

Florida CHW Coalition
Monthly Meeting Notes
June 13, 2013

Attending: Cheryl Graham, Cinitra Williams, MR Street, Patria Alguila, Natali Ramirez, Sornia Joseph, Brendaly Rodriguez, Brittany McNaughton, Thometta Brooks, Lolita Dash-Pitts, Natoy Baker-Robinson, Denise Kerwin, Cheryl Kerr, Katie Ragan, Coni Williams, Josephine Mercado, Sean Dickerson, Tabitha Derencourt, Vivienne Treharne, Diane Holm, Linda Paige, Kamaria Lafferty, Lepena Reid, Susan Fleming, Marion Banzhaf

Patria Alguila, co-chair of the Coalition, began the meeting. There were some initial issues with the webinar access, which was resolved after about 10 minutes.

The May notes were reviewed, and Lolita moved and Sornia seconded that they be accepted. Marion said that as usual, if your name doesn't appear in the list of those attending, please let her know.

Sub-group Reports:

Networking/Sustainability Report:

Natali reported that we are ready for your input. Our UF partners are putting the finishing touches on the website and are waiting for us to put up content that will help our CHWs in the field. If we can offer good resources, such as knowing who are partners are, training opportunities, success stories, toolkits, and so much more, we can attract more members to our cause. We really need your input at this time to help market ourselves and get all the wonderful resources available out there to those who can really use them.

In the website you will see the contact names and emails of the people you can send your information to so it will be put up on the website. Our website will be as good as we make it so let's make it a great resource.

If you would like to add a dated event, like a webinar or a conference, you can either send it to Marion or to Natali and we will have Dee Snell put it up on the Facebook page. Thanks very much to Dee for setting up and running the Facebook page!

We are also asking for the organizations that are represented at the coalition to showcase themselves in our website. If you would like to be featured in the members page, please submit your logo, a brief description about yourselves, and your website. We are looking to showcase organizations that are active and participating in the subgroup committees and helping us promote the CHW field in our state.

This is a quick plug for those who would like to get more active to check out the sub-group calls where all the wonderful work we share at this meeting happens!

Policy Sub-Group:

Denise started by thanking all those who worked on educating their policy makers and reminded people that getting a bill passed often takes more than one year.

The summer is a really good time to educate policy makers about who CHWs are and what they do. Coalition members can make appointments with their elected officials while they are in town over the summer, away from the statehouse. Show the DVD, and talk about your project and let them know how many people you see and if you have a success story or two, go ahead and share that as well.

We had a general discussion about what a contingency plan could be – does the Coalition want to go ahead with the same bill again next year, or pursue another strategy? For example, following up with the Florida Board of Certification wouldn't require legislation. Regardless, it's still a good plan to educate the policy makers about CHWs and their value. The House members passed the bill, so if members can meet with only one person, try to get a meeting with your State Senator and/or their health aide. The Policy Subgroup will look at strategies to consider and report back.

Sornia Joseph secured a Proclamation from the Miami-Dade Office of the Mayor and County Commissioners recognizing the Florida CHW Coalition which will be presented at the Spanish Women's Health Leadership Institute in Miami on Thursday, June 19. Congratulations, Sornia! She is working on getting media to cover it too, and we can also put photos up on our Facebook page.

Curriculum/Practice:

The subgroup missed the May meeting due to a scheduling error, Marion apologized. The next meeting is June 27. We will return to the certification issue and discuss that some more. Cheryl reported that Pinellas County wants to develop a CHW curriculum, Denise has more details, but had to leave the meeting. We'll find out more about that.

Coni and Lolita reported that the South West Region CHW group, which formed following the WHLI last September, has received a grant! They convened a "meet and greet" session, and learned from attendees that they were interested in learning more about grant writing. Then they found a trainer to lead them in a workshop, and then they wrote and received a grant. The grant (FY 2013-2014) was obtained from Allegany Franciscan Ministries, to provide CHW training to female residents in Hillsborough and Pinellas counties. The grant/project is titled: Front Porch Community Health Workers Outreach Training Academy (C.H.W.O.T.A). The grant provides 10 hours of training to a minimum of 40 women (16 and over). Several training modules and activities were adopted from the Women's Health Leadership Institute (WHLI). Graduates of CHWOTA will receive a cash stipend and Certificate of Completion. Congratulations to all who made this happen!

Sornia submitted a poster which was accepted to the Michigan CHW conference happening in August. Congratulations, Sornia!

Sub-group meetings are where most of the work of the Coalition occurs – please join one (or more)! See the website for meeting dates and times.

Next meeting, July 11, 2013, 11 am