

Community Health Workers at the MLK Outpatient Center's Adult Sickle Cell Clinic

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WHAT IS A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ?

- A frontline public health worker
- A trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.
- 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.*
- Builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency via outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

CHWs Add VALUE to a New Adult SC Clinic

The SCDFC is a full partner in the Pacific Sickle Cell Regional Collaborative

- ◆ SCDFC is the lead Community Based Organization: integral to all discussions
- ◆ Susan Claster, MD, Judith Baker, DrPH, Deborah Green & Mary Brown were at the table with Dr. Hal Yee, Chief Medical Officer of Los Angeles Department of Health Services October 2015: obtaining his commitment to start an adult clinic.
- ◆ Dr. Yee and Dr. Rothman – CMO of MLK Outpatient Center asked if we had Community Health Workers

The CHWs IN THE MLK ADULT SC CLINIC: A POWERFUL ADDITION



CHWs: a bridge for new patients transitioning from peds to adult care. Making a first clinic visit welcoming and comfortable.



CHWs support clinicians: follow up with patients regarding scheduled appointments, arranging transportation, making home visits.



CHWs interpret paper work and other directives.

Barriers to Using Community Health Workers

Standard training protocols...Certification... Reimbursement Solutions? Many states and agencies are working on these issues

- Colorado and Minnesota offers certification programs recognized by their States
- California Public Hospital Association has been trying to get CHWs reimbursed for their direct services as part of Medi-Cal.
- The American Public Health Association has a CHW 'section' working to solve these issues nationally