

Florida CHW Coalition Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 8, 2014 – 11am to 12 noon
Webinar & Conference Call

Attending: Denise Kerwin, Sornia Joseph, Sam Mooneyhan, Cheryl Kerr, Brian Kirk, Maria-Teresa DeCespedes, Faye Johnson, Colleen Reinert, Lisa Hamilton, Christine Hom, Angella Wiggan, Lolita Dash-Pitts, Amy Farrington, Fabio Quintero, Mary Gynn, Marion Banzhaf

11am - Meeting called to order by Marion Banzhaf:
Subgroup updates and new events:

1a) **Denise Kerwin** stated the bill did not get out of the Senate, although it did pass the House floor unanimously (for the second time, it passed the House last year as well. Sean Dickerson was working to see if the bill could get tagged onto another bill but that didn't happen. We will see what happens in November with the election.

1b) **Marion** stated work is being done on the SPA (State Plan Amendment) Ruling on reimbursement for CHWs and others working in community preventive services, as ordered by a physician. **Marité** will send the correct Federal Register link to Marion. There is a small working group on the SPA, which is tasked with making the business case for where the money would come from in your SPA. Mark Everett, Linda Carmona-Sanchez, and Marité de Cespedes are on the working group.

Mark Everett couldn't attend today, but sent an e-mail saying he had attended a Florida Blue event where he met Roderick King who is now with the Florida Public Health Institute, formerly with PHI in NY. He might be a good addition to that working group. Other people who are interested in being part of that working group are welcome.

The Policy group is also seeking a co-chair, so if you would like to do that, please get in touch!

2a) Networking Subgroup:

Thank you to Natali Ramirez for all her work as co-chair of the Networking Subgroup. She has been promoted to another position. Melissa Thibodeau from the Heartland Rural Health Network will take the co-chair position as of June 2014.

3a) **The Summit** will be July 17 and 18, 2014. The flyer is available on the Coalition website. www.floridachw.org

On July 17, the topic is, "Coalition Members Strategic Planning" (limited registration).

On July 18, the topic is, "Plenaries, Lunch, Workshops, Come one, Come All."

Workshops will be on Grant Writing, Developing Community Advocacy Skills, Training CHWs using Popular Education, Understanding Research and Incorporating CHWs into Research, Supervising CHWs: what creates good relationships, which will be a roundtable. There will also be a report on the Strategic Planning and on why we are on certification.

Thank you to all who are working consistently to plan the Summit (Patria Alguila, Colleen Reinert, Lisa Hamilton, Lolita Dash-Pitts, Sornia Joseph, Brendaly Rodriguez, Melissa Thibodeau, Cheryl Kerr, Denise Kerwin). If you are interested in participating in planning the summit, feel free to join the bi-weekly conference call.

3b) The next Networking meeting will be May 21. Some people will be at the UNITY conference in Baltimore, Maryland. Representing Florida will be Colleen Reinert and another colleague from MHP, and representing the Coalition will be Lolita Dash-Pitts, thanks to the generous support of MHP. Lolita thanked everyone and promised to make a report on her return from the conference.

4a) Curriculum/Practice Subgroup:

Cheryl Kerr reported on the upcoming meeting on June 3 to review CHW core competencies as we work toward a certification process for CHWs. Our monthly meetings will be educational opportunities. This month will be on May 29, Working with People with Disabilities, presented by Susan Redmon. The June one will be on June 26 and will mark the beginning of hurricane season. The webinar is titled “Special Needs Centers & Shelter Disaster Preparedness & Evacuation” presented by Martha Hicks from the Florida Department of Health in Escambia County. If you have an idea for a webinar, let Marion know.

4b) **Amy Farrington** with the Florida Certification Board, a not-for-profit organization, is compiling the Core Competencies and Code of Ethics for CHWs. The FCB is looking at the initial certification standards and involved in developing the CHW certification exam. We will also discuss a grandparenting process and the time period for grandparenting. Developing a grandparenting process is part of certifying any new group of people, and allows for those who have been working without a certificate to be able to document their level of expertise in the field through an agreed-upon mechanism. It’s a standard practice, and will be available for a six months to a year. The validation study will be the way an exam is developed. The Coalition is involved in all aspects of the process for CHW certification. More information is available at www.flcertificationboard.org. They certify 32 different credentialed professions, about 28,000 people under their umbrella. They provide a Code of Ethics and a way to enforce that so that the public is protected.

5a) **Fundraising Committee** – report was given by Lisa Hamilton and Lolita Dash-Pitts. Lisa contacted the Florida office of Humana for Summit donations. We are outside of their corporate grant period (November-January), but if anyone has contact with a Florida Humana rep, since the request is under \$10,000, the rep might have discretionary funds they could allocate. If you have a contact with Humana, please let Lisa know! She also contacted WellPoint and their Community Office. Lolita introduced the concept of a 50/50 raffle to take place at the Summit and Colleen suggested the sale of pins or bumper stickers. Summit donations are to be sent to the Health Council of South Florida, the Coalition’s fiscal agent. Members are welcome to join the Fundraising Committee.

5b) Sornia Joseph from the Jessie Trice Community Health Center in Miami gave a very comprehensive presentation about the functioning of the Center, how many people it serves annually, etc. Founded in 1967, it has grown from providing services from one trailer to now supporting 16 facilities, 6 comprehensive primary centers, and 20 school based clinics. Sornia included the full details of the provision of comprehensive care provided at the Center.

Marion made a number of announcements about upcoming trainings, which will be available on the website. See www.floridachw.org for details.

12:00pm - Meeting adjourned.

Thanks to Mary Gynn for note taking!