

Florida CHW Coalition Policy Group Meeting, 9-6-13

Attending: Denise Kerwin, Marite de Cespedes, Cristy Hum, Carolyn Tucker, Susan Fleming, Marion Banzhaf

Marion reported on the Summit: 122 registered, registration over at COB today! Our goal was 100.

Denise reported on Proclamations: 2 in Pinellas County, city of Largo, city of Pinellas Park

Marite reported on the MD-HAN CHW Summit. MD-HAN and the Health Council of So Florida had hoped to be able to say more about the health insurance exchanges, and planned the symposium with the CMS Aug. 15 navigator announcements in mind. But the Health Council was not awarded CMS navigator funds unfortunately. As of Aug 19, they had 86 registered, but 100 people attended.

In 2012, they did not do last minute planning, and 30 days in advance, they had only 62 people registered, but 100 attended. There was intense rain the morning of this year's symposium -- If the rain hadn't happened, there probably would have been more than 100 attendees. There were 2 training sessions, concurrently in English, Spanish, and Creole, which was offered for the first time. The CHW Section Co-Chair is Berta Rios, and she facilitated one of her Creole speaking patient navigators. Teresa Nino from CMS came to give an update about exchanges, and Brendaly Rodriguez talked about the CHW Coalition. Marite received 67 evaluations, which was a great return rate.

Carolyn asked what the goals of the meeting were. Marite said they were to give as much info as possible about health insurance marketplace, goal was 100 people, more than 50% evaluations, what was the interest in this group for being certified as insurance assisters, so that training could be offered.

At least 15-16 expressed interest in becoming insurance assisters.

This was the third symposium, and it was great to have people say, "see you next year", because the symposium gets established as a community event.

In 2011, MD-HAN started to link different CHWs in M-D county. In the second year, more training was provided through Venus Gines.

The M-D HAN CHW Section has the same mission, to strengthen the profession, goals are aligned with the statewide Coalition. CMS offered training in fraud detection.

The Symposium opened with the CHW DVD.

Christy Hom, Florida Public Health Institute. The Institute highly values the work that CHWs do. The Public Health Institute came together about 20 years ago to address some of the key public health issues that government couldn't address. Florida Public Health Institute has been around for 7 years. They focus on workforce work, oral health, needs assessment, and health assessment. They are funded by Denti-quest to do a Systems Change Initiative on Oral Health 2014, doing work on oral health literacy, medical-dental collaborations, dental and primary care work together. This year's project will begin on consumer engagement, to work with leaders to form a roadmap for an oral health plan. Many different

plans – DOH, Oral Health Coalition, corrective action planned from CMS. Lowest access numbers for children on Medicaid in the country. Around 74% of kids on Medicaid are not getting oral health care. They are working with other stakeholders, but children on Medicaid are a major focus. When policy makers form plans, are they really in touch with the community? The Institute wants to go out into communities to form relationships. The first step is to form an action team, and they would like at least one representative from the Coalition on the core team. This will be first consumer engagement initiative, then expand it to other areas. What specific roles will CHWs be playing in this initiative? There are two main issues – low level of reimbursement and shortage of dentists.

Role of CHWs – want to have people help plan, working side by side developing the plan, in the best situation, have CHWs who have relationships implementing the plan.

At this point, there is no funding for paid positions. Dr. Roderick King, Executive Director of the Florida Public Health Institute, has the vision that the Institute and CHWs could work together.

Oral Health Coalition Leadership Council, those are huge issues, but there are other issues, like not being able to get through a Medicaid line. Want to get some numbers about what kind of philanthropy dentists are engaged in—how many volunteer their services? There is a shortage, not accurately portrayed in Medicaid list. Another issue is the reimbursement for mid-level dental professionals to provide some services.

Carolyn raised that CHWs need to be compensated, want to work at policy level to insure that.

Marion invited Cristy to attend the monthly CHW Coalition meeting and present her initiative so that people could volunteer if they wanted to.

Denise found out that St Pete College will be involved through the CMS grant that the Pinellas County Commissioners received. They will be meeting with the people at Moffitt and USF, since they don't want duplicate services. St Pete College will provide some in-kind space. Pinellas has a minimum of 17,000 uninsured people who could enroll. They are working on doing some training for the insurance enrollers.