

Penn State Cancer Institute's Community Health Worker Program

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

The Community Health Worker Program through its team of Community Health Workers is positioned to be that effective links between community and systems of care. The goal of the CHWP is to decrease morbidity and mortality from cancer and chronic disease among the medically underserved African American community of Dauphin County by:

1. Navigating clients to resources and services.
2. Providing education and skills.
3. Removing barriers/red tape that block/delay access to care.
4. Supporting the client with follow-up and follow through to completing their medical objectives.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Who? Trusted members of the community who have a passion for helping other community members prevent or manage cancer and chronic disease.

What? The Affordable Care Act calls for CHWs to be members of health care teams. Studies have shown that CHWs have had a positive impact on: keeping appointments, compliance with prescriptions, risk reduction, coordinating primary care, preventive services and management of chronic conditions.

Why? High cancer morbidity and mortality rates among African Americans can be directly attributed to lack of knowledge about cancer prevention and control. Subsequently African Americans have the highest percentages of late stage cancer diagnosis. This same population has the highest obesity rate in the nation a strong contributor to some cancers and chronic disease.



PennState Health
Milton S. Hershey Medical Center



OTHER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENTS OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM

- Annual Cancer Education Summit
- Nutrition Workshops
- National Cancer Survivors Day
- Harrisburg Area Breast Cancer Support Group