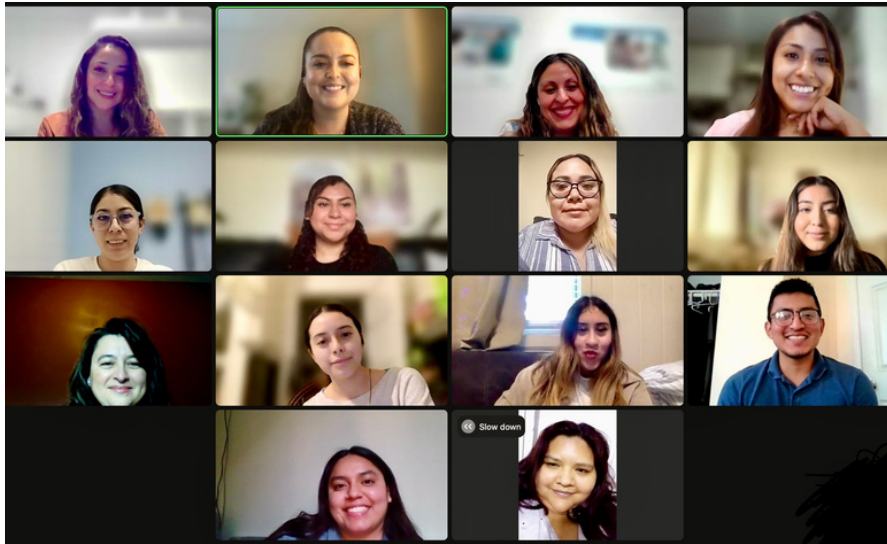


CHW ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE



On Friday January 13th, 2023, CHW Academy Staff and Interns celebrated the graduation of another cohort of trained CHWs! Congratulations Cohort 3! Top Row: Rosalva Salazar (Project Manager, Providence), Nazaret Nuñez (Program Manager, CDU), Yuliana Acevedo (Project Manager, Providence), Daniela Cruz (Master Trainer, CDU). Second row: Nancy Rodriguez, Cinthya Guzman, Blanca Rosas, Rosa Hernandez; Third Row: Noemi Ortega, Lizeth Martinez, Sharon Muñiz, Roman Justo; Bottom Row: Yamileth Vazquez, Dionisia Chora

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Welcome to the second Academy newsletter! This month, we're celebrating the new year by reflecting on a year's worth of accomplishments, memories, and moments of growth! Here are some quarterly highlights from 2022:

- **January - March:** Cohort 2 graduated from the Academy with upwards of 90% of trainees hired permanently at their clinical sites -- a big thanks to our partner, Providence, for their leadership in this area.
- **April - June:** CDU Awarded Cedars-Sinai Grant for organizational readiness projects and new shared-learning communities.
- **July - September:** Cohort 3 Instruction began, testing our new hybrid model of instruction for the first time!
- **October - December:** 10 students completed all 200 hours of Core Education, and began their clinical internships, ready to enter the workforce as fully-trained CHWs!

In this newsletter, you'll find a closer look at our current cohort, Alumni spotlights, cohort 3 highlights and success stories, and a sneak peek into our social media launch as part of our shared-learning communities initiative. We look forward to sharing more Academy highlights and updates throughout the year!

Newsletter Highlights

*Letter from the Editors:
Happy New Year!*

Page 2

Cohort 3 Highlights

Page 3

Cohort 3 Words of Reflection

Page 4

Alumni Spotlights

Page 5

Field Updates & Opportunities

Page 6

Field Updates & Opportunities

COHORT 3 HIGHLIGHTS

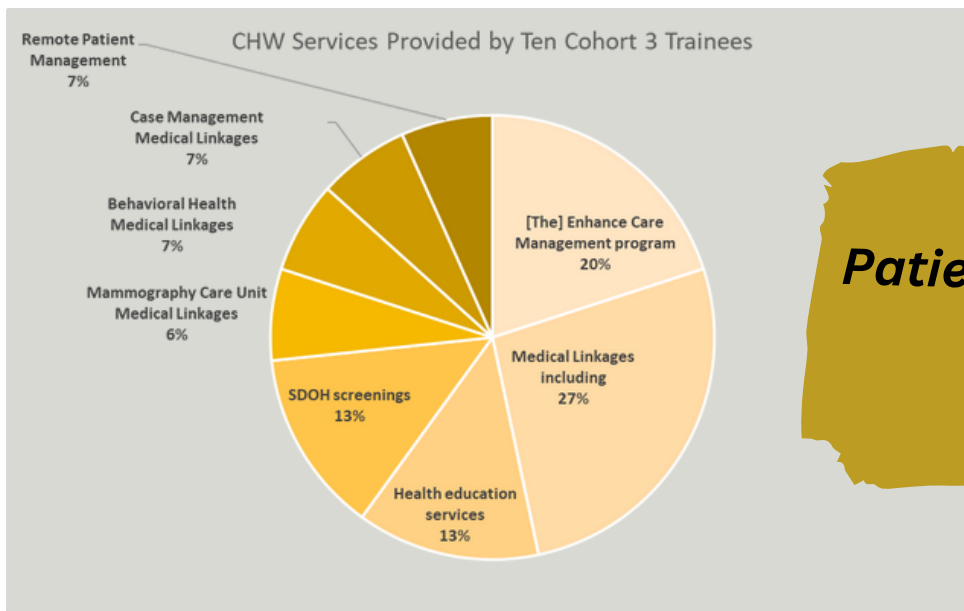
CLINICAL INTERNSHIP SUCCESS STORIES

"I created a Resource Directory for our clinic clients/patients & for our staff. My supervisor loves it to this day and we continue to build from it as we find more resources. "

"Something I am very proud of is being able to promote mental health among the Latino community. Many patients have been interested in starting therapy or learning ways to take care of their mental health which to me is a huge breakthrough in my community. "

"I was able to enroll a patient into the Fresh & Healthy program which has allowed them to eat healthier and follow my health education recommendations more closely now that they have this resource. "

CHW SERVICES PROVIDED BY OUR TRAINEES



3,362
Patients Served!

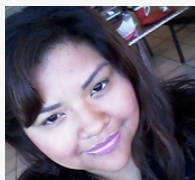
FAVORITE TRAINEE MEMORIES

" My most favorite part of the CHW Academy are the mentors/instructors. I admire each of you and have learned so much from your experiences. "

"I got a glimpse of what it feels like to work a job you love. A job that makes me feel fulfilled."

"[regarding Teach Back sessions] It was very fun to put together interactive presentations for my peers, work together in teams to create these presentations and then present them to the class. "

COHORT 3 WORDS OF REFLECTION

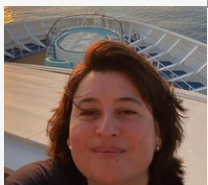
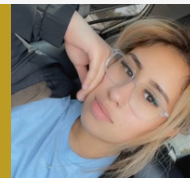


Dionisia Chora, Internship site: Comprehensive Community Health Centers

"The most valuable skill I learned was the ability to communicate with patients. I learned about how to listen openly, and put myself in their shoes. This is a great opportunity for anyone who wants to help the community, loves to learn and wants to grow as a person."

Sharon Muñiz, Internship site: Comprehensive Community Health Centers

"In a short period of time, I've seen so much progress in myself. Never in a million years would I have considered becoming a leader because I lacked the confidence to do so. This program has helped me grow confidence in myself and in my ability to practice CHW roles and skills."

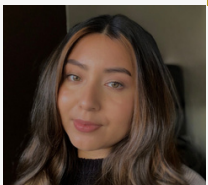


Noemi Ortega, Internship Site: San Fernando Community Health Center

"This has been one of the most wonderful experiences of my life. At first, I felt that my age might create barriers for me. This taught me that what matters is our drive to succeed. I now work better with patients, I am more resourceful, and feel that I can accomplish anything."

Roman Justo, Internship site: South Bay Family Health Center

"I remember before the first day of class, I was nervous and made a wish for cool classmates. I should have wished for a million wishes, because I ended up getting the best classmates ever. Every class had good laughs and I am grateful to have experienced it."

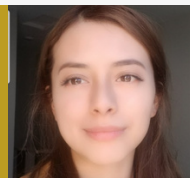


Rosa Hernandez, Internship Site: San Fernando Community Health Center

"The CHWA provided me with the hands-on experience to succeed as a CHW. This program gave me a full understanding of the challenges impacting patient access to healthcare and provided me with the skills to become an agent of change within underserved communities."

Lizeth Martinez, Internship Site: Venice Family Clinic

"Two words capture my experience in this academy: Growth and hope. I can confidently say that I've grown tremendously as a CHW and as a young undocumented woman who is passionate about public health. I look forward to the rest of my career in public health."

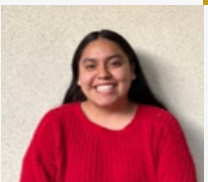
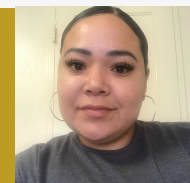


Nancy Rodriguez, Internship Site: Behavioral Health Services, Inc.

"I feel much more confident working with others to address public health needs. With the personal and intellectual growth I have experienced, I feel more capable of participating in community projects and teaching others about how to improve the health of our communities."

Blanca Rosas, Internship Site: Harbor Community Health Centers

"I am happy to be a part of CHW Academy Cohort 3. After completing the CHW Academy, I feel more excited about my future. This program helped me grow self-confidence, and helped me open doors to a better future."



Yamileth Vazquez, Internship Site: All-Inclusive Community Health Center

"By being a part of this Academy I was able to further my education on the healthcare system, patient-centered care and communication skills. I have developed better interpersonal skills so I could better help others and more effectively build rapport with patients and clients."

Cinthya Guzman, Internship Site: Wilmington Community Clinic

"In the past four months, I learned a lot about the healthcare system, social determinants of health, and how impactful Community Health Workers are to patients. This program helped me break out of my shell and offered me a safe space to voice my opinions and share my story."



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Teresa “Tere” Morales, Cohort 1

Why community health?

As an immigrant from Mexico, Morales highlighted the suffering and discrimination she faced for not speaking English. As she grew up, she described having to interpret all interactions with her parents, who "didn't feel they had rights in this state due to their immigration status". Morales noted that it was because of the kindness from teachers, church members and community friends that they were "able to survive", have daily meals and clothes. Morales expressed that, in essence, "I know first-hand the struggles, so I'd love to help the community" and added that she has a special passion for mental health from her experience having a son who is on the autistic.

What are your future aspirations?

Morales credited her time at the academy for the knowledge, friendships developed, and its collaborative environment, adding that it helped her develop both personally and professionally. She is now a Program Coordinator for Dignity Hospital. Morales' love for the Academy and learning inspired her to pursue higher education; "I will be enrolling into college so I can improve myself and offer the community better services".



Lesley Moreno , Cohort 1

Why community health?

Moreno described having always had a passion for helping people; "when I learned about the CHW Academy it was a great opportunity that opened a new door for me to be able to fulfill my passion". She especially highlighted the value in "assisting those in need by getting them connected to community resources". Moreno said it is "rewarding" hearing from patients that "you have made a difference in their lives".

What are your future aspirations?

From her time at the Academy, Moreno most treasures learning from her cohort peers and sharing personal stories. Currently, she is finishing her General Education. When asked about future aspirations, Moreno shared that she plans to pursue a degree in social work and child development to later become a Child Life Specialist.

Moreno has also been featured in Cedars-Sinai Blogs/Magazines, check it out below!

<https://www.cedars-sinai.org/blog/f-o-c-lesley-moreno.html>

<https://www.cedars-sinai.org/blog/social-support-community-connect.html>

FIELD UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

COMMUNITY HEALTH FIELD UPDATES

Community Health Worker (CHW) Services Now Covered through Medi-Cal!

What does this mean?

As of July 1st, 2022 some CHW services are now billable to Medi-Cal. These services, referred to as "preventative health services," include **health education, health navigation, screening, assessment, and individual support or advocacy**. Through these services, CHWs may address issues including but not limited to: mental health conditions, substance use disorders, violence prevention, domestic violence, environmental and climate-sensitive health issues. Services may be provided in both individual and group settings, and require a written referral from a physician or other licensed practitioner.

Medi-Cal CHW Requirements:

- **Shared lived experience** with the community served
- **CHW supervision** by a Medi-Cal enrolled community-base organization, local health jurisdiction, licensed provider, hospital, or clinic
- **Satisfaction of minimum qualifications** through one of the following:
 - a. **CHW Certificate with Field Experience:** to demonstrate skills in the areas of communication, advocacy, education and facilitation, and others.
 - b. **Violence Prevention Certificate:** only required for CHWs providing violence prevention services.
 - c. **Work Experience:** CHWs with 2,000 hours working as such (whether paid or voluntary) and with evident skills and practical training, may provide services for up to 18 months before a certificate is required. A certificate of completion must be earned within this period.

All CHWs are required to complete 6 hours of continuing education training on an annual basis.

For more information please visit:
<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/community-health-workers>

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Job Title: Senior Community Health Worker – Providence Little Company of Mary San Pedro, CA
 • [Find out more and apply here!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker – Homeless Healthcare Collaborative, UCLA
 • [Find out more and apply here!](#)

Job Title: Senior Community Health Worker – Heluna Health
 • [Find out more and apply here!](#)

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Learn & network through volunteering opportunities at the Department of Public Health!

[Click here to learn more!](#)

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

What do you think about the Medi-Cal inclusion of CHW services?

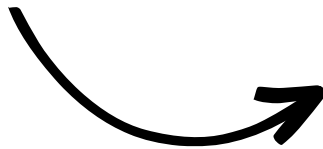
“This decision will create more opportunities! It will create more sustainable funding pathways for this workforce, and it opens a realm of opportunity for patients and clinics as it encourages health prevention.” --

Daniela Cruz,
CHWA Master Trainer

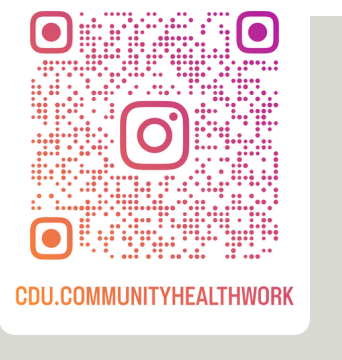


JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Apply to join the Community Health Worker Academy!



Join us on Facebook!



Join us on Instagram!



Explore our online community!

Become a Community Health Worker
in a *clinical setting*

CHW ACADEMY
Providence Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science

Program starts March 2023

Get **FREE** tuition, **PAID** training, and advance your skills today!

Do you want to help people in your community?
Would you like a career in health care?

What does a Community Health Worker do?	How to be part of Community Health Worker Academy?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help people understand health services and save money • Help people access preventive and medical care services • Learn skills to assist the healthcare team and improve patient care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and submit the Application • High school diploma or GED required • Bilingual English/Spanish highly preferred • Reliable transportation to arrive at internship site Monday through Friday • Commitment of 4 months, 40 hours per week

Being part of the Community Health Worker Academy will allow you to connect your community with health care services to improve their wellbeing.

To apply, visit: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZTCqM1yQFh>
For questions, email: yuliana.acevedorodriguez@providence.org

Revised 12/6/22

This newsletter was made possible thanks to grant #BD-0002496 from Cedars-Sinai, awarded to Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science for the Community Health Worker Academy.