opening Remarks
Heritage Ballroom
Dr. Michael Forster, Dean, The College of Health, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi
Dr. Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Center for Sustainable Health Outreach, The University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, Mississippi

9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Plenary Session I: Helping to Transform Communities with Trust, Compassion, and Commitment: National Community Health Worker Programs and Resources
Heritage Ballroom
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Community Health Worker Work Group: Who We Are and What We Do
Dr. Bina Jayapaul-Philip and Betsy Rodriguez, Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
Effectiveness of Interventions Engaging CHW’s to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease: A Community Guide Systematic Review
Krista Proia, Office of Public Health Scientific Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
E-Learning and the Women’s Health Leadership Institute: Federal CHW Training Initiatives
Kay Strawder, US Department of Health & Human Services, Region IX, Office on Women’s Health, San Francisco, California
Community Health Worker Advocacy: Voices of Action from the 2014 National Community Health Worker Advocacy Survey
Maia Ingram, Arizona Prevention Research Center, University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona and Floribella Redondo, Arizona Community Health Outreach Worker Network, Tucson, Arizona
A Progress Report on the Road to a National Consensus on CHW Roles and Competencies: The CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project
Dr. Lee Rosenthal and Carl Rush, Project on CHW Policy & Practice, University of Texas Institute for Health Policy, Houston, Texas and Sergio Matos, CHW Network of New York City, New York, New York
This plenary session will highlight national programs involving CHWs. Learn what resources are available for program support from national entities.

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Lunch
Magnolia Ballroom

1:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Skill-Building Workshops** – Participants will choose 1 to attend.

**Workshop I: Join the Fight for Oral Health—Advocating For and with Our Communities**
Lisa Renee Holderby-Fox, Center for Health Impact™, Worcester, Massachusetts and Anita Glicken, National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health, Englewood, Colorado
Oral health, an often neglected health concern, is now gaining significant support and attention. The need for oral health care in underserved communities is extensive. This workshop will examine major efforts and achievements by CHWs working in communities with oral health needs using the World Café model.

**Workshop II: Promotores(as) Connect: Mobilizing the CHW Workforce through Technology**
Colleen Reinert and Ashley Martin, MHP Salud, Bradenton, Florida
Technology like smartphone apps, Fitbits, EPIC, electronic medical records and other technological advances have been used to monitor health, improve our accessibility to information, and receive and analyze data. Promotores Connect is a pilot project that brings mobile technology into CHW programs with the goals of analyzing data, streamlining data entry, and strengthening program evaluation efforts. This workshop will discuss how smart phone integrated apps have yielded significant success in aiding CHWs on the job.

**Workshop III: What CHWs Should Know about Using Storytelling for Diabetes Education**
Betsy Rodriguez, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia
Storytelling is one of the oldest forms of self-expression and has been used through the years as a prime teaching method. Culturally, storytelling is very significant and helps build trust among community members. Storytelling in diabetes education has shown to be very beneficial. This workshop will address aspects of good storytelling, while providing resources that can useful with ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations. CHWs will gain knowledge in the art of storytelling and how to facilitate such practices.

**Workshop IV: How to Help Your Patients Obtain the Medications They Can’t**
Dr. Richard Sagall, NeedyMeds, Gloucester, Massachusetts
While there are many programs that provide medication and other assistance for community members experiencing financial difficulties, many are not publicized. This presentation will share how to access various programs that can assist CHWs in facilitating access to resources for their community members.

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Break
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  

**Professional Development Skills** – Participants will choose 1 to attend.

**Workshop I: Grant Writing: Do's, Don'ts, Getting It Done**  
Memphis  
Julie St. John, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Abilene, Texas  
This session is designed to give a brief overview of how to research and write winning corporate and foundation grant proposals. Supportive instruction includes: how to find grant funding opportunities; how to craft a winning proposal narrative; what funders want to fund; in-kind and direct costs in your budget—what do they mean; why grant proposals are rejected; follow-up expectations from funders, and tips to winning a phenomenal grant award.

**Workshop II: Helping to Develop Healthy Homes**  
St. Louis  
Maricela Babuca and Edith Billy, Mariposa Community Health Center, Nogales, Arizona  
A person’s home should reflect a place of safety, but particular aspects of a home could jeopardize a person’s health. This presentation will discuss what specifically can make a home potentially dangerous and provide information on specifics such as, lead, air pollution, a home safety checklist and other important information that will help in developing a healthy home.

**Workshop III: Learning How to Use Prezi: A Powerful Presentation and Engagement Tool**  
Natchez  
Nebnoma Ouedraogo, Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness, Sanofi-US, Bridgewater, New Jersey  
This presentation will focus on mastering the presentation skill, through the use of Prezi. Prezi is a tool similar to PowerPoint that provides audiences with a powerful visual presentation. How to create Prezi presentations and presentations skills will be highlighted.

**Workshop IV: Understanding A Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Intervention**  
Beale  
Rachel Noriega and Ruby Carrillo, Mariposa Community Health Center, Nogales, Arizona  
Pregnancy is a time in a woman’s life where consuming an alcoholic substance can have serious detrimental effects on the growing fetus. This session will discuss Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and important screening questions and interventions that CHWs can share with expecting mothers.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  

**Open House- Open Space – CHW Core Consensus (C3) Project**  
Chattanooga  
Comments and Questions Session  
Sponsored by the Amgen Foundation, this open house session with door prizes, book signing, and light snacks, will offer conference participants the opportunity to pose questions and make comments about the CHW Consensus (C3) Project.
Tuesday, July 14, 2015

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Conference Registration
Heritage Foyer

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Exhibits
Heritage Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Plenary Session II: CHW Program Variation: What Can We Learn for Health System Integration**
Leo Quigley, Milken School of Public Health, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.
CHW programs often differ based on their target populations, program goals, the nature of the CHW interventions, and the way the programs are funded. As the Affordable Care Act expands investment in new models of care, understanding variation is critical to evaluating the benefit that can be expected from planned, future CHW programs. This session will highlight the development of the system database, case studies of program implementation, a conceptual model to underline workforce rationale that distinguishes CHW programs from others, and dilemmas facing the emerging CHW occupation as it moves towards greater integration with health systems.

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. **Plenary Session II: Future Directions for CHWs – Feedback and Reflections on Developing a National CHW Association**
Facilitators: Gail Hirsch, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, Napua Spock, Hawai‘i Primary Care Association, Maui, Hawai‘i, and Carl Rush, Project on CHW Policy & Practice, University of Texas Institute for Health Policy, Houston, Texas
This will be a highly interactive session designed to elicit CHW input on the need for a national CHW association. After learning about the history of national CHW organizing, participants will weigh in on key issues for a national association such as: governance structure, role in supporting state and local networks, role in supporting individual CHWs, and relationships to the APHA CHW Section and to federal agencies and workgroups. Possible next steps in organizing a national CHW association will be discussed.

12:00 noon. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch
Magnolia Ballroom

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops I** – Participants will choose 1 to attend.

**Workshop I: Lessons Learned and Promising Practices from CHW Programs**
Kay Strawder, US Department of Health & Human Services, Region IX, Office on Women’s Health, San Francisco, California
The Women’s Health Leadership Institute (WHLI), a non-traditional leadership program for experienced CHWs, is in the evaluation process. Important preliminary lessons from the process evaluations that have been completed and the National CHW Advocacy Survey results and feedback received from the Institute’s CHWs and Master Trainers - all of which can be useful to funders and program designers of future non-traditional leadership training programs - will be shared. The lessons learned include (1) Selection criteria for CHWs, (2) Post-training support of CHWs and Master Trainers, (3) Program design, and (4) Sustainability. Understanding how to avoid various pitfalls in designing and implementing a non-traditional
leadership training program will ensure that trained CHWs are more effective in engaging communities in resolving their own problems and increasing their communities’ capacity for health and wellness.

Women’s Health Leadership Institute-Lessons Learned and Evaluation Challenges
Adrienne Smith, Office on Women’s Health, US Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C.; Shelly Kowalcyzk, Center for Community Prevention and Treatment Research, The MayaTech Corporation, Silver Spring, Maryland; Dwan Monroe, Institute for Public Health Innovation, Baltimore, Maryland; and Suzanne Randolph (Moderator), Center for Community Prevention and Treatment Research, The MayaTech Corporation, Silver Spring, Maryland

This session will present implementation and evaluation necessities and complexities of the HHS Office on Women’s Health (OWH) Women’s Health Leadership Institute (WHLI), and insights from WHLI master trainers and the CHWs they trained. The WHLI curriculum was developed to train experienced CHWs to take a public health systems approach when addressing chronic diseases and other health disparities, and gain skills to influence public health practice and policies within the community. WHLI participants were also asked to develop community action projects (CAPs) for policy, systems, and environmental changes to tackle health inequities within the community. Conference participants will have the opportunity to share insights and suggestions for improving participation in and evaluation of similar CHW training initiatives.

Workshop II: Model CHW Programs
Beale

The CHW Role in Diabetes Self-Management Education Programs and in the CDC Led National Diabetes Prevention Program
Dr. Bina Jayapaul-Philip, Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

This presentation will summarize key activities undertaken by state health departments and other CDC grantees through cooperative agreements (DP 13-1305 and DP 14-1422) and give an overview of the progress in engaging CHWs in recruitment and delivery for these evidence-based programs.

National Advocacy for CHW’s in the US: Learning from International Experiences
Dr. Sara Selig, Partners in Health, Boston, Massachusetts, and Ashley Damewood, COPE, Boston, Massachusetts

This session is a “call to action” to bring together those advocating for the integration of CHWs into the healthcare delivery system in a sustainable manner. Presenters will profile two examples of how international models of CHW programs were applied to a US health care setting and will discuss lessons learned and what may be more or less relevant for the US setting. The session will highlight key lessons and challenges in the process of adapting international models to US health systems. This session will be interactive and invites discussion and sharing of experience and perspective from all participants. A collaborative action plan will be developed collectively during this session to set the foundation for an organized advocacy initiative in the US.

Workshop III: Evaluation/Data Collection Models for CHWs
Memphis

Data Is Your Friend
Susan Steppe, CHAMP Program, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee

This presentation aspires to “reframe” the topic of data collection and reporting to share insights on why this process is so important to program
sustainability. Topics to be discussed are how to make data your friend, overview of the quality program approach, defining and measuring outcomes, ways data can empower the program, and how data can sustain the program.

**Workshop IV: Innovative Methods in Reaching Vulnerable Populations**  
*Role of Peer Support for Chronic Care Management Program in Texas*  
Cruselva Peña and Linda Medrano, MHP Salud, Weslaco, Texas  
Salud y Vida (Health and Life), a program dedicated to improving the health of members in the community diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, provides a participant-centered approach through education, skill building and support to help participants live healthy lives. During this session, participants will learn about the key components involved in the implementation of the program, including their different roles, data collection mechanisms that Promotores(as) utilize, and participation activities.

2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Break

2:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Concurrent Workshops II** – Participants will choose 1 to attend.

**Workshop V: Lessons Learned and Promising Practices from CHW Programs**  
*Building the Capacity of Community Health Workers to Deliver Eye Health Information: Lessons Learned from a National Training Effort*  
Marcela Aguilar, ICF International, National Eye Health Education Program, National Eye Institute, Rockville, Maryland  
This presentation will provide an overview of diabetic eye disease and the role of CHWs in helping prevent blindness. Participants will learn how the “Diabetes and Healthy Eyes Toolkit,” a toolkit to enhance diabetes education programs with culturally and linguistically appropriate eye health education resources, was developed, and the resources that can be used by CHWs to deliver educational sessions. The methodology, reach, and results of the workshops will be shared, along with complementary training efforts developed by NEHEP, including an online module and customized webinars.

**Workshop VI: Issues Related to Certification, Education, and/or Training of CHWs**  
*A Case Study of Certification in Practice: New Mexico’s Example*  
Diana M. Abeyta, Office of Community Health Workers, New Mexico Department of Health, Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Mae-Gilene Begay, Navajo Nation Department of Health, Window Rock, Arizona  
This session will highlight certification in New Mexico, with a step-by-step process described. Specific attention will focus on Tribal involvement, specifically the Navajo Nation, that is active with curriculum pilots, input for the train the trainer model, and training of CHW/CHRs, from both a tribal and state perspective. While working in tandem, both tribe and state have come together for the benefit of all.
Workshop VII: New and Emerging Roles for CHWs  
Emerging Roles of CHWs in Translational Research  
Gail McCray and Sabrina Mobley, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia

Translational research includes two areas of translation: (1) the process of applying discoveries generated from laboratory research and from clinical observations (T1 translation), and (2) research aimed at enhancing the adoption of best practices in the community (T2 translation). The special relationships CHWs have with communities, patients, and providers can make them uniquely qualified as arbiters of translational research. This presentation will highlight some examples of mechanisms set in place to engage CHWs and show how CHWs are central to translational research among biomedical scientists, clinicians, communities, and patients.

Training Community Members to Be Better Consumers of Research  
Dr. Tanya Funchess, Office of Health Disparity Elimination, Mississippi State Department of Health, Jackson, Mississippi

The intent of CBPR is to bring together researchers and communities to establish trust, foster co-learning, share power, build capacity, and examine and address community-identified needs and health problems. The missing link to health promotion activities and disease prevention initiatives is the engagement of community members as active participants of the research process. To ensure community members become better consumers of research, the Community Research Fellows Training (CRFT) program was implemented in Jackson, Mississippi to increase community member’s knowledge about public health research while also creating a cadre of trained CHWs. CRFT can equip CHWs with the tools to not only capture the work that they do, but also to increase their knowledge to advocate for policy, system, and environmental change in their communities.

Workshop VIII: Model Programs  
Bridging the Gap: How Community Health Workers Promote the Health of Immigrants  
Sergio Matos, CHW Network of NYC, New York, New York

This session gives an overview of the newly published book, "Bridging the Gap." Based on a decade of in-depth evaluations from several immigrant health programs in New York City with complementary interviews with dozens of immigrants and CHWs, this session offers insights into how CHWs help immigrants overcome the obstacles to health care. The authors carefully distill first-hand lessons into recommendations for best practices in developing and utilizing effective CHW programs--insights that will be immediately useful to any community group, municipal agency, or health care organization.

4:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.  
Break

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Nurturing Mind, Body, and Spirit – Participants will choose 1 to attend.

Session I: Intro to Latin Dance  
Wandy Hernandez, HealthConnect One, Chicago, Illinois

Dancing is a great way to release stress, relax, have fun, while also getting exercise. This session will give an introduction to Latin dance.
Session II: Laughter Therapy: Saving Your Sanity through Laughter

Julie St. John, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, Abilene, Texas

Laughing is an excellent way to reduce stress and help us cope with stressful situations. Laughter provides a full workout for our muscles and releases stress-busting endorphins. This session will: discuss the main health benefits of laughter; discuss strategies to use laughter techniques and principles in your own life and work; and propose strategies for strengthening one’s interpersonal and communication skills to engage groups and individuals through laughter techniques.

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Reception and Esther M. Holderby Dedicated CHW Award
Pearl's Oyster House

Please join us for a dinner reception, award presentation, and dancing at Pearl's Oyster House. One of Memphis’s renowned restaurants, this gem is frequented by locals. Pearl's Oyster House is located at 299 S Main Street and a bit of a walk from the hotel. Please take the city’s transit that is located right outside of the hotel. Each way costs $1.00. There will be grilled breast of chicken with teriyaki sauce, fried catfish with tartar sauce, blackened catfish, Caesar salad, seasonal vegetables, rice pilaf or roasted potatoes, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert. Beverages are included, and a cash bar will be available. After the dinner reception and award presentation, come dance the night away with our DJ, and enjoy Memphis at Pearl's.

Wednesday, July 15, 2015

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Conference Registration
Heritage Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Exhibits
Heritage Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Continental Breakfast
Heritage Foyer

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Poster Session: CHWs Thinking Global and Acting Local: Best Practices for Impacting Health and Wellness
Heritage Foyer

Board 1: Role of Community Health Workers in Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention: Lessons Learned from the Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative Clinical Community Health Worker Initiative
Tameka Ivory-Walls, Amanda Cole, and BerTrina Jenkins, Mississippi State Department of Health, Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative, Greenwood, Mississippi
The Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative Clinical Community Health Worker Initiative (CCHWI) emphasizes improved clinical cardiovascular disease outcomes through self-therapy, blood pressure control, cholesterol management, and smoking cessation (ABCS).

Board 2: Overcoming Barriers to Wellness Recovery through Finding Self-Worth
Jennifer Wayne Head, The Rockport Engagement Center, Rockport, Indiana
The poster aims to demonstrate how leisure, recreational activities, and travel experiences, along with community engagement and servant leadership are all pathways to wellness recovery.

Board 3: Who Are They? A Case Study of Community Health Workers in Primary Health Care
Constance Shepard, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina
This presentation provides insight into the culture of CHW programs in primary health care settings, and highlights descriptions of ways CHWs in primary health care provide culturally responsive service to diverse individuals and groups.
Board 4: Who Is A CHW? Selection Tool
Carol West, CHW Initiative of Sonoma County, Petaluma, California
Personal commitment, community trust, lived experiences, tenacity and educational training are a few of the factors used in selecting CHWs. The CHW Initiative of Sonoma County discusses the complex issues of selecting CHWs.

Board 5: Recruitment of Barbershops for Blood Pressure Screening and Referral in the Mississippi Delta
Jackie Hawkins, Brianna Perryman, and Cassandra Dove, Delta Health Collaborative, Mississippi State Department of Health, Greenwood, Mississippi
The Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative, Barbers Reaching Out to Help Educate on Routine Screening (B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S.) was initiated to address high blood pressure awareness and prevention among African American males. This poster will illustrate how barbershops serve as avenues for reaching African American males with high blood pressure to conduct health and outreach education.

Board 6: CHWs and Patient-Centered Medical Homes
Gail McCray, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia
The Morehouse School of Medicine Patient Centered Medical Home and Neighborhood Project will discuss and describe the integral role of CHWs in a Patient Centered Medical Home model.

Board 7: Milwaukee AHEC and Wisconsin CHW Alliance – Impacting Health and Wellness through CHW Policy, Practices, and Community Engagement
Lynette Weathers, Carol Witcher, and Denise Patton, Milwaukee Area Health Education Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
The presentation provides a look at how the Wisconsin CHW Alliance action committees and the recently launched CHW Peer Exchange Network have spawned life in the Wisconsin community regarding the work of CHWs. The level of community engagement has created a presence that has clinics, community-based organizations and others calling for CHW participation in community health events and activities.

Board 8: CHW’s Improving Asthma Outcomes in Westside Chicago
Madeline Woodberry, Sinai Urban Health Institute, Chicago, Illinois
This poster presentation will describe the CHW-based approach to reduce emergency room visits and improve asthma outcomes among adults enrolled in the Helping Chicago’s Westside Adults Breathe and Thrive program.

Board 9: Blood Pressure Advocate Program - Integrating Community Health Advocates in Health Care Systems to address Hypertension
Andrea M. Clarke and Taryn Rossi, Center for Community Health, The University of Rochester, Rochester, New York
The presentation will focus on clinic-based Community Health Advocates (CHAs) work with physicians and clinic staff to identify and help patients overcome barriers, set realistic/achievable goals and measure process to improve blood pressure control in patients.

Board 10: The Intersection of Pedagogy, Community, and Healthcare Practice: Training CHW’s in Chronic Disease Self-Management and Prevention
Pamela Daniels, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia
The poster will describe an expanded CHW training project on diabetes self-management education that also included sessions on human subject protection, data collection, management, ethics/regulatory, motivational interviewing and CHW core competencies.
Roundtable Session: Novel Approaches to Promoting Healthy Communities

Table 1: CHOOSING HEALTH: Challenges and Successes from a CHW Program in Atlanta Georgia
Ebony Johnson, Myra Barker, Laquita Benton, Thomasine Mungo, Sony Cruel, Ternia Preer, Adrienne Waites, and Anthony McClarn, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia
Participants will learn the impact of CHWs on healthcare utilization, health improvement and the patient’s overall experience with the healthcare system. The challenges and opportunities of implementing a CHW program with multiple healthcare partners and shared outcomes will also be discussed.

Table 2: Mind, Body, Spirit, Balance for the CHW
Michelle Hammond, Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center, Easton, Maryland
This session will discuss the interactions of the mind, body, and spirit and how they incorporate wholeness and maintain balance. Strategies for good health and wellness will be shared.

Table 3: COPE (Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment): A Best Practices for Empowering the Community through A CHR Collaboration
Jamy Malone, Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment, Gallup, New Mexico
CHWs/CHRs are critical to creating successful health care teams in order to address the burden of chronic disease in local communities. CHW/CHR engagement and coordination with clinic providers and other outreach teams is pivotal to patient empowerment. Understanding the importance of clinic-community linkages is key to facilitating multilevel partnerships to promote a CHW/CHR centered approach to community health.

Table 4: CHW’s Improving Asthma Outcomes through Trust, Compassion, and Commitment
Kim Artis, Thu Nguyen, Tala Schwindt, and Jessica Ramsey, Sinai Urban Health Institute, Chicago, Illinois
Participants will learn how CHWs combat asthma disparities and improve health outcomes by connecting and building trust with patients.

Table 5: Recruitment of Faith-Based Institutions in Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention in the Mississippi Delta Region: Lessons from Delta Alliance for Congregational Health
Jackie Hawkins, Alice Griggs-Miller, and Cassandra Dove, Delta Health Collaborative, Mississippi State Department of Health, Greenwood, Mississippi
Delta Alliance for Congregational Health (DACH) is based on a social-ecological model for faith-based institutions to consider the health of individual congregants, the congregation as a whole, and the broader community. Participants will gain an understanding of the DACH model, including best practices and lessons learned; how the DACH model can be implemented in their church/community; and understand the role of the church, community; and the healthcare setting in cardiovascular disease (CVD) risk prevention.

Table 6: CHW’s Supporting Children with High-Risk Asthma and Their Families
Kelli Holloway and Tabatha Johnson, CHAMP Program, Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee
This presentation provides information on the role and responsibilities of CHWs who are dealing with patients who have High-Risk Pediatric Asthma. Strategies for engaging families and building relationships, the role of the CHW in providing and supporting asthma education and assessing/addressing environmental concerns that contribute to asthma will be discussed.
Table 7: CHW Growth and Development: A Model for a CHW Career Pathway
Katherine Nimmons, Texas A&M National CHW Training Center, College Station, Texas;
Dr. Eron Manusov and Dr. Francisco Fernandez, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley,
Edinburg, Texas; and Juan Carlos Aguirre and Lori Treviño, South Texas College, McAllen,
Texas
This session will describe the collaborative development of an educational and academic
pathway for CHWs in South Texas. The session will also explain how CHWs are receiving
specialized behavioral health training as part of an integrated care and interpersonal
development program.

Table 8: Life in Balance: Staying Healthy, Positive, and Strong
Alicia Sander, Mariposa Community Health Center, Nogales, Arizona
This session will focus on exploring strategies that other CHWs can use to stay healthy,
focused, and to avoid stress and burnout. Participants will learn three ways to improve their
diet and two stress relieving techniques.

Table 9: Community and Clinical Partnerships—Lessons from the Field
Tracy Kennedy, City of Worcester, Division of Public Health, Worcester, Massachusetts
CHWs are trusted members of the communities they serve through shared ethnicity, culture,
language, and life experiences. This session will identify effective methods to create
community partnerships and develop resources that will advance and support effective
partnerships.

Table 10: Dientes Fuertes, Vida Sana: Developing Useful, Applicable, and Culturally Competent
Promotores de Salud Programming for Tooth Decay Prevention
Rosa Steen, KDH Research and Communication, Atlanta, Georgia
This session will present finding from the feasibility evaluation of Dientes Fuertes, Vida Sana
(DFVS), a culturally competent program to prevent early childhood tooth decay among low-
income Latina children ages zeros to six.

Table 11: CHWs Driving the Path Less Traveled: The Road to Certification in Florida
Mia Rosario, Oakhill Tribal Village/South East American Indian Council, Tallahassee,
Florida, Lolita Dash-Pitts, University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, and Marion Banzhaf,
Florida Department of Health, Tallahassee, Florida
This session will provide a synopsis of the processes the Florida CHW Coalition used to
develop a voluntary state certification program for CHWs. The Florida CHW Coalition
decided not to wait for legislation to develop a statewide certification process. They will
share the steps used to validate their process and discuss CHW’s involvement along the way.
Florida’s experience could be of value to other states as they explore how to pursue
certification standards.

Table 12: Adaptation, Education and Motivation: Improving Chronic Disease Self-Management and
Prevention (iADAPT 2.0)
Pamela Daniels and Barbara Mack, Morehouse School of Medicine, Atlanta, Georgia
The iADAPT 2.0 Project builds upon the experience gained and lessons learned over the
years to implement a robust training program to prepare CHWs for a CDC-funded REACH
initiative.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch and Closing Session Heritage Ballroom III, IV
Esther M. Holderby Dedicated CHW Award

A Common Bond: Reflections of Unity 2004
By Esther M. Holderby

It was called “2004 Unity Conference,” but it was reminiscent of a family reunion. It was my first nationwide Community Health Worker’s conference, and as I waited to board Flight #5321, I wondered how it would be to co-exist, for the next two and one-half days with almost 300 total strangers. (Make that 296 total strangers. I knew four CHWs from my home state of Massachusetts who would be attending the conference. One of which was my daughter with whom I would share the podium for a workshop session).

Upon my arrival at the conference hotel, I had been standing in the registration line all of five minutes when my apprehensions quickly disappeared. I found myself chatting with not only the person in front of me, but the person behind me as well. We were carrying on a three-way conversation. Before I went to my room, I found myself amidst smiling faces who were either being introduced to me, or had taken the liberty of introducing themselves. Hugs were exchanged, CHWs were saying where they were from and what their programs were about. Old acquaintances were being renewed, and the newcomers, such as myself, were warmly welcomed into the fold. It was wonderful!

I find it very difficult to express the emotions that ran through me over the next two and one-half days. To say that it was an intense experience would be putting it mildly. Before Unity 2004, I understood the tremendous undertakings of Community Health Workers on a statewide level. Now I was hearing CHWs’ voices, from across the nation, singing the same tune and marching in step to the same drummer’s beat. I heard those voices although from different disciplines, expressing the same concerns for the communities that they serve that we have for the communities that we serve locally. But despite those many very different disciplines - we all came with the exact same goal, the very same target, and an undying, unified determination - to identify the communities’ needs, to meet those needs, and to deliver the same end result - a whole and healthy community.

What can I say about the workshop sessions? I wish I could have attended them all, but they were ran concurrently. The sessions that I did attend were not only inspirational and uplifting, the information shared opened that window which allowed those of us attending the session to see into the everyday world of our brother and sister CHWs across the nation. Through these workshops I truly realized that CHWs, no matter where we are physically located, are all joined at the hip by the determination to get the job done.

There is a certain, non-duplicable, contagious energy, enthusiasm, and love that community health workers exude. I’ve made a feeble attempt at giving some adjectives to the feeling that I experienced. I don’t believe that there is a word as yet in the dictionary that truly describes this CHW nectar running through our veins. I can only say that that is similar to a booster shot in the arm that helps one to face the budget cuts virus that affects our sorely needed programs.

I cannot close without saying this: What touched me most was the realization that there is no pecking order in the world of community health workers. The experienced CHWs reach out for the hands of the newcomers and willingly share their knowledge, which enables all of us to grow and be strong. This kind of unity makes us powerful. And we can bring that power to the communities that we serve.

I truly believe that if the word love could ever be redefined, love would then be under C for Community Health Worker. What impressed me most about Unity 2004 Conference? I came, I learned, I felt the love!

The Esther M. Holderby Award honors a dedicated community health worker (CHW) who has overcome personal adversity to promote health in his or her community. This award was established in 2006, by James M. Holderby Jr. and Lisa Renee Holderby, to commemorate the late Esther M. Holderby. Ms. Holderby was a 25-year, 4-time cancer survivor and most importantly, a dedicated CHW. Until her passing in July 2005, Ms. Holderby continued to educate women of the importance of early detection of breast cancer and advocated for increased funding for early detection services and CHW programs. Nominees must be a community health worker and can be from any state, discipline or health focus. This year’s recipient will be announced at the Reception and Award Presentation on Tuesday, July 14, 2015, at Pearl’s Oyster House.
Submitted Plenary Session Presenter Biographical Statements

Gail Hirsch, M.Ed., is the Director of the Office of Community Health Workers at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, where she has coordinated state public health efforts to support community health workers for over 20 years. As a long-time leader in CHW organizing efforts in the state, she has served on the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW), since its inception in 2000. Nationally, Gail is an active leader in the CHW Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA), a steering committee member of the National Academy for State Health Policy (NASHP), and has served as an advisor to other states, federal agencies and national organizations on CHW workforce development.

Maia Ingram, MPH, is the Deputy Director of the Arizona Prevention Research Center at the University of Arizona Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health. Over the past 20 years, Ms. Ingram has worked with federally qualified health centers and grassroots agencies in rural, urban and border communities to conduct meaningful, participatory evaluation of community health worker (CHW) programs addressing diabetes prevention and control, health promotion, mental health and most recently, hearing loss. Ms. Ingram’s research interests focus on the role of the CHW as community change agents addressing the social determinants of health. She, along with colleagues, recently completed a study Acción Para La Salud (Action for Health) in which they developed a framework for integrating CHW community advocacy as a core competency to address policy, environmental and systems change.

Bina Jayapaul-Philip, PhD, works at the Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She has a Ph.D. in sociology and has worked in Public Health for the past 15 years in Federal and State Government and in Federal Contracting. Dr. Jayapaul-Philip provides leadership for the Community Health Worker Work Group at CDC. The workgroup brings together staff from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion as well as staff from other parts of CDC who are working with grantees implementing CHW interventions, conducting research and other related activities. She works collaboratively with other CDC staff to develop implementation guidance for CHW interventions, develop technical assistance to grantees.

Krista Proia, MPH, CHES is a Health Scientist with Karna, LLC and contractor for the Effectiveness Review Team of Community Guide Branch with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In this role, she provides scientific support to the independent, nonfederal Community Preventive Services Task Force through the conduct of systematic reviews and coordination of the review process for the cardiovascular disease prevention and control topic. Prior to joining The Community Guide, Ms. Proia worked as an epidemiology assistant and ORISE fellow at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities collaborating with the fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) team. Ms. Proia holds a bachelor’s degree in health science, a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in behavioral sciences and health education, and is a Certified Health Education Specialist.

Leo Quigley, MPH, MPA, MSW, provided technical input and support to Maryland Department of Health & Mental Hygiene during 2013-14 on expanding use of community health workers, and is now a senior research assistant at George Washington University. He has extensive experience in community health systems administration and policy in the U.K., including managing programs that address complex community-level problems across hospital systems, primary care providers, non-profit, state and national agencies. His experience includes directing a team of clinical and home support providers as they developed and implemented new models of care for a U.K. National Health Service hospital and primary care system. Mr. Quigley has graduate degrees in public health, public administration and social work and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Policy and Public Administration at George Washington University.

Carl Rush, MRP, serves as a core team member of the Project on CHW Policy & Practice at the University of Texas- Houston Institute for Health Policy and has supported studies on CHW employment policy for the states of Arizona, Texas and Indiana, and for Public Health Seattle/King County. He recently finished revising a national e-learning series for the CDC on policy and systems change to promote employment of CHWs. Mr. Rush was a lead author on the CHW National Workforce Study for HRSA (2007). He has been active in the CHW Section of APHA for over 14 years, serving on the APHA Governing Council, Education Board and Joint Policy Committee.

Napualani Spock, MA--Hawaiian and Pacific Studies, MBA--Public Health Administration, has been working to promote grassroots community development since 1994, as a Hawaiian studies teacher in Hawaiian Immersion schools, high school and community college. She moved into community health work in 1999 at the Native Hawaiian Health Care System for Maui, where she was deeply inspired by the dedication, integrity, and efficacy of CHW colleagues. Since then she's been involved in projects building capacity for CHC-based CHWs and colleagues from other agencies across Hawai'i through training, networking and advocacy at the Hawai'i Primary Care Association. She is a member of the Finance Sub-Committee and Education y Capacitacion Sub-Committee of the APHA CHW Section, a Council Member for the Region IX Health Equity Council (RHEC) (CHW Committee) and a founding member of the Hawai'i CHW Network. She's a Board Member of the Hawai'i Institute for Public Health, an Advisory Board Member for 'Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, and serves as coordinator for the Hawai'i State Rural Health Association.

Kay Strawder, JD, MSW, is the Women’s Health Coordinator for the Region IX U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health. She has held this position since 1995. Ms. Strawder has a Bachelor’s in English and Sociology, a Master’s degree in Social Welfare and also holds an Advanced Health Care Administration Certificate. In addition, Ms. Strawder has a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. As a former Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, Ms. Strawder held the rank of Commander. She has worked in diverse federal programs such as community/migrant health centers, the National Health Service Corps, medical education, international health, and health services research.
Submitted Workshop Session Presenter Biographical Statements

**Diana Abeyta** is the tribal & northern liaison for the New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) Office of Community Health Workers (OCHWs). She has been instrumental in CHW policy development processes for the office. Ms. Abeyta has been lead in coordinating curriculum writing and development for CHW certification. She is a lead trainer in Stanford’s University’s “Chronic Disease Self-Management” curriculum, a lead trainer in the Indian Health Service’s “Honoring the Gift of Heart Health” curriculum, and also a CHW trainer on various subjects.

**Marcela Aguilar** is a senior manager with 20 years of experience leading health communication and social marketing programs for issues as varied as HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, eye health, and other key areas of public health. Her areas of expertise include strategy development, audience research, message and materials design and campaign management. She also specialize in leading capacity efforts for health professionals and other adult learners and has experience developing workshop curricula and materials facilitating training sessions.

**Maricela Babuca**, born in Mexico, came to the United States at the age of 10. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Business with a concentration in Management. She works as a Maternal Child Health Case Manager at Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales, Arizona. As a Case Manager, Babuca identifies, screens and enrolls prenatal/postnatal women in Santa Cruz County using program-specific risk assessment tools, developing a care plan for the mother and/or children that is the basis for education provided via scheduled home visits. In her current role she works with participants to develop healthy goals and individualized health education plans for themselves and/or their children.

**Edith Billy**, born in Mexico, came to the United States at the age of 13. Ms. Billy is a Maternal Child Health Case Manager at Mariposa Community Health Center. As a Case Manager, Ms. Billy performs tasks such as screening and enrolling eligible at-risk pregnant/post-partum women. She develops specific client care plans to promote optimal use of community-based family health education services. Billy is trained in the Parents as Teacher curriculum and possess certifications in CPR, First-Aid and as a Child Passenger Safety (CPS) Technician.

**Yaro Castro** is currently the Maternal & Child Health Manager for Mariposa Community Health Center in the US/Mexico border community of Santa Cruz County, Arizona. This work includes guiding a team of Community Health Workers/Promotoras de Salud to service to community. She has over a decade of experience working in prevention and intervention home visiting programs, in the capacity of Home Visitor and Program Director. Her experience consists of working closely with the child welfare system in prevention/reunification in-home services, and as adoption specialist.

**Ashley Damewood**, MS, graduated with a B.A. in Law and Policy from Dickinson College and an MSc in Human Rights from the London School of Economics. She has more than five years work experience in international development, project management, capacity building, grant writing, and monitoring and evaluation. She currently works for Partners In Health as a Program Officer for the Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment project based in Gallup, NM. She supports the development and implementation of program strategies that seek to improve American Indian/Alaskan Native health.

**Anita Duhl Glicken**, MSW, is an Associate Dean and Professor Emerita at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Her career has focused on creating innovative education and care delivery models grounded in collaboration across the healthcare workforce. Ms. Glicken has served in several national leadership roles; currently she is a program consultant to the National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health (NIIOH), and project leader of the Physician Assistant Oral Health Leadership Initiative, a profession-wide movement to integrate oral health into primary care. Most recently, Ms. Glicken was President/CEO of the NCCPA Health Foundation. She has authored over 50 publications in health care education, workforce and research.

**Tonya Funchess**, DHA, MPH, holds a Master’s degree in Public Health and a Master’s in Management. She also has a Doctorate Degree in Health Administration. Dr. Funchess serves as the Director for the Office of Health Disparity Elimination. Under her leadership, the Office of Health Disparity Elimination implemented the Community Research Fellows Training. It is an interactive program designed to teach community members to become better consumers of research. Additionally, the Office of Health Disparity Elimination focuses on policy and systems changes related to cultural competency.

**Bina Jayapaul-Philip**, PhD, works at the Division of Diabetes Translation, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She has a Ph.D. in sociology and has worked in Public Health for the past 15 years in Federal and State Government and in Federal Contracting. Dr. Jayapaul-Philip provides leadership for the Community Health Worker Work Group at CDC. The workgroup brings together staff from the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion as well as staff from other parts of CDC who are working with grantees implementing CHW interventions, conducting research and other related activities. She works collaboratively with other CDC staff to develop implementation guidance for CHW interventions, develop technical assistance to grantees.

**Ashley Martin**, MPH, Chief Strategy and Analytics Officer at MHP Salud has more than six years of experience implementing and managing CHW programs domestically and internationally. Internationally she has supported CHW programs in Nicaragua and Belize and has supported and managed CHW programs in the United States with Salud since 2012. Martin earned her Masters of Public Health with a dual concentration in International Health and Development and Maternal and Child Health from Tulane.
Gail McCray is a graduate of Brandeis University and University of Georgia. She is on the faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine, where she is engaged in community-based research and demonstration programs in cancer control, cardiovascular disease, hypertension control, and health literacy. Since surviving Multiple Myeloma in 2008, she has worked closely with local Myeloma support groups and the International Myeloma Foundation. In addition, she serves as a board member of the Georgia Society for Clinical Oncologists, is a founding member of the Georgia CHW, and has been involved in developing a standard CHW curriculum and training over 400 CHWs.

Nebloma Ouedraogo, MPH, (also goes by Anita) is originally from Burkina Faso (West Africa) but grew up in Ivory Coast and Senegal. She has a B.S. in Health Services Management from Howard University and is a recent graduate of Columbia University with a Master’s of Public Health. While at Howard she participated in a Spring Break Alternative program in Haiti that provided counselling and emotional support to women who had been raped or sexually assaulted after they were displaced by the 2012 earthquake. She is currently working with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Wellness of Sanofi on their CHWs efforts including the webinar series and the development of an electronic portfolio of evidence supporting the strength and positive impact on outcomes produced by CHW interventions.

Laurie-Marie Pisciotta works to increase awareness of NeedyMeds resources through facilitating various outreach, advocacy and educational efforts. She develops and maintains strategic partnerships with nonprofit organizations and communities that support NeedyMeds’ mission and oversees the NeedyMeds webinar program. Ms. Pisciotta is a social justice activist and works as an advocate in the nonprofit and medical sectors.

Cruselva Peña is a resident of the Rio Grand Valley in Texas where there is a high prevalence of Type II Diabetes. She works with the program Salud y Vida which is dedicated to improving the health of members in the community diagnosed with Type II diabetes. The program offers diabetes self-management education to the members of the community and motivates them to develop behavioral change objectives that lead to healthier lifestyles and a better control of their Type II diagnosis.

Richard J. Sagall, MD, is a retired family physician. He is the president and co-founder of NeedyMeds, a 501(c)(3) non-profit resource of information on programs that help people who cannot afford their medication and healthcare costs. After nearly 25 years in Family and Occupational Medicine, he now divides his time between NeedyMeds and Pediatrics for Parents, a children’s health newsletter for parents.

Julie St. John, PhD, is an assistant professor with the Department of Public Health, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and the Co-director of the MPH program. She founded the National CHW Training Center at Texas A&M School of Public Health. Julie is a Texas certified CHW Instructor, serves on the state CHW Advisory Committee, as APHA CHW Section council member, and has worked with the CHWs over 13 years utilizing CBPR and community health development approaches.

Sara Selig, MD, MPH, earned her MD from the University of Colorado and her MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health. She serves as the Associate Director for the Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment Project and the Director of Partners In Health’s US healthcare strategy. Dr. Selig is passionate about building and leading strong community coalitions. Dr. Selig has worked in Africa and the United States to improve the health of vulnerable populations by facilitating strong clinic-community linkages and strengthening interdisciplinary health teams using a patient-centered approach.

Susan Steppe, MSW, is a Licensed Advanced Practical Social Worker. She is currently the Program Director of Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital, Division of Community Health and Well-Being providing leadership as Project Director of CHAMP. CHAMP is a CMS Innovations grant to combat high-risk pediatric asthma in Memphis. CHAMP involves development of and asthma registry to track progress of patients and program outcomes. The model employs a multi-disciplinary team to provide medical care, community based education for families and school health staffs, home environmental assessments, linking back to primary care and supportive services provided by community health workers.

Kay Strawder, JD, MSW, is the Women’s Health Coordinator for the Region IX U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health. She has held this position since 1995. Ms. Strawder has a Bachelor’s in English and Sociology, a Master’s degree in Social Welfare and also holds an Advanced Health Care Administration Certificate. In addition, Ms. Strawder has a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree. As a former Commissioned Officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, Ms. Strawder held the rank of Commander. She has worked in diverse federal programs such as community/migrant health centers, the National Health Service Corps, medical education, international health, and health services research.

Ana Toro is a public relations practitioner with over 20 years of experience in journalism, communications and marketing. As a bilingual and bicultural professional, she has served the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health for the past 10 years, specializing in the US Hispanic market and other underserved, hard to reach, low income populations, including African Americans, Asian Americans, American Indians and Alaska Natives. She works with many national and grassroots organizations to deliver prevention messages to groups at risk, particularly in diabetes prevention and eye health.
Submitted Poster and Roundtable Session Presenter Biographical Statements

Kim Artis is a CHW, focusing on asthma, with Sinai Urban Health Institute in Chicago, Illinois. After leaving her corporate job, Ms. Artis found her passion in treating the underserved with compassion and providing them with hope. She loves spending time with her family and friends and enjoys listening to a wide variety of music.

Myrna Barker is currently a CHW with Oakhurst Medical Center’s Choose Health program, where she works with underinsured or uninsured patients to navigate through the healthcare system, connect to a medical home, and provide assistance with community resources. She previously worked with the Postal Service for 13 years, where she had the opportunity to touch countless lives, which inspired her to work with underserved communities. Ms. Barker is a proud single parent of two foster children and four biological children, is an active member of her church community, and has a future goal of completing a Masters in Social Work.

Laquita Benton recently started her career at United Way’s Choose Health program as a CHW. She is an alumnus of Hands on Atlanta AmeriCorps Schools program and United Way AmeriCorps Access Health, where she served as a patient navigator, case manager, and HIV/AIDS counselor and educator at Southside Medical Center. She recently pioneered the nonprofit organization Ubuntu, which provides resources and educational development to improve the well-being of the individuals she serves.

Andrea M. Clarke has been a Community Health Advocate at the Center for Community Health of the University of Rochester Medical Center for the past three years. She has worked in a variety of supportive roles at the University of Rochester including medical records, patient billing and being a medical secretary. She has also volunteered extensively within the Rochester community serving as a blood pressure ambassador where she helps to screen and educate patients about hypertension. She also volunteers for the American Heart Association and the Arthritis Foundation. She enjoys helping to promote health in the community.

Sony T. Cruel is a native of Augusta, Georgia with over twenty years of clinical social work experience at DeKalb Medical Center, University Hospital, and most recently Grady Memorial Hospital, where she serves as the interim director of Social Services. She received her Master of Social Work degree from Atlanta University. Sonya has specialized training in bereavement counseling, crisis intervention, grant writing, leadership and critical stress incident.

Alice Griggs-Miller is a Special Projects Officer IV with the Mississippi State Department of Health- Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative Project. As the faith-based initiative coordinator, Ms. Griggs-Miller works with churches in establishing and sustaining a Congregational Health Ministry. She also conducts Diabetes Self-Management Leader trainings and performs site visits. Ms. Griggs-Miller recently completed a T-Trainee Apprenticeship at Stanford University and upon facilitation of a 6 day Master Trainer Training, will be a certified T-Trainer operating under the license of Mississippi State Department of Health.

Michelle Hammond is a Health Coordinator Director and Community Health Worker for Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center in Easton, MD. She received her Bachelor of Arts from Liberty University in Health and Wellness. Ms. Hammond also works as a peer leader trainer for Stanford University’s Living Well Chronic Self Disease/Diabetes Management program. She is very passionate about her community’s challenges and strives towards bridging the gaps between health and the community.

Kelli Holloway serves as a CHW for the CHAMP program at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital, working with families primarily in their homes to provide the necessary medical and social supports to improve their asthma management. Ms. Holloway is from Memphis, TN, is a mother to three children, and is currently pursuing her Master of Social Work degree.

Tameka Ivory-Walls, MS, is currently a Bureau Director with the Mississippi Delta Health Collaborative (MDHC) of the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH). She received her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Master of Science in Environmental Science from Mississippi Valley State University and is currently pursuing a PhD in Public Health. She has facilitated alliances and collaborations with churches, healthcare systems, community-based organizations, policy-makers, and community health workers. Her research experience includes cancer, cardiovascular disease, and metabolic disease risk prevention in high-risk populations.

Tabatha Johnson serves as a CHW for the CHAMP program at LeBonheur Children’s Hospital. Ms. Johnson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology with a concentration in Behavioral Health from Christian Brother’s University. Her interests are primarily counseling, social services, community outreach, and working with non-profit organizations. Ms. Johnson will begin working on her Master of Social Work degree at Union University this fall.

Tracy Kennedy, JD, is an experienced attorney, project manager, and community advocate with a strong background in academia and public health. She is committed to establishing collaborative relationships among researchers, clinical professionals, and community partners to improve health care quality and outcomes.

Jamy Malone was born in Gallup, NM. Her Mother’s clan is Deer Water, her Father’s clan is English. She moved to Indiana to attend high school and college and majored in general studies. She then moved back to New Mexico and began taking classes at the University of New Mexico. She is currently the Training & Outreach Manager for COPE. She was excited to have the opportunity to begin working with COPE back in 2011 and is thrilled to be part of the amazing work COPE is doing in Navajo. She is especially passionate about working with the CHR program to improve the health status of the Navajo people and addressing the various needs for accessible health care in disadvantaged communities.
Anthony McClarn has served in a variety of leadership positions with nonprofits, government, and private corporations and has impacted the growth and success of community-based and public health organizations by building broad support networks that generated corporate, community, and human resources and financial support for the organizations. He is an experienced grant writer, public speaker, and lobbyist for diverse entities. Mr. McClarn holds a Masters in Public Administration from Tennessee State University and currently serves as the Community Health Worker at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia.

Gail McCray is a graduate of Brandeis University and University of Georgia. She is on the faculty at Morehouse School of Medicine, where she is engaged in community-based research and demonstration programs in cancer control, cardiovascular disease, hypertension control, and health literacy. Since surviving Multiple Myeloma in 2008, she has worked closely with local Myeloma support groups and the International Myeloma Foundation. In addition, she serves as a board member of the Georgia Society for Clinical Oncologists, is a founding member of the Georgia CHW, and has been involved in developing a standard CHW curriculum and training over 400 CHWs.

Thomasine “Thommie” Mungo resides in Atlanta, GA as a CHW in the Social Service/Behavioral Health field. Overcoming homelessness herself, she is passionate about working with the homeless and underserved and facilitates a weekly group with women in an Atlanta shelter focused on overcoming obstacles. Her interests and hobbies include journaling, reading, and long, fast-paced walks.

Katharine (Katy) Nimmons, MPH, MS is a Texas certified Promotora/Community Health Worker Instructor and the Director of the Center for Community Health Development’s National Community Health Worker Training Center at Texas A&M’s School of Public Health. Ms. Nimmons works with CHWs and CHW instructors on projects related to community outreach, health promotion, and CHW and community-based training. After graduating from Rice University in Houston, TX, the Atlanta native spent a year and a half working alongside CHWs in Central America and the Caribbean. She subsequently obtained a Master of Science in Gender Development Studies from the University of West Indies in Mona, Jamaica, and a MPH from the University of Texas School of Public Health. Ms. Nimmons thoroughly enjoys collaborating with CHWs across the state of Texas and across the country.

Thu Nguyen, MPH, serves as the Supervisor of Program Initiatives for the Helping Chicago’s Westside Adults Breathe and Thrive project. Prior to joining SUHI, she was an asthma educator and program coordinator for Respiratory Health Association, where she delivered asthma education to students, parents, and school staff in Chicago. She holds her Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences from University of California Irvine and MPH with an emphasis in Epidemiology from Loyola University in Chicago.

B. Denise Patton is a performance management consultant specializing in workforce development. Denise has been a Milwaukee AHEC CHW Workforce Consulting Partner since 2011. She has been responsible for the coordination and implementation of Milwaukee AHEC’s Community Health Worker competency-based training program, CHW employment placement and community engagement. Denise was involved in the launching of the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance (WICHWA) and serves on the curriculum & training and clinical/community integration action committees. As a consulting partner with Milwaukee AHEC Denise has been active in the coordination of the CHW Best Practices Conference 2012, the CHW Leadership Conference and coordination of the CHW Supervisor Training Series 2014.

Vernia Preer is a native of Atlanta, Georgia, where she serves as a CHW with the United Way of greater Atlanta’s Choose Health program. She provides case management for patients with chronic conditions by connecting them with appropriate medical homes and community resources, provides health education and patient advocacy, and implements home visits, assessments, and action plans. Ms. Preer obtained a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from GA State University and a Master of Public Health degree with a concentration in Health Promotion and Behavior from the University of Georgia. She enjoys working with at-risk populations and non-profit organizations to empower and enable communities to regain control over health issues that affect them.

Mia Lynn Rosario, is a tireless health education advocate, AIDS activist and a founding member of Tallahassee Hispanic Latino Professionals Entrepreneurs. She earned her Master’s degree in Social Work from Barry University while working in health institutions. Ms. Rosario collaborated and served in such organizations as: ACT-UP/Miami, The Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida Council, The Switchboard of Miami. In 1999, Ms. Rosario used her passion for AIDS education and prevention by working for the Broward County Health Department, AIDS Program Office. By 2006, she was promoted within the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Reporting Unit as a Case Manager for various counties throughout the state and has been headquartered in Tallahassee since. Ms. Rosario was again promoted in 2009 as the State’s Pediatric Surveillance Coordinator. Most recently Mia became one of Florida’s first Certified Community Health Worker for her work involvement with the South East American Indian Council / Oak Hill Tribal Village.

Taryn Rossi, CHES, is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a graduate of the State University of New York, The College at Brockport, with a degree in community health education. Her experiences with the University of Rochester have encompassed health promotion, program development, implementation, and evaluation, as well as disease prevention and management. As a healthy role model, she enjoys being a motivational team player in the help to improve the health of the Rochester community.

Tala Schwindt, MPH, assists in evaluating the Asthma Care Partners program, which is a comprehensive asthma management program for children and adults living with the disease whose asthma may not be well controlled. She previously worked as a research assistant for the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit, Michigan. Ms. Schwindt received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from Taylor University and MPH with an emphasis in Epidemiology and International Health from University of Michigan.
Constance Shephard, MSW, received her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Livingstone College and Master of Social Work from the University of Georgia. She is currently a PhD candidate in the Educational Foundations and Inquiry Program at the University of South Carolina, where her dissertation focus is CHW Programs in primary healthcare settings. She is also currently an instructor for the South Carolina Certified CHW Training Program for Midlands Technical College, and an adjunct instructor at the University of South Carolina’s College of Education and Social Work Programs. Her research interests include the intersection of education, social work, and social justice; culturally responsive pedagogy, interventions, and evaluation; multicultural education; and qualitative and community-based research.

Rosa Steen is currently a Research Associate at KDH Research and Communication. Previously, Ms. Steen was involved in the American Cancer Society, Making Strides against Breast Cancer and worked at Grady North Fulton Health Center, where she coordinated the integration of primary care and behavioral health services.

Carol West, MD, is an immigrant from South Africa, but has lived in Petaluma, California for the past 24 years. She is a community health worker at Santa Rosa Junior College, the founder of CHW Initiative of Sonoma County, and is a home visitor of the Petaluma Village Network for aging seniors. She is active with community grassroots organizing to advocate and find solutions to homelessness and is passionately committed to reducing disparities in social determinants of health and building strong, healthy communities.

Lynette Weathers, a US Army veteran, mother of two and a member of the Milwaukee Area Health Education Center (Milwaukee AHEC) staff since 2012. Lynette, Milwaukee AHEC CHW Project Specialist, is a graduate of the second class of the Milwaukee AHEC CHW “employer recognized” competency-based training program. Lynette has been responsible for assisting in the coordination and implementation of ten CHW classes and deployment of CHWs in paid and volunteer roles. During the past two years she has been coordinating the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance (WICHWA), Peer Exchange Network, mobilizing CHWs community-wide in collaboration with Milwaukee AHEC’s “Partners in Health.” Lynette is a Wisconsin certified “Lay Leader” teaching community members how to manage chronic conditions, implementing evidence-based education.

Carol Witcher, a graduate of the Milwaukee AHEC CHW “employer recognized” competency-based training program, class 3. Carol has been an active participant with the Wisconsin Community Health Worker Alliance (WICHWA) since its inception and currently serves on the WICHWA Advisory Council and the Public Awareness Action Committee. Carol is a Wisconsin certified “Lay Leader” teaching community members how to manage chronic conditions, implementing evidence-based education. She is also a lifestyle coach with the National Diabetes Prevention Program (CDC) and has been conducting workplace wellness classes for her former employer, Molina Health Care. Carol recently took on a new position with Independent Care Health Plan as a Community Health Worker/Coach.

Madeline Woodberry is a Community Health Educator for SUHI’s HUD-funded adult Asthma Program, Helping Chicago’s Westside Adults Breathe and Thrive, where she conducts home visits to provide asthma and healthy homes education to adults in her community. She was born in Morehead, Mississippi, but moved to Chicago as a young child. Ms. Woodberry has a strong passion for working with people in her community to help them grow in a positive manner.
Conference Staff

**The Center for Sustainable Health Outreach**
Dr. Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Director
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5122
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
(601) 266-6266
susan.johnson@usm.edu

**The Department of Public Health**
Brittany Bell
Selena Frederic
Brittany Howell
Eden Porterfield
MelaDec Young
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5122
Hattiesburg, MS 39402

**Institute for Disability Studies**
Dr. Rebekah Young
The University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5163
Hattiesburg, MS 39402
The Unity 2015 Conference

We would like to thank the following sponsors for their unparalleled support of Community Health Workers and the communities they serve:

Gold Sponsors

SANOFI

NeedyMeds

www.needymeds.org

Silver Sponsors

MARIPOSA

COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

Center for Health Impact™

MHP Salud

Bronze Sponsors

Community Resources, LLC

CHW NETWORK NYC

Community Health Worker Network of New York City

Le Bonheur

Methodist Healthcare Family Children’s Hospital

Special thanks to

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI