

## Florida CHW Coalition Monthly Meeting

February 13, 2014

Attending: Mary Gynn, Angella Wiggan, Lolita Dash-Pitts, Melissa Thibodaux, Natali Ramirez, Sean Dickerson, Denise Kerwin, Christina Roebing, Jevetta Stanford, Lynda Gowing, Maria-Teresa de Cespedes, Linda Paige, Camilla Reid, Ann Gentile, Faye Johnson, Cheryl Kerr, Mark Everett, Venessa Rivera Colon, Martha Hicks, Sornia Joseph, Marion Banzhaf

Marion Banzhaf, from the Florida Department of Health, convened the meeting. Patria Alguila, co-chair, is taking a much-deserved sabbatical for the month of February.

Marion announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Lolita Dash-Pitts and Melissa Thibodeaux moved and seconded that the January notes be accepted. Marion asked that people check that their attendance was noted.

**New co-chair:** Sean Dickerson announced that due to new school and work responsibilities, he would like to end his term as co-chair a little early (it was due to be over in June). The Coalition is fortunate that three people have accepted nominations to be co-chair! The Steering Committee will make a decision (they meet on alternate Tuesday mornings). Bios and nominating statements will be sent to the Steering Committee and they will vote. The majority vote getter will start on March 1. (Thank you to Sean for all his leadership over the past two years, he won't be leaving, just stepping down as co-chair.)

**Fiscal Agent update:** The Coalition is moving forward to choose a fiscal agent, which will allow the Coalition to start to do some fundraising. Three groups have offered to take on this role, and we have set up an interview team comprised of Natali Ramirez, Lisa Hamilton, Sean Dickerson, and Marion Banzhaf. Our goal is to announce the fiscal agent at the March meeting. Once we have established a fiscal agent, the Coalition will form a fundraising workgroup. Lolita asked about the role of the fiscal agent. The Coalition would still research and write any grant, but the fiscal agent is the essentially the bank account and the tax-exempt conduit for any monies the Coalition is able to generate. Mary Gynn announced that the Florida Nurse's Association is conducting a grant-writing webinar on March 5. It's free to FNA members, but otherwise costs \$10. Mary will send the info to Marion.

**Policy Subgroup update:** Denise reported on the CHW bill. SB306 went through its first Senate committee and passed after being slightly amended. The original version stipulated that three members of the Task Force would be appointed by the co-chairs of the CHW Coalition, but regular people aren't allowed to make appointments. The language now states that the Task Force will include "nine culturally and regionally diverse CHWs, appointed by the Surgeon General, three of whom will be recommended by the co-chairs of the FCHWC."

Denise reviewed the committee placements for the House bill, next in the House Quality subcommittee. Sean is still planning to go to Tallahassee, and other people are welcome too, but also remember that e-mails and phone calls to educate your policy makers also make a big difference in their understanding of the issues at hand. We will add links to the bills to the website.

Denise then thanked the new Policy Brief team, of Mark Everett, some of his students, Brendaly Rodriguez, Marion, and Marité de Cespedes for developing the bulletized policy brief. Going to bullet point format, and including research helps to hit home our points, is easy to read, and yet comprehensive. The second page provides more workforce development information, and more research. People can still make changes to the brief, just get in touch with Marion. (copy attached to these notes.)

**Curriculum/Practice:** Cheryl Kerr, Martha Hicks and Sornia Joseph are present (they are co-chairs of Practicum). Cheryl reported on the first meeting of the CHW Certification Implementation Team. The next step is to do a validation survey, we have been sent a beta-test, then there will be another meeting on February 19. It's going very well. Marion will send the survey out to the attendees of this call and last month's call. Please look for the survey and fill it out, we don't want just CHWs to fill out the survey, but also supervisors, and other people who work with CHWs.

Martha brought up that now CMS is able to reimburse for CHW preventive services. Marion explained that each state must amend its own State Plan to be able to be reimbursed. It can take some time to amend the state plan, so we're going forward with certification since that will probably be a requirement for reimbursement.

**Networking/Sustainability:** Natali Ramirez led the group in a Sustainability Quiz from the Center for Civic Partnership in California. See the power point presentation attached to these notes. The group showed a high level of understanding about the bigger picture of sustainability.

When you think of sustainability, what do you think of? People put forward: Survival, continue, thriving, money, funding, independence, partnerships.

Join the Networking/Sustainability subgroup! Networking meeting is Feb. 19.

**Group of the month: Health Council of South Florida.** Maria-Teresa de Cespedes presented for the HCSF. See the attached file. The HCSF has a lot of programs, Marité focused on those that affect the CHW Coalition the most. MD Health Action Network has over 2000 partners, and includes a CHW/PN Section, which Brendaly Rodriguez co-chairs. Marité created hyperlinks in the document, so please go check it out!

Next month will be the Heartland Rural Health Network.

Marion announced the Unity 2014 CHW conference registration is up as well as abstract submission. Marion will send out the link.

APHA abstract deadline extended to Feb. 16 for the annual conference in New Orleans.

Promoting Resilience conference in Hillsborough County, June 19 and 20, in Tampa.

Next meeting: March 13

