

March 2005

Volume 2, Issue 2

# The Massachusetts Community Health Worker (MACHW) Network

## Spring 2005 Newsletter

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### MACHW:

*MACHW is a statewide network of community health workers (CHWs) from all disciplines. We formed in March 2000 to lead the movement to organize, define, and strengthen the profession of community health work.*

### MACHW Definition of a CHW:

*A community health worker is a public health professional who promotes full and equal access to necessary health and social services by applying his or her unique understanding of the experiences, language and culture of the communities he or she serves.*

### Editor-in-Chief

**Lisa Renee Siciliano**

### Contributing Writers:

**Tatyana Gorodetsky**

**Denise Lau**

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**Nghia Le**

**Anne Schlereth**

*The Massachusetts Community Health Worker (MACHW) Network  
c/o MPHA, 434 Jamaicaaway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130*

## Letter from the Chair

The state budget cycle is in full swing. Governor Romney has proposed his FY'06 budget and the House and the Senate are preparing theirs. This year, once again, prevention and health promotion programs that employ CHWs are in danger of losing funding. Although the workforce is becoming more visible locally and nationally, our funding remains cyclical. We continue to be one of the few segments of the workforce dependent upon grants and the whim of legislators, policy makers and administrators to fund our positions. Let's take the opportunity given by the state budget process to shift the paradigm from arbitrary to necessary. CHWs must be active participants in the process that determines whether we have jobs and our communities have appropriate and necessary services.

Educating legislators and policy makers about CHWs and our programs must become second nature to all of us. All those who make funding decisions for health care and human services should know who CHWs are and what we bring to the delivery systems. We know CHWs are a crucial workforce in assisting vulnerable populations to access the health care and human service delivery systems. All of us have stories about individuals or families that would not have received services had a CHW not been involved. We all have worked with individuals who we see years later who continue to be grateful for the time and commitment we gave to assist them. We can no longer keep this information to ourselves!

Aside from sharing anecdotes, we need to familiarize ourselves with research and issue papers that support CHWs and our roles in improving access, reducing health disparities and ultimately saving health care dollars. Every CHW should be familiar with and have copies of the American Diabetes Educator Association (2003), American Public Health Association Policy Statement (2001), Institute of Medicine Findings and Recommendations (2002), and National Rural Health Association Issue Paper (2000), just to name a few resources. Packets containing the above information are available at MACHW meetings. There are many journal articles, books and reports available that support integrating CHWs into health care and human service delivery systems. Take a few minutes to conduct an online search for "community health workers" and see what the results are. You will be pleasantly surprised and become very informed.

Schedule time during the budget process to meet with your elected officials and policy makers. Share the information you have learned about CHWs and our role in improving health status, reducing health disparities, and increasing access to services. Put together information packets with copies of any relevant materials you have found regarding CHWs and our programs and leave them with your elected officials.

Don't wait for funding to be eliminated; CHWs must become proactive during the state budget cycle, even if it appears there is ample funding available. Level funding from last year does not mean ample funding. Public health deserves more than level funding. The health of individuals, families, communities and our jobs depend on it!

*Lisa Renee Siciliano*

## In-Depth

### Health Care For All

As of November 2004 there are over 460,000 uninsured in Massachusetts. Health Care For All (HCFA) and Health Law Advocates (HLA) help Massachusetts families secure access to health care. HLA is HCFA's public interest law firm.

One program of HCFA is the **Health Helpline** that focuses on finding state-based or private insurance programs that may provide needed health care services for you. There are two ways to contact the Helpline. You can speak live to a counselor Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm at 1-800-272-4232. Also, thanks to advances in technology and funding from Citizens Bank, we're able to have the **Helpline Online** that allows you to send an email to a Helpline Counselor whenever you have health care questions, 24/7. This confidential correspondence lets you type out your entire story and you can get an answer by the next day. There is a Spanish-speaking counselor, as well.

Other Helpline services include outreach and education. **You can request a counselor** to give your staff or clients a presentation about public health care programs such as changes in MassHealth, the free care program, the new Medicare guidelines or even as basic as "what are your health care options and what are they, *really?*". To schedule a presentation, please contact the Helpline Director, Michele Lee at 617-275-2904.

The Helpline may refer a client to **Health Law Advocates**. HLA provides free legal advice and representation to individuals with income under 300% federal poverty level (for a family of 4, this is \$56,556 per year). HLA attorneys handle several issues that may affect you such as free care, health care access after divorce, COBRA, mental health parity, denials of payment for treatment, government health programs, billing, or denials and termination of health insurance coverage, or deceptive and misleading marketing of health insurance. You can reach HLA by calling 617-338-5241 or sending an email to [info@hla-inc.org](mailto:info@hla-inc.org).

For more information about Health Care For All, please go online to [www.hcfama.org](http://www.hcfama.org) and for Health Law Advocates, [www.hla-inc.org](http://www.hla-inc.org).

### Outreach Worker Training Institute

Outreach Worker Training Institute (OWTI) of Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center, Inc. (CM AHEC) is an innovative career-focused, college supported educational pipeline for community health workers and their supervisors in health and social services. The OWTI addresses the community's need for professional preparedness of CHWs.

The Institute engages in a variety of activities to provide learning opportunities for CHWs' skill building, resource identification, networking, and further professional growth. OWTI implements a team-instructing methodology, which utilizes qualified trainers and practicing CHWs partnering to develop and deliver classes' agendas. The Institute supports, validates, and recognizes CHWs by engaging them in course co-instructing, active learning, self-assessment, hands-on experience, and participation in its formal events. OWTI connects CHWs with area colleges for academic credits, advising regarding further professional development, and builds productive relationships among multidisciplinary teams of CHWs from Central Massachusetts and beyond.

OWTI's college credit, **45-hour CHW Certificate Course** is filled to capacity and will be soon completed by 19 CHWs. The OWTI participants express that the Institute gives them a unique opportunity to be trained, supported, and connected to others in the field of community health work. Some CHWs, with college degrees and extensive professional experience, enroll in both Certificate Courses because they regard the training as a rare opportunity to continue developing their outreach skills while meeting other CHWs from different disciplines. The Institute will start its **12-hour Supervisor Certificate Course** right after the CHW Certificate Course. The classes will be held on 3 Wednesdays in March 2005 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Curry College, Worcester Campus, One West Boylston Street, Worcester, MA and will include the following themes: Community Health Workers (CHWs) and Supervisors: Roles and Needs; Strategies for Supervising CHWs; Conflict Resolution, and Professional Boundaries in Community Health Work.

The 2004-2005 Graduation Ceremony for OWTI's forty-five hour CHW Certificate Course and the twelve-hour Supervisor Certificate Course will be held at Hoagland-Pincus Conference Center of UMass located at 222 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts on March 24, 2005 at 12:00pm. The program will include a keynote address, presentation of certificates, refreshments, and entertainment. **Continued p. 6**



Class discussion at an OWTI course

A community case study concludes CHWs along with educational programs, can motivate people in Arizona/Sonora border communities to adopt healthy lifestyle behaviors

Published in the Center for Disease Control journal, Preventing Chronic Disease, Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy, V. 2: No.1, is a study about preventing chronic disease for at-risk populations. In particular, the case study focused on Hispanic populations participating in the *Pasos Adelante*, or "Steps Forward" curriculum, targeting disease prevention on diabetes, cardiovascular issues, and other chronic diseases with high rates for these populations. The *Pasos Adelante* curriculum was implemented in two Arizona, United States – Sonora, Mexico border counties.

Community health workers, or "promotores de salud," played a critical role in putting the 12-week curriculum into practice. Because the curriculum focused on lifestyle changes for the participants,

promotores worked to assist and educate individuals in the major tasks they had to partake in. As stated in the background on the case study, "Promotores provide enhanced community knowledge, dedication to health promotion, assistance with culturally appropriate program adaptation and supplementation, and personal knowledge of the disease experiences of their communities. Furthermore, promotores are shown to be effective in increasing access to care and preventive screening and frequently used in Hispanic community programs."

The study identified the use of a "promoter (a) model" as a key concept in this curriculum. *Pasos Adelante* methodology consisted of visuals: a manual and free standing flip charts. The curriculum was written in both English and Spanish, but facilitated in

Spanish in both communities. The study stated that it followed the "Su Corazon, Su Vida" teaching style as well, where the promotores were given a script to follow to enhance the consistency of each session among promotores and from group to group. Additionally participants had to engage in weekly "walking clubs" designed to engage and support individuals in their effort to increase physical activity.

Post-program evaluation results demonstrated that there was significant increases in moderate to vigorous walking among participants and shifts in nutritional patterns.

View the complete case study at: [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2005/jan/04\\_0075.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2005/jan/04_0075.htm)

#### CHW Special Primary Interest Group –

The CHW SPIG Newsletter is now available on the American Public Health Association's website. Previously this newsletter was only available to APHA members. Currently they are running a pilot project, which allows non-members to access the newsletter. The User Name and Password will NOT be needed to view the Winter 2005 Newsletter.

This is important information regarding national CHW initiatives. Features include: state and national CHW networks, the New Mexico Community Health Worker Association (NMCHWA), tips for a "healthy health worker", and other useful information.

The SPIG's focus is to support the role of CHWs within the field of public health, to reduce health disparities, and improve health status. For more information go to: [http://www.apha.org/newsletter\\_sample/comm\\_healthworker\\_NL.htm](http://www.apha.org/newsletter_sample/comm_healthworker_NL.htm)

### **You Can Still Register for Unity 2005! Community Health Workers: Responding to Challenging Times March 30-April 1, 2005 Grand Casino Oasis Resort and Spa Gulfport, Mississippi**



Conference registration fee is \$200. Conference fee waivers for CHWs will be considered on an individual basis.

#### **Contact:**

Susan Mayfield-Johnson, Program Coordinator  
Center for Sustainable Health Outreach, The University of Southern Mississippi

118 College Drive #10015  
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**Denise Lau**  
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**Nghia Le**  
Community HealthLink  
Worcester

**Camilla Monteiro**  
CACCI  
Hyannis

**Eliot Morales**  
ABCD Health Services  
Boston

**Jose Rivera**  
Central MA Center for  
Healthy Communities  
Worcester

**Lisa Renee Siciliano**  
MACHW Chair, &  
MPHA  
Worcester

**Maritza Smidy**  
Providence Prenatal  
Clinic  
Holyoke

**Cassandra Summers**  
ABCD Health Services  
Boston

Nghia Le  
Community HealthLink, Outreach Worker  
MACHW Board Member



Nghia Le works at Community Healthlink, a multi-service, non-profit organization committed to promoting, maintaining and restoring the dignity, well-being and mental health of individuals and families in Central MA. Community Healthlink has provided extensive treatments for drug-addiction, substance abuse, and mental health problems since May 2000.

As part of the agency, Nghia's program serves the people who cannot live independently in their communities. He works as an Outreach Worker and primary contact person for his clients. He provides treatment at the agency or refers clients to

hospitals and clinics for emergency treatment when needed. Nghia also refers Vietnamese clients to the appropriate Public Health and Human Service department for assistance (in Worcester).

Nghia states, "Fortunately, I have learned more than I expected while doing my job. I understand more about the mental illnesses my people have suffered from, and I can educate them about these illnesses when they do not understand. I also explain, educate, and guide clients during their time at the doctor's office, and assist them individually when I do outreach at their home."

Nghia has also dedicated himself to the Asian community by getting involved with and becoming a Board of Director member at the South East Asian Coalition. The coalition's mission is to support, promote,

and advocate for the success of South East Asian people who are living in Central Mass., including Laotians, Cambodian, and Vietnamese people.

Nghia became a MACHW board member in 2004. He stresses, "My vision through participating in MACHW is to bring more training potential to CHWs throughout Massachusetts, so that all communities can earn benefits in health care services. Also by joining MACHW and through their trainings I have gained more knowledge about advocacy. Most importantly, I now recognize that I should put my voice with others to raise legislator's attention to the health care needs of the people I am serving."

*To learn more about Community Healthlink, go to:*  
[www.communityhealthlink.org](http://www.communityhealthlink.org)  
Or call 508.860.1000

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## MACHW Board of Directors Information

In each issue of the newsletter we would like to introduce readers to the leadership of MACHW. According to MACHW's strategic plan, 60% of the Board of Directors must be community health workers. If you are a CHW and interested in serving on the board please contact a current board member from these regions:

Jose Rivera, Central MA/Worcester  
[jrivera@cmchc.org](mailto:jrivera@cmchc.org)  
508.438.0515

Maritza Smidy, Western MA/Holyoke  
[mismidy@sphs.com](mailto:mismidy@sphs.com)  
413.536.7385

Vicki Deschamps, Western MA/Pittsfield  
[vdeschamps@bhs1.org](mailto:vdeschamps@bhs1.org)  
413.445.9412

Camilla Montiero, Cape Cod/Hyannis  
[camillam@cacci.cc](mailto:camillam@cacci.cc)  
508.771.1727

Durrell Fox, Eastern MA/Boston  
[dfoxnehec@aol.com](mailto:dfoxnehec@aol.com)  
617.262.5657

CHW is an umbrella term used nationally (adopted by the American Public Health Association) to represent over 60 job titles in public health! Here are just a few:



<b>Outreach Worker</b>	<b>Health Service Liaison</b>
<b>Health Educator</b>	<b>Peer Health Promoter</b>
<b>Community Organizer</b>	<b>Case Manager</b>
<b>Promotores (as)</b>	<b>Health Advocate</b>
<b>Health Specialist</b>	<b>Community Advocate</b>
<b>Promotor (a) de Salud</b>	<b>Patient Navigator</b>
<b>Family Advocate</b>	<b>Support Worker</b>
<b>Health Interpreter</b>	<b>Community Coordinator</b>

**The Berkshire Immigrant Center - Pittsfield**

The Berkshire Immigrant Center, formerly the New American Citizenship Coalition, was founded in 1997 in order to address the needs of the immigrant population in response to the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. Over the past few years, the Center has evolved into an office of immigrant services to provide a wider range of services to the local immigrant and refugee community. To date the center has served clients from 88 countries and now serves approximately 550 clients and their families per year. This past quarter they served a record number of clients, 182 in the office and over 150 at clinics and workshops.

On March 22, the Berkshire Immigrant Center and the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) will co-host the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Immigrants’ Day” in the Berkshires. This event aims to bring together the local immigrant population to discuss and address issues of special importance to the community. Immigrants’ Day will also feature a walk-in clinic for free consultations with an immigration attorney and workshop on taxation.

In addition to conducting monthly walk-in legal clinics for those in need of pro-bono immigration law consultations, the center provides the following services: assistance with all aspects of the citizenship process including application support and ESL/US Civics classes, case assessments, referrals to English classes or private tutors, follow up and advocacy with the USCIS, immigrants networks, and US Congress, work with state and federal legislators in support of immigrants’ initiatives, referrals to an immigration attorney, group information sessions, (cont. p.7)

**The Dudley Outreach Workers Network – Roxbury**

On a recent Wednesday in February the Dudley Outreach Workers Network gathered in Roxbury, Massachusetts to discuss law. In this case they were addressing juvenile law and how it impacts CHWs who serve youth. Here’s a *fast fact* that we learned on this day: The youngest age that a juvenile can receive an adult prison sentence (in MA) *is...*if you guessed 14, you’re right! But it’s a sad fact and studies have shown that being in prison during adolescent development can have significant, immediate and long-term ramifications on a youth’s developmental and emotional well-being. Not to mention that incarcerating young people is a reactive approach. Incorporating *preventative* community-based methods has greater potential for positive outcomes for these youth later in life.

This meeting in particular had strong attendance from Youth Advocacy Workers interested in participating in “Know the Law” training presented by the Youth Advocacy Project. CHWs who work with youth routinely address adolescent health and social issues, but knowing the law is part of their job too – it’s part of providing comprehensive multi-services.

It is an important reminder that CHWs often take a holistic approach to providing services. It’s this ambition and creativity that continues to be recognized as a successful model to health care and human service delivery.

The Dudley Outreach Worker Network’s mission is to inform, encourage, educate, and inspire outreach workers in the greater Dudley area. DOWN is a safe place to share resources, network, receive training and professional development, learn about other community organizations, identify needs, build strong relationships, and support each other’s efforts. To get more information about this monthly outreach workers network meeting (open to workers near and far) call Shayla Donald, Outreach Services Coordinator, 617.445.5640.

## Public Health Advocacy: Making Our Voices Heard

On Friday, March 18, 2005 MACHW and the Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) will co-sponsor "Public Health Advocacy: Making Our Voices Heard!" The event will be held at the Worcester Public Library, 3 Salem Square from 9:15-12:30pm. This will be an opportunity for CHWs and other public health advocates to come together to hear what central MA legislators hope for public health in the upcoming year and receive information on MPHA and MACHW sponsored legislation. The legislative panel will include Senator Chandler, Representative Flanagan, Representative Koutoujian, and Representative Spellane. The panel will be followed by a question and answer period. This is an opportunity for CHWs to address FY'06 funding for public health.

An advocacy training will also be on the agenda for the morning conducted by MACHW Board members Durrell Fox and José Rivera. The training will give attendees practical tools and strategies to make an impact on the state budget, health care policy and pending legislation. Harold Cox, MPHA President, will offer opening remarks and Kathy McDermott, Executive Director of Montachusett Opportunity Council (MOC) will moderate the event.

To register for the event, contact the Central MA Center For Healthy Communities, or email [dswope@cmchc.org](mailto:dswope@cmchc.org). Please include your name, organization, phone number and email.

## CHW Legislative Update

The MACHW Legislation has been assigned a docket number! Reference docket number **#HD-4062** when you call legislators asking for their support on this bill.

### Current legislators supporting the bill:

Lead Sponsor, Gloria L. Fox, 7<sup>th</sup> Suffolk  
Byron Rushing, 9<sup>th</sup> Suffolk  
Dianne Wilkerson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Suffolk  
Frank I. Smizik, 15<sup>th</sup> Norfolk  
Benjamin Swan, 11<sup>th</sup> Hampden  
Joyce A. Spiliotis, 12<sup>th</sup> Essex

Thank you to so many of you for your support! Please continue to spread the word about the CHW legislation and continue to encourage CHWs and allies to support this bill. If you have any questions about this bill, call Representative Gloria Fox's office at, 617. 722.2692. To contact legislators go to <http://www.wheredoivotema.com/bal/myelectioinfo.php> to find out who your elected officials are!

**OWTI Continued, from p. 2:** We extend our special thanks and invitation to attend the OWTI Graduation to all MACHW Network members in appreciation of our on-going collaboration. We value OWTI's past years' graduates currently serving on MACHW Board who continue their connection with the OWTI through co-instructing some of the Institute's classes. We appreciate Lisa Renee Siciliano, MACHW Board chair for her involvement with OWTI in her current role of one of the Institute's guest speakers. OWTI of CM AHEC and MACHW Network efforts strengthen the field of community health work and open up further opportunities for community healthy workers. Please join us in congratulating the graduates of the OWTI's courses. For more information about future courses and to RSVP for the OWTI Graduation please contact:

Tatyana Gorodetsky, M.Ed. (eq.),  
OWTI Director, Central MA AHEC, Inc.  
508.756.6676 ext. 12,  
[tatyana@cmahec.org](mailto:tatyana@cmahec.org)

*OWTI... "is an innovative career-focused, college supported educational pipeline for community health workers and their supervisors in health and social services."*



MACHW board members speaking at OWTI classes:

Nghia Le, Outreach Worker,  
Lisa Renee Siciliano, Community Organizer,  
Beatriz Ayala, Community Health Educator

## Cultural Competence Works!

The Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Center for Health Services Financing and Managed Care sponsored the "*Cultural Competence Works*" competition, a nationwide search beginning in the fall of 1998, to recognize and honor outstanding HRSA-funded programs and to highlight the practices they employ to provide culturally competent care for diverse populations.

Rather than document each nominee's individual practices, this publication provides a summary of culturally competent practices as reported in the program nominations and follow-up discussions with program personnel. The examples included are meant to illustrate the range of culturally competent methods and practices that nominees implemented in order to enhance their ability to serve linguistically and culturally diverse populations. Where appropriate, nominees also describe the impact that these services had on their relationships with managed care organizations. Again, the cultural competence practices described here are seen as "exemplary practices," rather than "best" or "model" practices. Although this is an older report (2001), the information is not outdated. To view the publication go to:

<http://www.hrsa.gov/financeMC/ftp/cultural-competence.pdf>

## Did you know there is an organization in Massachusetts Dedicated to Medical Interpreting?

The Massachusetts Medical Interpreters Association (MMIA) has a website that offers a glimpse into the world of medical interpreting. Many CHWs work with individuals whose primary language is not English, and as a profession we are concerned about barriers to healthcare access. This website offers you a wealth of information for interpreter resources in MA. Go to:

[www.mmia.org](http://www.mmia.org)

You work hard... treat yourself!



**Spanish and Mexican Sweet Custard, know as Flan,** is a very popular dessert in Spain and in Mexico. It is normally made with whole eggs and milk with a caramel coating. The typical favoring is simply vanilla but there are numerous variations that include almonds, pistachio, lemon, and various other fruits. Delicious!

1 quart half and half  
1 cup sugar, 1 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg  
6 eggs, well beaten

Mix all ingredients together well. Pour into a mold or baking dish. Bake in a *water bath* for approximately 1 1/2 hours or until a knife inserted into the center of the flan comes out clean. Allow to cool/refrigerate before unmolding.

Bake at 325 for 30 minutes

**BIC (continued from p. 5):** referrals and assistance for other community services, and interpretation and translation services.

The Center also collaborates with social service providers, businesses, and government agencies to answer various immigration questions and dispense demographic information. Office staff members speak Spanish, Russian, and German and maintain a list of interpreters to assist with other languages.

Funding for the center is an ongoing struggle as it fights annually just to keep the doors open. The main grantors of the program are the Berkshire United Way, the Mass. Bar Foundation, and the City of Pittsfield. To address the need for additional funding, they are exploring ways to get more community support as well as implementing a sliding fee scale for some services. Although they have implemented a suggested donation policy, their services continue to be free.

It is clear that the Berkshires and Western Mass. are becoming increasingly diverse, and the Berkshire Immigrant Center hopes to be able to continue to provide invaluable services to the immigrant and refugee community for years to come.

For further questions and information contact Brooke Meade, Outreach Coordinator, 413.445.4881

### MACHW Statewide and Regional Meeting Schedule

**Southeast Meeting/ Hyannis:**  
Wednesday, March 2, 2005,  
Community Action of Cape Cod and  
the Islands, Inc., 115 Enterprise Road

**Statewide Meeting/ Worcester:**  
Thursday, March 3, 2005, 10:00am-  
12:00pm, YWCA of Central MA, 1  
Salem Square

**Western MA Regional/ Holyoke:**  
Thursday, May 19, 2005, 10:00am-  
12:00pm, Holyoke Library, 335 Maple  
Street

**Southeast/Hyannis:**  
Wednesday, June 1, 2005, 12-  
3:00pm, CACC, 115 Enterprise Road,  
Hyannis (Lunch Provided)

**Statewide Meeting/ Worcester:**  
Thursday, June 9, 2005, 10:00am-  
12:00pm, CM Center for Healthy  
Communities

**Western MA Regional/ Springfield:**  
Thursday, August 25, 2005, 10:00am-  
12:00pm, Raymond Sullivan Safety  
Complex, 1212 Carew Street,  
Springfield, MA

**Future Dates Include** (mark your  
calendar!):

**Statewide/Worcester** 9/22/2005 ,  
**Western MA** 11/10/2005,  
**Statewide/Worcester** 12/15/2005

*Details about upcoming MACHW meetings will be sent in the mail and distributed in emails. Please contact us if you have a change of contact information so that we can get information and meeting dates to you as efficiently as possible.*

HCFA's 20th Anniversary Celebration  
Friday, April 8, 2005, 5pm  
The Westin Copley Place Boston

Join Health Care For All at their 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Celebration,  
*For the People, Against the Tide*

Honoring community health leaders  
and a national leader in health care  
reform, James J. Mongan, MD,  
President & CEO of Partners  
HealthCare. Dr. Mongan is the recipient  
of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Registration & reception begins at  
5:00pm; program begins promptly at  
6:00pm

For information about sponsorship  
opportunities, please call 617-275-2926  
or go online to [www.hcfama.org](http://www.hcfama.org)

Individual tickets are \$50 for Health  
Care For All members  
\$125 for non-members  
\*Dinner buffet and dessert included

The New England Regional  
Minority Health Committee Presents  
"The 4th New England Regional  
Minority Health Conference:  
Eliminating Health Disparities by 2010"  
April 10-12, Portland, ME

For further conference information or to  
inquire about the limited number of  
scholarships contact:

Michelle Surdoval, Conference  
Coordinator, at 207.839.6381 or email  
[michellesurdoval@yahoo.com](mailto:michellesurdoval@yahoo.com)  
Conference website is  
<http://www.une.edu/oce/events.html>

Partners In Perinatal Health Conference  
Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Keynote Address:

**Ina May Gaskin, CPM**

We are delighted to welcome Ina May  
Gaskin, one of the founders and  
past president of the Midwives' Alliance  
of North America (MANA). Ina May is  
an advocate for a women's right to give  
birth without excessive medical  
intervention. She is the author of  
Spiritual Midwifery.

The Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel,  
Marlborough. Registration fee: \$75  
(Early Bird – by April 5), \$90 (General  
Registration). Lunch & contact hours are  
included. Conference Brochure to be  
mailed out in March.

For more information, contact Adcare at  
508.752.7313.

Breaking Ground: Our Health, Our Future  
MPHA's Annual Celebration  
and Awards Dinner

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

5:30-9:00 pm

Cedars Hall, 61 Rockwood Street,  
Jamaica Plain

There is a reduced fee for CHWs, \$35.

Contact Libby Manly,  
[lmanly@mphaweb.org](mailto:lmanly@mphaweb.org), 617.524.6696

### Information Sharing

The MACHW newsletter is a resource  
for CHWs in Massachusetts. If you  
would like to write an article about your  
work and/or agency, or if you have  
information to share (events, important  
dates, calendar schedules, job postings,  
etc.) please contact Anne Schlereth,  
Project Coordinator.

[annemachw@yahoo.com](mailto:annemachw@yahoo.com)

413.536.7385 (Holyoke)

617.524.6696- Voice Mail (Boston)