Community Health Workers-
Emerging Workforce for Rural Communities

Advancing Rural Health Systems Transformation Conference
November 10, 2016
Bangor, ME
Outreach

Mobile Health Services

Case Management

Health Education

Camp Health Aides

Social Services

Voucher Care
Harvest Regions

- *Broccoli
- *Blueberries
- *Apples
- *Wreath-Making
- *Egg Workers
- Tree Planting
- Potatoes

- *Indicates Harvest with CHA Program Implemented
CHWs at the center of MMHP’s Values
Community Health Worker

is a trained and trusted public health worker who is respected by the people they serve and applies his/her unique understanding of the experience, socio-economic needs, language and/or culture of the communities served to:

• Act as a bridge between providers and individuals to promote health, reduce disparities, and improve service delivery; and

• Advocate for individual and community needs
CHWs are uniquely equipped

They typically reside in the communities they serve, and share the same language; ethnic, cultural and educational background; and/or life experience

Adapted from NM Dept of Public Health presentation
CHWs: Core Roles

• Bridge the gap between communities and the health and social service systems
• Promote wellness by providing culturally appropriate health information to clients and providers
• Assist in navigating the health and human services systems
• Advocate for Individual and Community Needs
• Provide Direct Services
• Build Individual and Community Capacity
CHWs under Affordable Care Act

..... cites the use of CHWs as an effective way to improve health outcomes as part of a health care team while containing costs.

Operationalized by:
• Preventive Services
• Health Homes
• State Innovation Models

Requires Defining: education, training, experience, credentialing or registration of these providers; the state’s process for qualifying providers; and the reimbursement methodology.”

Affordable Care Act Opportunities for Community Health Workers, Katzen and Morgan, 2014
Evidence base for integration of CHWs

Contributions of CHWs:

- Improving health outcomes
- Supporting appropriate utilization of health care services
- Increased cost savings
  - Chronic disease support
  - Cancer screening
  - High risk or high consumers of health care services
Maine CHW Initiative: Pilot Projects

Maine General

Connection to Medical Home / Appropriate Care

Self Efficacy

Patient Experience

Medication Management

Connection to Cancer Screenings

DFD Russell

Chronic Disease Management

Spectrum / Seniors Plus

Portland Public Health

Maine CHW Initiative

Maine’s SIM initiative is a state-led, federally-funded public-private partnership that seeks to develop, accelerate and test a set of innovations to transform health care delivery and payment.
Impact – Capacity and Infrastructure

• Convening of CHW Stakeholder Group- 30 active members, 100 receive information Work completed to date:
  • Definition of CHW (2014)
  • Recruitment Guidance (2014)
  • Core Role and Responsibilities (2014)
  • Code of Ethics (2016)
  • Core Competencies (2015)
  • Standards for Qualifying CHWs (2015-present)
Impact – Workforce Expansion

- 37 CHWs and 19 supervisors completed core training under ME-SIM (November 2014/October 2015)
- Training in 2015 integrated draft core competencies
- Workforce model fills an emerging need by supporting clinicians practicing at top of license
- Focus on Population Health - Maine disparities, chronic conditions
- Involvement of CHWs in Capacity/Infrastructure Work of the Stakeholder Group
- Final SIM training will focus on CHW Trainers (September)
Impact: Selected findings from CHW Pilot Projects

Reduced ED utilization amongst PPH/MMPartner patients

Improved breast cancer screening rates among DFDR patients

The number of inappropriate ED visits decreased 62 percent, from 61 to 23 after CHW services

Breast cancer screening rate increased at DFDR

Baseline: 41.0%
End of Q6: 78.9%

JSI, Maine SIM Evaluation 2016
For More Information on CHWs

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