


CHW DEFINITIONS ACROSS THE NATION 2016

 - substantive variations to APHA definition


1. APHA

“A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A community health worker also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.”

<https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers>

2. CHW ASSOCIATION OF CT - approved 3/19/2014

“A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of,  and ability to communicate with the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary among the community, health and social services to facilitate access to resources and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.”

3. MASSACHUSETTS

Community Health Workers (CHWS) are public health workers who apply their unique understanding of the experience, language and/or culture of the populations they serve in order to carry out one or more of the following roles:

- Providing culturally appropriate health education, information and outreach in community-based settings, such as homes, schools, clinics, shelters, local businesses, and community centers;
- Bridging/culturally mediating between individuals, communities and health and human services, including actively building individual and community capacity;
- Assuring that people access the services they need;
- Provide direct services, such as informal counseling, social support, care coordination and health screenings; and
- Advocating for individual and community needs.

http://www.machw.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25&Itemid=131

4. MAINE

A trained and trusted public health worker who is respected by the people they serve and applies his/her unique understanding of the experience, socio-economic needs, language and/or culture of the communities served to:

- Act as a bridge between providers and individuals to promote health, reduce disparities, and improve service delivery; and
- Advocate for individual and community needs

https://www.mainequalitycounts.org/image_upload/Definition%20and%20Role%20031714.pdf

5. RHODE ISLAND

Community Health Workers are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of the community they serve.

This trusting relationship enables them to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural **responsiveness** of service delivery.

Community Health Workers build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as **engagement**, community education, social support and advocacy.

<http://www.health.ri.gov/materialbyothers/CommunityHealthWorkerJobAnalysisAndStandards.pdf>

6. TEXAS

A person who, with or without compensation is a liaison and provides cultural mediation between health care and social services, and the community. A promotor (a) or community health worker: is a trusted member, and has a close understanding of, the ethnicity, language, socio-economic status, and life experiences of the community served. A promotor (a) or community health worker assists people to gain access to needed services and builds individual, community, and system capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, patient navigation and follow-up, community health education and information, informal counseling, social support, advocacy, and participation in clinical research.

http://www.dshs.texas.gov/mch/chw/Community-Health-Workers_Program.aspx

7. FLORIDA

A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a frontline health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy. **Some activities performed by the CHW include providing information on available resources, providing social support and informal counseling, advocating for individuals and community health needs, and providing services such as first aid and blood pressure screening. They may also collect data to help identify community health needs.**

[http://file.cop.ufl.edu/pop/CHW%20Website%20\(fr%20desktop\)/Taskforce%20Face%20to%20Face%20Mtg/Current%20Status%20-%20Community%20Health%20Worker%20Coalition.pdf](http://file.cop.ufl.edu/pop/CHW%20Website%20(fr%20desktop)/Taskforce%20Face%20to%20Face%20Mtg/Current%20Status%20-%20Community%20Health%20Worker%20Coalition.pdf)

8. MINNESOTA

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are trusted, knowledgeable frontline health personnel who typically come from the communities they serve. CHWs bridge cultural and linguistic barriers, expand access to coverage and care, and improve health outcomes. As critical links between their communities and the health care system, CHWs reduce health disparities; boost health care quality, cultural competence and affordability; and empower individuals and communities for better health.

<http://mnchwalliance.org/who-are-chws/definition/>

9. **New England CHW Coalition** presents this definition for adoption by the Dept. of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics – September 2016:

Promotes health within a community by assisting individuals to adopt healthy behaviors and access services. Serves as an advocate for individual and community health needs. Assists community residents to communicate effectively with healthcare and social service providers as a trusted member of or with close knowledge of the community served. Assists providers to improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery by building capacity to address social factors

that undermine health. Conducts outreach, implements programs, and provides services including education and informal counseling to promote, maintain, and improve individual and overall community health. May deliver public health and healthcare related preventative services in clinical and/or community settings. Excludes “Health Educators.” (21-1091).

The New England Community Health Worker Coalition (NE CHWC) was established in 2012 and is a network of CHWs, CHW allies, stakeholders, and others, with participation from all six New England states, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

10. DRAFT CONNECTICUT CHW Definition – based on previous discussions

“A Community Health Worker (CHW) is a front line public health worker who is a trusted member of, and **has a unique understanding of the experience, language/culture, and socioeconomic needs** of the community served. A CHW serves as liaison/intermediary between **individuals, communities and health and social services** to facilitate access to care and improve the quality and cultural responsiveness of service delivery. CHWs build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of **culturally appropriate** services such as outreach and **engagement**, education and informal counseling, advocacy, **care coordination**, **basic screenings and assessments**, and research and evaluation.”