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[www.chw-nec.org](http://www.chw-nec.org)

## Message from the Co-directors: *Program Update*

by *Don Proulx and E. Lee Rosenthal*

As we enter the final phase of the FIPSE-funded CHW-NEC project, we look for opportunities to continue this national collaborative in a manner that can nurture and expand national community of practice conversations and the continuing dissemination of important lessons learned. The continuing dissemination of key considerations for educational and/or training institutions to be as responsive as feasible to the character and needs of the CHW workforce and the nation's developing and/or expanding CHW networks is our continuing mission.

In this third year of FIPSE's planned support, we are completing additional advances in the project's national advisory council's efforts to document instructive models of excellence for educational institutional responsiveness that best serve CHWs and their employers...these examples of models of practice are included on the CHW-NEC website for broad dissemination in support of those wishing to tailor education/training to the unique character and demands of the nation's growing CHW workforce. Community health workers are critically important members of our health and

human services team, who reach the most needy, disadvantaged, resource-poor and otherwise socio-economically disenfranchised neighborhoods.

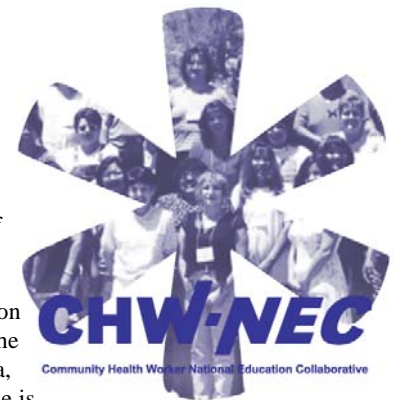
We are also completing important national Technical Assistance (TA)/training workshops, supported by the FIPSE-funded CHW National Education Collaborative; these workshops are for postsecondary faculty and others who are preparing curricula and supporting the continuing education needs of CHWs. The workshops in this third year have included Texas and Florida...more project regional site support is planned for Connecticut and Oregon before the end of the final phase of this national initiative.

The project website continues to expand its holding of TA training materials, and DVDs, as well as important links to related resources for CHWs, faculty, trainers, health and human service partners and employers. The staff members, national advisory council members and consultants are continuing to disseminate the project's work and support in national venues by presenting the project's findings and recommendations relating to

key considerations and the most promising practices identified for the success of credit and non-credit responsive curricula.

A CHW-NEC presentation is being made this May at the CSHO conference in Tampa, and tied to this CSHO venue is a CHW-NEC project TA/training workshop for the Florida colleges and their partners. A CHW-NEC project presentation has also been accepted for the annual conference of the National Network of "Two-Year" Colleges with Allied Health Programs; this is otherwise known as the "NN2" Annual Conference. This year the NN2 is being held in October in Cincinnati, Ohio.

We remain hopeful that the now well established CHW-NEC partnership will continue well beyond FIPSE funding to advance the CHW field by promoting CHW leadership recognition and the CHW voice of competence for advancing themselves as critical contributing members of the health care and human services team...increasing access to culturally appropriate and quality care and reducing health disparities to improve the health of our nation's most underserved people. \*



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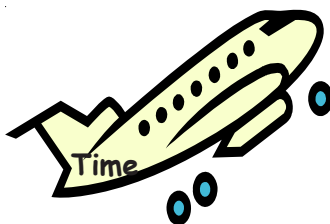
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## Project Evaluation Corner

by Linda Scheu, Program Evaluator

**T**ime is flying by and before we know it another year will have ended. Since this is the last year of the grant, it is extremely important to find out what has been happening at each institution in terms of starting or strengthening CHW educational programs. We need to collect this information so we may report back to FIPSE on the achievement of the project's goals and objectives, successes and barriers, and unintended consequences or outcomes. How does the project intend to do that? Through an on-line inventory similar to the inventory each partner institution filled out at the initiation of the grant and through phone interviews. It is anticipated that the inventory will be made available for completion in early summer and phone interviews scheduled for the latter summer months and into the fall. The project sincerely appreciates your efforts in helping fulfill the evaluation requirements and is looking forward to seeing how every partner institution has changed over the past three years. \*



## A CHW's View of CHW-NEC: From a CHW-NEC Advisory Council Co-chair

by Durrell Fox

**O**n behalf of the Advisory Council of the CHW-NEC, I want to welcome you to the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this newsletter. I also want to extend greetings on behalf of my co-chair, Yvonne Lacey, who has been a CHW for approximately three decades, and I acknowledge her past and continued work on behalf of CHWs.

I recall the journey of the original concept paper for a national CHW training and education model that, within a few years, became the CHW-NEC. As we end the first three year funding cycle of the CHW-NEC, the Advisory Council is looking to continue to be a group that is able to connect with and inform CHW training and education programs across the country. We have been building relationships with the CHW-NEC Technical assistance and adapter colleges and universities. A complete

list of the Advisory Council and CHW-NEC partner institutions can be found on the project's website at [www.chw-nec.org](http://www.chw-nec.org).

The Advisory Council has identified 10 key considerations that fall under seven Promising Practice areas organized around key steps in the development of a CHW program (these were all listed in the last edition of this newsletter). One of the overarching key considerations prioritizes the integration of CHW leadership at all levels in program planning, implementation, and evaluation. We feel this will provide the strongest foundation for creating a truly responsive CHW training and education program. The Advisory Council notes that advocacy to assure educational program sustainability and to promote the needs of communities served by

CHWs should be anticipated by all CHW educational programs.

During the next few months the Advisory Council will be teaming up with CHW-NEC staffers to develop a list and examples of the Council's "key considerations in action." During April and May we will be completing structured interviews with key stakeholders to develop documentation of key considerations in action. The key considerations are evident at the core of any effective CHW centered and driven training and educational program. These considerations embrace practices that support CHW leadership and development. The considerations also contribute to successful training programs not just in the view of CHWs but also in the views of our allies, partners, faculty, and academic partners/administrations.

Please continue to support us and stay tuned as we prepare a strong finish this year, the final year of this project cycle. We look forward to sustaining some of the efforts begun by the CHW-NEC, and the advisory council looks for your input on how we can continue to assist, inform, and guide CHW training and education efforts in this country. \*

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