Rural Arizona CHW Workforce Development Network

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Executive Director
The Rural Arizona CHW Workforce Development Network

Is a statewide network established in 2018. Arizona’s CHW workforce is largely comprised of Promotores de Salud that serve Hispanic/Latino communities and Community Health Representatives (CHR) that serve 19 of Arizona’s 21 tribal communities.
CHW strengthening efforts in Arizona

- Arizona is establishing a CHW voluntary certification process that will go live in 2020
- CHWs should be a greater part of health care transformation in Arizona
- CHWs can contribute to value-based reimbursement and other financing mechanisms
- Rural CHWs that live and work in rural areas need for capacity building and technical assistance to be part of the triple aim.
Network members include 13 organizations from 5 of Arizona’s 7 rural counties:

* 2 county health departments
* 2 federally qualified health centers
* 2 tribal health departments
* 1 area health education center
* 1 migrant farmworker nonprofit
* Arizona’s state health department
* 2 university-based research centers
* 1 Medicaid-contracted health plan
* 1 statewide American Indian health advocacy organization
Goal of network is to assess needs and address gaps that increase the effectiveness of CHWs in care coordination. The integration of primary care and behavioral health in rural areas is critical to health care transformation and value-based reimbursement in rural Arizona.

**Objectives** for the planning grant year include:

- 1. Assess rural CHW training needs regarding care coordination and behavioral health integration
- 2. Identify and/or design training to meet the needs
- 3. Develop a strategic plan on how to enhance and sustain rural CHW capacity-building services.
• Provide technical assistance to rural organizations that wish to be a state-certified CHW training program.
• Provide training for CHWs via an annual conference.
• Provide training for CHWs via at least x number of training opportunities in rural Arizona.
• Serve as the CHW training and TA leader to keep pace with advancements in the national CHW workforce movement.
• Build upon the AHCCCS contracted health plan survey to assess needs of other public and private health care providers in AZ.
• Develop training programs for health care providers on how to incorporate CHWs into team-based health care.
• Develop CHW supervisor training approved codes for health care entities that use CHWs.
• Provide technical assistance to health care providers that use or wish to use CHWs.
  • Learn what other states have approved codes and how they achieved that.
  • Learn what other professions in AZ have approved reimbursable codes.
  • Establish certain codes for services billable by CHWs.
The Network’s plans beyond the one-year planning grant address the three areas critical for Arizona’s rural CHWs to contribute to the triple aim.
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