

American Association of Community Health Workers* UPDATE

PREMIER ISSUE

DECEMBER 2006

GET INVOLVED!

Each subcommittee needs new members to help make important decisions!

Subcommittees typically have monthly conference calls lasting no more than one hour, and participation is open to both CHWs and partners!

• To join the Vision/Bylaws or Membership/Outreach Subcommittees, contact Valerie Madamba at vam5@law.georgetown.edu or 925.518.6090

• To join the Policy Subcommittee, contact Matthew Justice at mcj24@law.georgetown.edu or 703.585.1232

CHWs Making Strides in Building a National Organization

Community health workers and their partners all across the country are making fast progress towards establishing the first national organization of CHWs and CHW organizations. On September 15th and 16th, CHWs and partners gathered together in Potomac, Maryland, for a momentous first meeting. Attendees

shared ideas, planned for the organization's development, and created committees to make initial decisions. Several CHWs were elected to a Steering Committee, and both CHWs and partners joined four subcommittees created to address specific topics around the growth of the organization. Partners also offered their support by forming an Advisory Board. Members of these newly formed committees have begun to actively meet and make plans for building a truly viable and representative national CHW organization.

Steering Committee

Co-chairs: Pam Chapman (MI) and Durrell Fox (MA)

Members: Lourdes Fernandez (AZ), Lorenza Hernandez (TX), Wandy Hernandez (IL), Jeweleen Jackson (MN), Sergio Matos (NY), Dwyan Monroe (NJ), Nicole Moore (HI), Lija Morrison (DC), Lyzette Orr (VA), Victor-Jose Santana (FL), Lisa Renee Siciliano (MA), Somnang Sin (CA)

The Steering Committee is pleased to announce the selection of an official name for the organization. The Committee has unanimously selected the name: "*The American Association of Community Health Workers.*" The staff at the Harrison Institute will work with the Steering Committee to ensure that this name is available and will begin to set up a website and other materials. Stay tuned for the update on our progress!

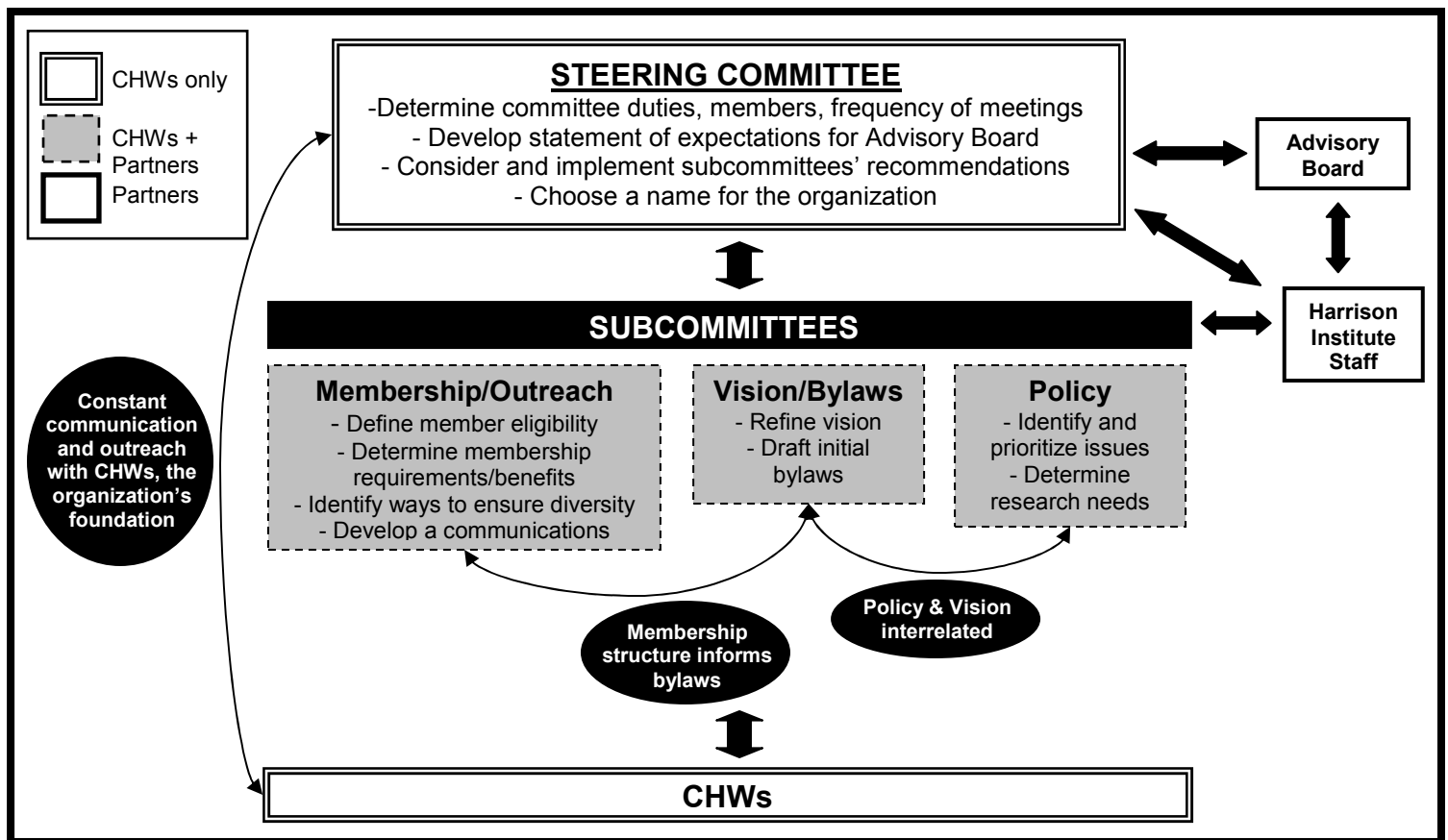
This Committee's major function is to develop a general plan for the national organization. It is also the main decision-making body: each subcommittee will decide on specific recommendations to present to the Steering Committee, which will review them and implement any decisions it approves. Currently, the Committee is working on defining the role of the Advisory Board and developing a reporting structure.

Policy Subcommittee

Chair: Lisa Renee Siciliano (MA)

Members: Niki Baptiste (NM), Bill Buck (MI), Carolina Casares (GA), Lisa Heyne (FL), Jeweleen Jackson (MN), Roxanne Leopper (NC), Cheryl Mulder (MI), Dannie Ritchie (RI), Darouny Somsanith (CA), Claireta Thomas (MI)

UPDATE TO BE ADDED



This diagram reflects the structural decisions that participants made at the first national meeting and depicts relationships among the various players working to build the national organization.

Membership/Outreach Subcommittee

Co-chairs: Dwyan Monroe (NJ) and Claireta Thomas (MI)
Members: Pamela Dixon (LA), Lisa Heyne (FL), Jewelean Jackson (MN), Nicole Moore (HI), Lija Morrison (DC), Tunga Nelson (MS), Lee Rosenthal (TX), Somnang Sin (CA), Darouny Somsanith (CA), Jason Stanford (CA)

Originally, CHWs at the national meeting decided that both a Membership and an Outreach/Diversity Subcommittee should form. However, because each separate subcommittee was tackling many overlapping issues, members of each recently decided to merge and form a single subcommittee. The group's top priority in the new year will be focusing on who is eligible to be a member and what membership will mean.

Vision/Bylaws Subcommittee

Chair: Victor-Jose Santana (FL)
Members: Kim Bell (DC), Pam Chapman (MI), Teresa Hines (TX), Jewelean Jackson (MN), Maria Lemus (CA), Gail McCray (GA), Lyzette Orr (VA), Dannie Ritchie (RI), Anne Willaert (MN)

This subcommittee is currently drafting a Vision Statement that will help guide AACHW's future work and familiarize others with the organization's overall goals. Members are reflecting on the vision-related discussions that took place at the national meeting and, together with local CHWs, are drafting statements that they will share with the entire subcommittee. They plan to finalize the statement by late January, when their next conference call will take place.

Local Development: A New D.C. Network

Community health workers and their allies are preparing to help organize the local network of CHWs in Washington, DC. Local organizers have started surveying other community health workers about their job descriptions responsibilities. The Harrison Institute is also researching policy issues, and staff members plan to prepare a series of policy papers that address the issues pertinent to CHWs in the District of Columbia. A brief that analyzes various models for training CHWs in Washington, DC is nearly complete, and another policy brief on Medicaid reimbursement and funding options should be complete by the spring of 2007.

For more information or for how to get involved building the D.C. network, please contact Brandy Canady at bcc26@law.georgetown.edu or 919.451.5190