

**Florida CHW Coalition
Practiculum Subgroup Meeting
January 24, 2013**

Attending:

Cheryl Kerr

Colleen Reinert

Natoy Baker-Robinson

Susan Redmon

Vivienne Treharne

MR Street

Peter Willens

Dana Kontras

Coni Williams

Marion Banzhaf

Cheryl Kerr began by going over the chart she sent out comparing the Department of Education's requirements for a Family Support Worker-ATD (applied technology diploma) certification with what Dapic Consulting had compiled. The comparison showed that the Core Competencies identified by Dapic Consulting are consistent with the curriculum approved by the DOE. Additionally, the other numbers are the rankings provided by the 64 sample survey we distributed at the CHW program in Miami in December 2012.

Coni Williams brought up the on-line training webinar that Talance software conducted on Tuesday 1/22, which is based on Massachusetts' curriculum and is open-sourced. A number of people participated in the webinar (Marion had sent out the notice), and we discussed some of its pros and cons. The pros are that it is concise, complete, can be tailored to any state's particular needs, and that it supports both visual and audio learning styles. The cons are that it costs about \$30,000 to establish the software package for your state, and if you continue to use their trainers, you will incur those costs (about \$175/class).

We discussed that investing in that on-line curriculum would be more feasible 1) if Florida were ready to offer jobs to CHWs on a more systematic scale, and 2) if we didn't already have curriculum programs such as that offered at St Pete College. We clarified that even if we are talking about certification, we are not conflating that with a "license", and that lay people can still be certified while maintaining their community ties.

A sample framework might be the certification used for “addiction specialists”, one level includes no academic degree, but a specified number of hours engaged in training, the next level requires more training, and the third level requires a degree. Cheryl will write up a rough framework based on the addiction model for our consideration.

Marion reminded people that one of the reasons we are doing this work is to provide the “statewide CHW Taskforce” which would be established if the bill filed in the legislature passes, with background and recommendations on curriculum.

Everyone thought that surveying the entire Coalition on the core competencies and scopes of practice would provide more weight about the level of consensus, especially if a statewide legislatively-mandated Task Force is formed.

Susan Redmon wondered if a module focusing on working with people with disabilities could be added to the CHW curriculum, and everyone thought that was a good idea. She will look into what exists and let us know.

Marion raised that the topic of credentialing is another conversation. She will send out a short piece that Carl Rush wrote about the basics of credentialing as a starting place for the discussion.

This subgroup will meet on the 4th Thursday of the month, (changed from the 3rd so as not to conflict with another standing meeting) from 3-4 pm. The next meeting will be on February 28.

Also, here is an UPDATE FROM INDIANA (which was considering using the on-line training, but decided not to), sent out by Brendaly Rodriguez for the group’s consideration/discussion. Marion has also e-mailed her counterparts in Indiana, so will share whatever she learns about their process as well:

To All (Indiana) Community Health Workers and CRSs:

Through a joint effort of the Indiana Community Health Worker Coalition, the Indiana State Department of Health, the Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction, and Affiliated Service Providers of Indiana, Inc. (ASPIN) a **Community Health Worker Curriculum and certification process will be developed through funding from the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD)**. The curriculum, testing process, and training of instructors must be completed and approved by August 31, 2013. Therefore, the curriculum development process will require intensive attention within the next few months. At this

time, we are seeking a small number of dedicated and experienced Community Health Workers/Certified Recovery Specialists to serve on the Curriculum Committee. The Committee will meet alternate Thursdays in Indianapolis from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. EST. In addition, some assignments and/or subcommittee meetings between meetings are likely. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please send an email expressing your interest to Martha Levey (mlevey@aspin.org) by Tuesday, FEBRUARY 5.

For those who are interested, but who are not able to commit to the meeting schedule, the progress of the Curriculum Committee will be reported within the Community Health Worker monthly Coalition Meetings so that feedback may be obtained from the larger group as the process unfolds.