MARYLAND'S COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM: LOOKING FORWARD

Developing Specialty Certifications for Priority Public Health Areas

Bridging the gap between academics and practice
What is a community health worker (CHW)?

“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 between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.”

~American Public Health Association, 2019
MDH Community Health Worker Certification Program

1. Advocacy and community capacity building skills
2. Effective oral and written communication skills
3. Cultural competency
4. Understanding of ethics and confidentiality issues
5. Knowledge of local resources and system navigation
6. Care coordination support skills
7. Teaching skills to promote health behavior change
8. Outreach methods and strategies
9. Understanding of public health concepts and health literacy
Project: Develop specialty certifications for MD CHWs

How to address MDH's priority population health concerns?
- diabetes
- hypertension
- infant mortality
- opioid epidemic
- HIV/AIDS

other states

related professions
Key project considerations

- Existing Maryland law and regulations
- Evidence-based methods
- Efficient use of agency resources
- Minimize CHW barriers
Chronic disease specialty certification

- Diabetes & obesity focus
- Hypertension, cardiovascular disease & stroke focus

Chronic Care Model
Chronic Care Professional Health Coach
ADCES Diabetes Paraprofessional Levels 1 & 2
CDC’s CHW Training Resource for Preventing Heart Disease and Stroke
Mental & behavioral health specialty certification

Substance & opioid misuse focus

Wellness Recovery Action Plan ® (WRAP®)

Mental Health First Aid

Maryland’s Opioid Misuse Prevention Program evidence-based strategic plan activities

Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery Recovery Coach Academy

Rhode Island's and Indiana's specialty models
Infectious disease specialty certification

HIV/AIDS focus

Pandemic preparedness and response

Target HIV
Georgetown University’s Center for Global Health Science and Security
IMPaCT: Penn Center for Community Health Workers
Concluding and reflecting...
THANK YOU

Kim Hiner and Tina Backe
at MDH’s OPHI

PHASE Program Staff

Fellow “PHASERS”