

Community Health Worker Project at Hunter College Project Update 5/23/02

Labor Market Survey

With Ed Salsberg of the Center for Health Workforce Studies in Albany we have developed two survey tools and begun to field-test them with employers of CHWs. 1) a short fax back survey to be sent to our entire CHW program database and 2) a longer in-depth survey to be conducted with a sample of 20 CHW employers from a range of health care sectors including city or state agencies, community-based organizations, managed care organizations, hospitals and neighborhood health centers. We are attaching copies of both surveys for your information.

In addition, we held very productive meetings with Directors of Community Services and Case Management at the New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute. They provided useful information about the hundreds of NYC outreach workers funded by their programs. They have also offered to send out the survey to all of their programs and invited us to present information about our project at a New York City providers meeting.

They were very supportive of the concept of comprehensive, core competency training for CHWs and felt that it would be of great benefit to the programs they serve.

Based on our success with the AIDS Institute, we are planning similar discussions with the Community Health Care Association of New York State (CHCANYS), the Greater New York Hospital Association and the New York State Department of Health Perinatal Consortia.

College Supported CHW Education

We have met with Carlos Molina, Dean of Academic Affairs at Hostos Community College, to discuss a strategy for moving forward with our proposal for an academic partnership between Hunter & Hostos to create a credit-bearing educational program for CHWs. On May 20th we will be meeting with Rosa Gil of CUNY Central, who is the liaison between CUNY campuses, to develop an approach to this partnership. One strategy that we are exploring is that of beginning the training program in the continuing education department at the same time as we are working to develop a credit-bearing curriculum and moving our proposal through the academic channels.

The proposed National Dissemination grant application to the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) that we have discussed in previous project reports unfortunately will not be going forward at this time.

CHW Advocacy

The CHW Network of NYC continues to meet monthly with active participation from new members and organizations growing at each meeting. Efforts to incorporate the Network as a non-profit 501c3 is proceeding smoothly with the help of an attorney from Legal Services. *Outreach NYC 2002*, the first NYC Conference of CHWs will be held on Tuesday, June 18th. The Network has identified workshop themes and invited keynote speakers to this event, which is expected to draw over 200 CHWs from all over the city. We have attached a flyer for the conference FYI.

New Advisory Committee Members

We would like to welcome new advisory committee members Ikoli Ilongo, Assistant Professor at Hostos Community College; Cecilia Iglesias-Garden from El Puente in Brooklyn, and Roger Hayes of Community Healthworks at the New York City Department of Health.

Project Funding

Initial funding for this project from the United Hospital Fund Special Grants Fund will be ending in June 2002. We are pursuing several potential sources of future funding for the project including:

- Health Workforce Retraining Act Funding (HCRA) through a NYSDOH Request for Applications due August 2, 2002.
- New York Community Trust
- United Hospital Fund (October cycle)
- "Earmark" funding through the office of Rep. Carolyn Maloney (we were invited to submit a request after making a trip to Wash. D.C. to meet with her legislative aide)

The next meeting of the CHW Project Advisory Committee will take place on Tuesday, June 11th at 9:30 AM at the Hunter College Brookdale Campus. We will be sending out an agenda prior to the meeting.

Thank your for your continued interest in and support of this project.