



Engaging Community Health Workers to Achieve Health Equity in North Carolina

Event Summary

Key Takeaways



Community Health Workers (CHWs) serve as unique bridges between health care services and priority communities due to their ability to relate to the same systemic barriers as priority communities.



Relevant lived experiences and connection with a priority population is essential for the intentional, effective placement of CHWs.



You can start advancing the work of CHWs by talking with legislators and policy makers to support the creation of jobs and integration of CHWs, and encouraging your health care professionals to include CHWs in team-based clinical care.

Highlights from Panelists

CHANGE THE SYSTEM:



“If we keep doing what we’ve been doing, we’ll keep getting what we’ve been getting.”
- Chiquitta Lesene

BE TRUSTWORTHY:



“People will not open their door unless they are able to relate.” - Joyce Page

AVOID UNINTENTIONAL HARM:



“Often our CHWs work with communities who are marginalized or underserved or vulnerable in some way . . . and not having an intentionality or understanding around those populations and communities can actually lead to stereotyping or insensitivity.” - Emily Finley

Watch the [English Recording](#) or the [Spanish Interpretation](#)
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Panelists



Chiquitta W. Lesene, MS, NCRT, I/O Psychologist
Founder/CEO, Shackle Free Community Outreach Agency



Joyce Page, MPH, MSPH
Public Health Education Specialist & Coordinator of the Men’s Health Council, Durham County Department of Health



Emily Finley, MPH
Engagement Lead, Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH)



Community-Campus Partnerships for Health
Promoting Health Equity and Social Justice