A Community Health Worker is…

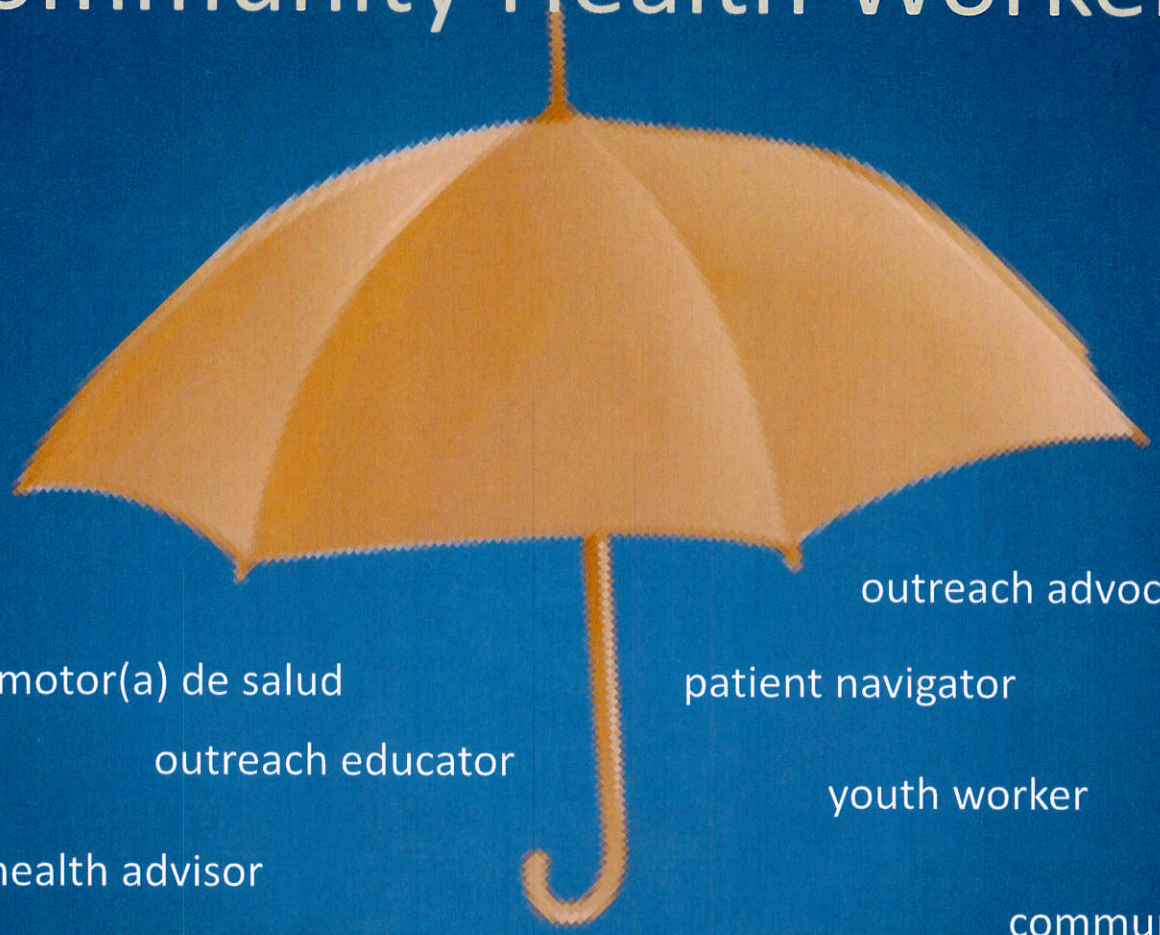
THE NETWORK FOR EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH INNOVATION

- 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 CHW to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

- Someone who also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

- American Public Health Association, 2014

Community Health Worker



outreach advocate

promotor(a) de salud

patient navigator

outreach educator

youth worker

community health advisor

community coordinator

street outreach worker

home visitor

family service coordinator

community health representative

parent aide

National Scan

- Over 120,000 CHWs in the nation*
- Conducting almost 20 different activities*
- 61.5% identify as people of color*
- 54.8% between 30-50 years of age*
- 81.8% female*
- 57.8% education beyond high school/G.E.D*

*Community Health Worker National Workforce Study, HRSA
http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/healthworkforce/reports/chwstudy2007.pdf

Selected National Milestones

- APHA Policy Statements 2001-15 & 20091 (2001, 2009)*
- HRSA CHW National Workforce Study (2007)*
- APHA CHW Section (2009)*
- SCHIP Reauthorization (2009)
- Standard Occupational Classification (2010)*
- Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (2010)*
- National Stakeholder Strategy for Achieving Health Equity (2011)
- RWJ Community Health Roadmap (2013)
- CMS Medicaid ruling (2013)