


The Power of Partnerships




Working Together to Improve Outcomes for Individuals and Communities

AKHCAN is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CCR-2109 grant. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HRHS, or the U.S. Government


By the end of this workshop participants will be able to:

Communicate	Communicate the value of lived experiences to community health work.
Identify	Identify potential partners in your community and how to reach out.
Understand	Understand the value of empowering people to develop confidence.

- Founded in 2007 as a Non-Profit Healthcare Information Exchange Support company.
- Offices located in Morehead and West Liberty
- Services throughout the state of Kentucky
- Federal and State grant funded projects.



- IT Helpdesk Service
- EHR Support
- Billing and Coding
- Quality Improvement/Design
- Patient-Centered Medical Home Consultation



Kentucky RHIO
Kentucky Rural Healthcare
Interim Organization

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities ARC Project

What a community health worker is

12 Kentucky Counties:
Bath, Clark, Estill, Knox, Laurel, Lewis, Menifee, Montgomery, Morgan, Powell, Rowan, Whitley

Period of Performance: 10/01/2021 to 09/30/2024
Approved Funding: \$1,039,409.99
Planned Participants: 100
Target Population: Individuals in recovery from OUD/SUD

Kentucky RHIO
Kentucky Rural Healthcare
Interim Organization

Workforce Opportunity for Rural Communities ARC Project

The Funding Source

- The U.S. Department of Labor, in partnership with the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), awarded \$29 million dollars in grants to 23 organizations to provide employment and training services to regional and local workforces.
- KRHIO was awarded part of these funds to fund projects to invest in education, training, career support services, computer-based training and classroom instructions for those in recovery from OUD/SUD in the 12-county services area.

The Target Population

- KRHIO and the Consortium Members of this project work closely with the population of persons impacted by SUD and/or OUD and have identified employment training as a critical gap in the recovery ecosystem in our communities.

The Goals

- KRHIO and the Consortium Members of this project work closely with the population of persons impacted by SUD and/or OUD and have identified employment training as a critical gap in the recovery ecosystem in our communities.

CREATE

Economic prosperity

Gainful Employment

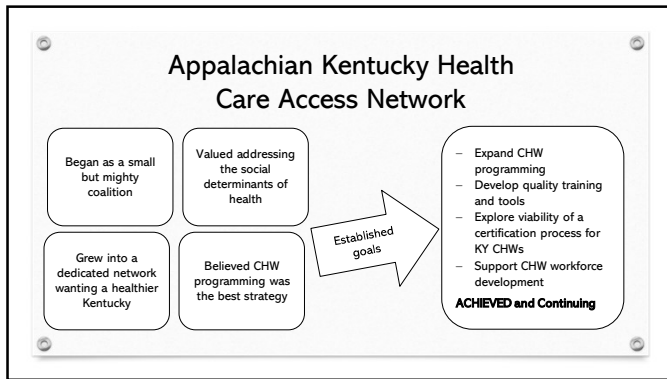
High-quality Career Outcomes

Create an innovative, sustainable workforce training model that is community-based and addresses local challenges.

Strengthen partnerships and leverage existing and newly created resources to provide sustainable supports for persons new to the workforce to receive training and support.

New and sustainable program for **increasing** the number of persons trained and available for high demand occupations in the service area to facilitate retention of these individuals in their rural community.

Outcomes to **facilitate** delivery of services to assist both employers and employees in meeting workforce challenges and industry needs in Appalachia.



AKHCAN
Appalachian Kentucky
Health Care Access Network

2023 & Beyond

AKHCAN is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CCR-2109 grant. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government

- Stand alone non-profit agency
- Board and Executive Director
- Training Organization for CHWs across the state
- Capacity to provide in person or virtual training throughout KY
- Served several organizations and hundreds of CHWs throughout the state with Training & Technical Assistance in 2023

AKHCAN Began as a partnership AND continues to rely on partners!

AKHCAN is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CCR-2109 grant. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

Network member's organizations

CHWs that we serve

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Department for Public Health

Kentucky Office of CHWs (KOCHW)

Kentucky Association of CHWs (KYACHW)

Health Departments


Health Care Organizations


Social Services Organizations

Kentucky RHIO

CHES Solutions Group

Asking the right questions
+
Finding the right people
=
Successful Project







- A strong partnership brings together the brightest minds in the various key disciplines.
- Each partner should have a unique role and bring in a special, required expertise and/or technology by pooling their resources for achieving a common goal.

2 Volunteers - "Directors"
Orange for the Construction Project
Blue for the Ocean Project



4 or 6 Volunteers - "Partners"

Audience to go to their assigned **Orange** or **Blue** group. (Each person will be given an **orange** or **blue** card during the introduction)

Orange group for the Construction Project
Blue group for the Ocean Project

1. Strategize: Discuss in your group what questions to ask the puzzle piece holders to find the right pieces to your puzzle.
2. "Hit the pavement": talk to the puzzle piece holders to see if they have the right pieces to your puzzle.
3. Build: Put your puzzle together.



CHW Partners & Partnerships

- Local Health Departments
- Hospitals & Clinics
- Medical, Dental, Behavioral Health Providers
- Substance Use Treatment Centers
- Faith Based Organizations
- Department for Public Health



NEW PARTNERS

- WHY DO WE NEED THEM?
- WHO ARE THEY?
- WHERE DO WE FIND THEM?
- HOW DO WE ASK?
- WHAT IF THEY SAY NO?

WHY DO WE NEED PARTNERS?

They may have similar values and goals


They broaden your professional network

They provide opportunities to collaborate

They broaden the service array


They represent different points of view

They have different expertise and experiences



WHO ARE THEY?

- Career Services Centers
- Second Chance Employers
- Recovery Community Centers
- Community Coalitions
- Local Governments
- Public Schools
- Local Law Enforcement
- Child & Adult Protection Service Agencies
- Research and Evaluation Firms




Where can I find them?

- Get to know your community and help them know you
- Reach out, be specific, and follow up

How do I ask?

- NO means GO



Consortium member & training provider
for WORC participants


~AND~

Guidance and Consultation
Training Internship
Mental Health First Aid
Mutual Marketing
Job shadowing
Contributing to Content

Shared value CHW led programming and
seeing lived experience as an asset to
Community Health Work




What is
lived
experience?



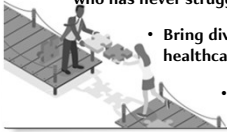
lived experience refers to the first-hand involvement or direct experiences and choices of a given person, and the knowledge that they gain from it, as opposed to the knowledge a given person gains from second-hand or mediated source.

The word **"lived"** is used to differentiate from others who may have experience of working with mental health and substance use conditions but have not personally lived through those challenges.



How can Community Health Workers bridge the healthcare gap?

- Provide support and resources based on lived experience and guidance to support groups, recovery centers, treatment facilities, etc.
- Patients with a Mental Health Challenge or a Substance Use Disorder, CHWs can identify with the person's struggles more than a provider who has never struggled with those issues.
- Bring diversity by serving people often forgotten by the healthcare system.
- Will meet people where they are.



Stigma brings experiences and feelings of shame, hopelessness, distress, reluctance to seek help, and more.



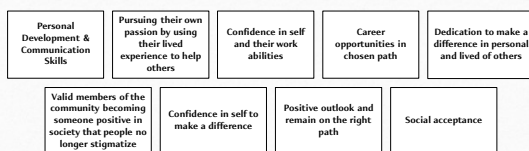
Commonly Stigmatized

Age	
Body Size	
Mental Health	
Substance Use Disorders	
Gender Identity	
Sexual Orientation	

Ways to Combat Stigma

Talk openly about Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders
Use Person-First Language
Encourage Equality between Physical Health and Mental Health
Use Empathy and Compassion
Educate Yourself and Others
Choose Empowerment over Shame

What have the Participants Gained from this Partnership?



What do you want to know to make this project successful?

Goals
Objectives
Outcomes

What applicable tools do you need to gather the necessary information?





Data Reporting

Report Dates: 09/01/2022 to 09/01/2023
Yearly Report



Participant Report	Numbers
Number of applications filled out online	70
Number of participants currently enrolled	29
Number of participants completed the training program	5
Number of participants who have completed their CTS but have quit the training program	11
Number of applicants with no response after filling out the application online	34




Data Reporting

Report Dates: 09/01/2022 to 09/01/2023
Yearly Report



Course Report	Numbers
Number of participants waiting for structured course to open	3
Number of participants enrolled in Peer Support Specialist Training	4
Number of participants enrolled in Community Health Worker	28
Number of participants enrolled in Microsoft Office Specialist	11
Number of participants enrolled in Health Information Technology Support	5
Number of participants currently in an Internship	1
Number of participants currently in Job Shadowing	1
Number of participants enrolled in Employability	12



Amanda Clem, APSS, CCHW
Certified Adult Peer Support Specialist
 Certified Community Health Worker

One of *Many* Success Stories

- Amanda signed up because she was in a position where she could not excel and move forward with what she was wanting to do.
- Her personal lived experience in active addiction and into recovery led her to inspire strength and hope into the hearts of those who also suffer from a substance use disorder.
- Amanda was offered an internship position with Appalachian Kentucky Health Care Access Network (AKHCAN).
- Amanda was offered several positions and for the first time turned down offers.
- She accepted a position with New Day Recovery Center in Winchester, Kentucky as a Peer Support Specialist.
- Amanda's story will change the lives of many people.




Any Questions?



Kellie Warren, BSW
 Executive Director
 Lexington, KY
info@akhcan.org
 859.699.3654



Julie Stephens, CCHW, CRHCP, RH-CBS
 Project Director
 Morehead, KY
j.stephens@krhio.org
 606.776.9595
