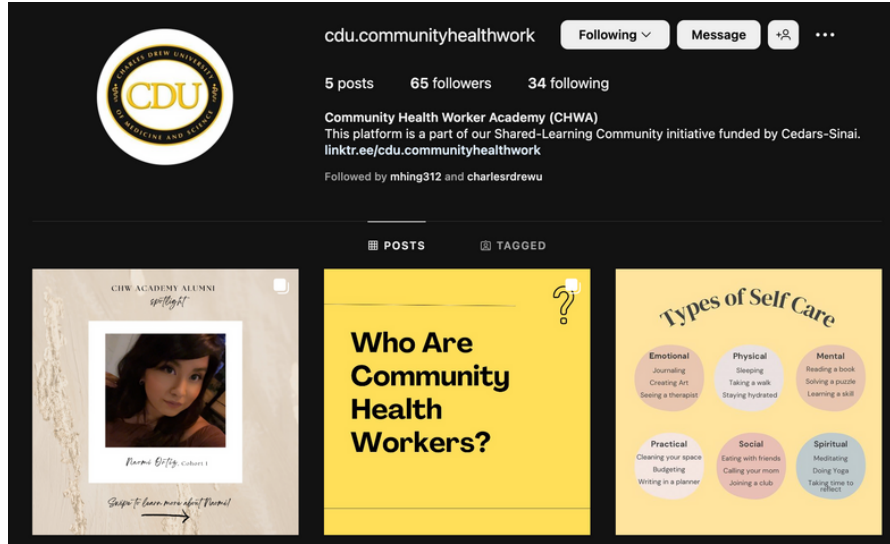


CHW ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

CHARLES R. DREW UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE & SCIENCE

Newsletter Highlights



The CDU CHW Academy has successfully executed a social media launch, which we hope will allow us to highlight the amazing work of CHWs, to share resources that benefit the community, and to encourage CHWs to connect and learn from one another online. Follow us on instagram @cdu.communityhealthwork.

Spring into Action!

Greetings, readers! The CHW Academy is excited to welcome the sunshine and new beginnings of the Springtime! Since our last newsletter, our team has been hard at work, moving along several projects that we are so excited to share with you. In this newsletter, you'll get an inside look at our current projects, community health field updates, and new ideas for celebrating and honoring Black History Month and Women's History Month. Here is a small timeline to sum up some key highlights:

- **January - Cohort 3 CHWs graduate and are hired full-time at various clinical sites throughout the LA area.** We extend a huge shoutout to our Providence partners for facilitating and supporting in the transition of our trainees into clinics. This is no easy feat!
- **February - Black History Month.** Although February is a special time to honor Black History, we recognize the importance of showing support for the Black community all year long. Crucial to this support is committing to our own education about the untold histories of the Black community. Don't know where to start? No problem. We've provided some of our favorite Black history resources on page 3.
- **March - Intern Project Momentum & Women's History Month.** Check out page 2 to learn more about our internal projects! See page 4 to learn more about women-owned businesses that you can support!
- **Ongoing - Stay connected and up to date!** Check out field updates and opportunities on pages 5-6. See page 7 to stay connected and give us your feedback!

*Letter from the Editors:
Spring Into Action*

Page 2: CHW Academy Projects

Page 3: In Honor of Black History Month

Page 4: In Honor of Women's History Month

Page 5: Community Health Work Field Updates

Page 6: Community Health Worker Opportunities

Page 7: Stay Connected!

Volume 1 Number 3 Created & Edited by:
Sydni Brown, Daniela Cruz,
& Nazaret Nuñez

CHW Academy Projects

Organizational Readiness Projects

The amazing OR team, pictured right, has spent the last few months researching organizational readiness resources and working to understand the many challenges that clinics encounter when integrating CHWs into clinical settings. Their findings are being used to craft an Organizational Readiness Assessment, supporting OR resources, and workshops that will hopefully allow our program to more sustainably develop the CHW workforce.



Christa Helms



Jessenya Reyes



Dominic Choo

Health Care Opportunities Program (HCOP) Collaboration

HCOP is a pipeline program that provides career support and mentorship to students who are underrepresented in the medical and public health fields. Tiffany Hogan and Stephanie Sanchez, pictured left, have been working with the CHW Academy to gain exposure within the public health field, and contribute to our Train the Trainer project, a project through which we are gathering and developing resources to cultivate strong, well-rounded CHW trainers. Tiffany and Stephanie have drastically improved our resource development process, as they constantly draw on their personal experiences to help us create resources that are effective, accessible, and relevant to the community health field.



Stephanie Sanchez



Tiffany Hogan

Communications & Shared-Learning Communities

Sydni Smith and Amani Khan, pictured right, are part of the CHWA Communications Team. The communications team takes the lead in developing our newsletters, social media, and other aspects of our Shared Learning Communities, which will eventually include organizational readiness workshops for clinics and CHWs alike. Amani and Sydni have both shared that they were drawn to this opportunity due to their interest in public health. Since our initial launch, they have worked closely with Academy staff and trainees to create an online community that is engaging, full of resources, and informative about the Community Health Worker Field.



Amani Khan

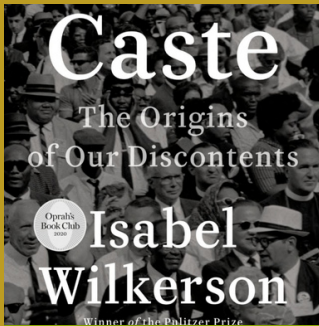


Sydni Smith

In Honor of Black History Month

Some of the ways in which members of the Academy honor Black History Month and favorite sources of information.

"My favorite source is a book called *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* written by Isabel Wilkerson, which gives a very honest telling of how the racial caste system came about in the U.S."



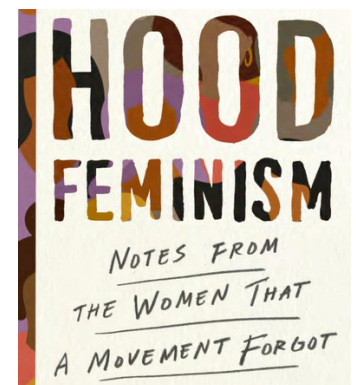
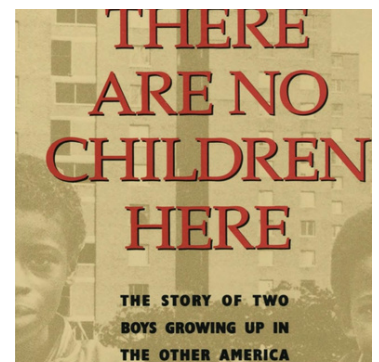
" [I'm choosing] the podcast Historically Black! [Linked Here!](#)

I really appreciate that they explore parts of history that we don't learn about in public education systems. They also often feature celebrities, and you get to hear directly from Black people about how learning these parts of history is empowering and celebrates the well documented strength of the Black community. I've only listened to a few here and there, but I think more people should listen to it for sure! "

" My favorite source for learning about Black History is through books! I specially like books that tell stories. Some of my favorite ones include:

1. *Between the World & Me* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
2. *There Are No Children Here* by Alex Kotlowitz
3. *Hood Feminism* by Mikki Kendall (current read).

These books are thought-provoking and heart-touching; They incite action. I highly recommend them. "



In Honor of Women's History Month

Members of the Academy answered "What's your recommended source for supporting women?"



"My recommended source for supporting women is a [plant nursery](#). I visited when I went to school in Los Angeles called [Potted](#). My friends and I found it online when looking for places to buy plants, and we completely fell in love with this place! It's very trendy, and they have a great variety of plants and pottery to select from. They also have items for decorating your home like paintings and rugs. The staff was very friendly and funny, and they went out of their way to help us. I highly recommend anyone to check this place out!"

"I visited and took my family to the [Reparations Club](#). This is a Women & Blacked-owned bookstore in the heart of Los Angeles, filled with a wide range of book options for everyone! It is a very welcoming space where you can get some work or reading done, and it has a dedicated section for playing fun board games! We encourage you visit this gem located at 3054 S Victoria Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90016."



"[Hija De Tu Madre](#)" is a woman-owned business that curates Latinx fashion and jewelry to celebrate culture and promote empowering messages for women. Their pieces break down stigmas against "Spanglish," and often include messages written in a mix of English and Spanish. I really appreciate this brand because it is woman-owned, and provides me the opportunity to be proud and expressive about being Latina, something I haven't always felt safe doing."

Community Health Work Field Updates

Community Health Field Updates

California Department of Health Care Access & Information (HCAI) to Determine & Set CHW Certification Process!

Given that CHW services are now billable through Medi-Cal, the California Department of Health Care Access & Information (HCAI) is working to develop a certification process for CHW/P/Rs. To determine training and certification requirements and guidelines, HCAI has been intentional about engaging with stakeholders like the CHWA. For more information please visit HCAI's Website.

HCAI completed one-on-one interviews with stakeholders to determine what questions and topics they would primarily focus on as they prepared for listening sessions.

1

The third round of listening sessions took place in March in a slightly different format, where each listening session was stakeholder-specific (e.g. a session for employers & supervisors, another one for training entities, a separate one for tribal groups, etc.)

4

HCAI gathered information through online listening sessions, online information sessions, and in-person sessions for all stakeholders. The first two rounds of listening sessions were open to all and took place in early 2023.

2

In-person listening sessions took place between March and April throughout different communities in California including Los Angeles, Stockton, and San Diego. The second information session is tentatively taking place in May.

5

Please find listening session insights, initial decisions, & lingering questions presented during the First Online Information Session in the linked PPT.

3

Please note: The CHWA has participated by attending listening sessions since February and encourages all stakeholders, specially CHWs, to join these discussion.

Final decisions regarding certification and training programs are set to be out in the summer, the Certification Site is set to be available by August of this year. Stay-tuned for more updates!

What does this mean for the Academy?

Because we have developed our core training based on the nationally approved C3 standards and competencies, we are very confident that our core training will meet future HCAI requirements for certification.

How does this impact our CHW Academy alumni?

Academy Alumni may be able to receive a CHW state-issued certificate based on the CHWA training & certificate they already have. This will be important if CHWs are providing Medi-Cal reimbursable services.

Community Health Worker Opportunities

Career & Civic Engagement Opportunities as of April 19, 2023

Job Title: Community Health Worker, Star Clinic/Housing for Health- Heluna Health
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Job Title: Care Management Community Health Worker II (Long Beach/West L.A)- L.A. CARE
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker- The Lundquist Institute
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker/Lead Care Manager- MedArrive
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker- Prospects Medical Systems
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities and Community Resources with LA Health Volunteers.
[Click Here for More!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker (Bilingual)- SCAN Health Plan
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker- Children's Hospital, Los Angeles
[Click Here to Apply & Learn More!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities with the American Red Cross!
[Click Here for More!](#)

Stay Connected!

Explore our online community!



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CDU.COMMUNITYHEALTHWORK

[Join us on Instagram!](#)



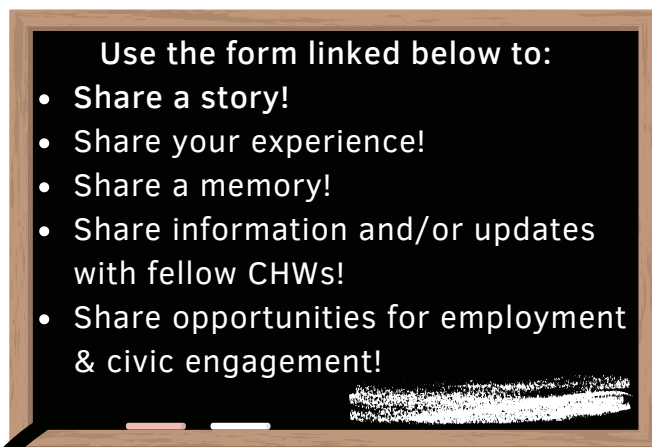
Your Feedback Matters!

Contribute to the Newsletter!



1. How would you rate the content of this month's newsletter?
2. Which section(s) of the newsletter did you find most interesting?
3. What topics would you like for us to include in future volumes of the newsletter?

PLEASE FIND LINK TO FEEDBACK FORM BELOW



Use the form linked below to:

- Share a story!
- Share your experience!
- Share a memory!
- Share information and/or updates with fellow CHWs!
- Share opportunities for employment & civic engagement!



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