

Cohort 4 Trainee Spotlight

Here is what a few of our trainees had to say about why they are interested in community health.

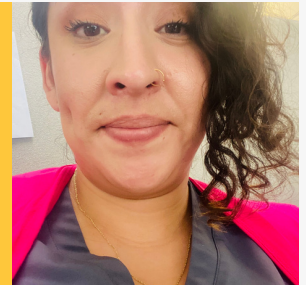


SHANTAL AGREDANO

“I was interested in the CHW academy program because of its work-based learning model in addition to its mission of bridging the gaps of care between patients and providers. I was able to do that during my time as an intern with the guidance of supportive facilitators. I am proud of my work in alleviating these notoriously unavoidable circumstances for patients.”

ANEIDA GONZALEZ

“(I joined) to have a better understanding on how different communities work in order to better help each individual. I love helping my community, especially working with the elderly and people who need that extra help. What interested me even more is I could accomplish something new and it’s rewarding having a certificate at the end.”



ERIKA NAVARRO

“I have always considered myself an empath, and I wanted to know what lengths I can go for people who need help. Also to gain experience and references. The biggest skill gained for me was patience.”

YOCHA DeCHAVEZ

“The Academy has provided me with invaluable skills in becoming a community health worker. . . Learning how to advocate for different patients who come from all walks of life and have differing needs has been one of the biggest skills I have gained thus far. In my ongoing journey as a budding healthcare worker this program has shown me how to better navigate the patient experience.”



KARLA PASCUAL

“I have always enjoyed helping my community and access to healthcare has recently become an area of interest to me. When I heard about the CHW Academy I knew that it was the perfect opportunity for me to get my foot in the door.”

Clinical Sites of Cohort 4

The clinical internship sites for the trainees of the Academy are a fundamental part of CHWA Program, as this is where trainees hone and practice the necessary CHW skills and competencies. The trainees of Cohort 4 were placed in nine different clinical sites, **thanks to our partnership with Providence!** Here is background on each site and the experiences that our trainees gain by working there.

TORRANCE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

CHW Roles: Care coordination for women's health; Mammogram referrals; Appointment management



SAN FERNANDO COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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CHW Roles: Various roles with the Mental Health Program; health education; Coordinating courses

ALL-INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

CHW Roles: Care and referral coordination; appointment management



UMMA COMMUNITY CLINIC

CHW Roles: Roles with a focus on Health Education; Patient referrals; Appointments

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

CHW Roles: Pediatric Clinic; Women's Health; Care coordination; Annual checkups; Referrals; Vaccinations; Appointments



VENICE FAMILY CLINIC

CHW Roles: Health Education; Fresh Food Program; Outreach and engagement

HARBOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

CHW Roles: Enhance Care Management program; Care coordination; Appointment management



COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

CHW Roles: Referrals; Care coordination; Appointments

PROVIDENCE LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY - SAN PEDRO

CHW Roles: Enrollment assistance for programs such as Medi-Cal, Covered CA, CalFresh



Welcome to the Team!

We would like to give a warm welcome to the new programmatic interns of the CHW Academy! These are current and recently graduated college students who have a passion for Community Health. The interns are a fundamental part of the Academy and assist with various projects that contribute to the Academy's growth. Here is a brief introduction to the interns in this current academic year.



Name: Jaylee Cortes

University, Graduation Year: University of Southern California, 2025

Why did you join the Academy? I applied to the Academy because the core values and the mission statement aligned with my own. I want to be able to help contribute to this program.

Name: Ruizhi Wang

University, Graduation Year: Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, 2023

Why did you join the Academy? I want to use my knowledge of community health, health education and health communication to help vulnerable communities improve their access to healthcare.



Name: Tina Yang

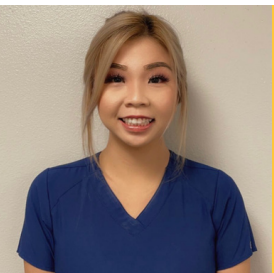
University, Graduation Year: University of California, Los Angeles, 2025

Why did you join the Academy? I want to gain more hands-on experience and practice the necessary skills in public health research.

Name: Zahrah Khan

University, Graduation Year: Charles R. Drew University, 2024

Why did you join the Academy? I completed my Master's thesis on Organizational Readiness with the CHW Academy and want to continue working to help improve health care access to vulnerable populations.



Name: Emily Pham

University, Graduation Year: Keck School of Medicine of USC, 2024

Why did you join the Academy? I believe that this program offers an invaluable opportunity to learn about the roles and responsibilities of a community health worker in the healthcare settings while collaborating with a diverse cohort on empowering public health projects.

Community Health Worker Field Updates

July 2023: The California Department of Health Care Access & Information Provides (HCAI) a Guidance Letter Regarding CHW Certification

Summary

Effective July 2022, Medi-Cal coverage has been expanded to include reimbursable CHW services, as long as they are provided by certified CHWs. Over the last year, the California Department of Health Care Access & Information (HCAI) has worked with CA constituents to develop CHW certification pathways and requirements for State-approved CHW training programs. This has been accomplished through a series of listening sessions, held in both English and Spanish, in which constituents were asked to voice their perspectives on CHW certification and training. After several months of constituent input, HCAI released a guidance letter in July of 2023 which includes details about the three CHW certification pathways, requirements for state-approved training programs, and plans to release an approved training program application process in 2024. The full guidance letter can be found [here](#).

What does this mean for CHWs?

1. **Certification is not required to work as a CHW in CA.** Certification requirements will only impact CHWs who provide CHW services for Medi-Cal reimbursement.
2. CHWs can become certified through one of the following pathways:
 - a. ***CHW Experience Pathway*** (Includes 3 ways to prove prior experience)
 - b. ***Training Pathway*** (For CHWs who do not meet one of the experience pathways)
3. CHWA Alumni are most likely to earn their State Certification through **Option a.**

Requirements for HCAI-Approved CHW Training Programs

- Minimum 80 hours training
- Based in **C3 Standards**
- At least one former or current CHW/P/R on the training team
- 10 hours field experience
- Must include Core Competencies
- Technical Assistance for Trainees to apply for state certificate

The CHW Academy

- Over 80 hours of training
- Based in **C3 Standards**
- Former CHW on the training team
- Field Experience Included
- Core Competency Assessments and other Evaluations Included
- Technical Assistance for CHWA Alumni to be provided once the program certification process is released

Community Health Worker Opportunities

Career & Other Engagement Opportunities as of november 2023

Job Title: Bilingual Community Health Worker- SCAN (Los Angeles County)

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker - Providence Health & Services (Los Angeles)

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Opportunity: Webinar: Value-based Care in Behavioral Health

[Click here to register!](#)

Opportunity Title: Webinar: Remote Care Mangement

[Click here to register!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker - Children's Hospital Los Angeles

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Civic Engagement Opportunity: LA Health Volunteers

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker - AIDS Healthcare Foundation (Los Angeles)

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Job Title: Community Health Worker - USC Keck School of Medicine (Alhambra, CA)

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

Volunteer Opportunity: HelpLine Specialist - National Alliance on Mental Illness

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

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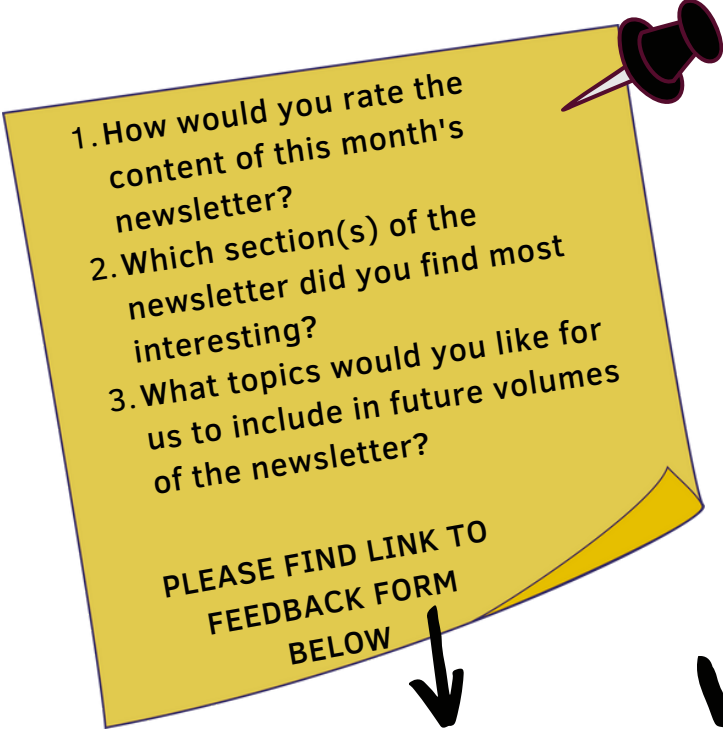


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- 
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 2. Which section(s) of the newsletter did you find most interesting?
 3. What topics would you like for us to include in future volumes of the newsletter?

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

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.