



Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC): Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative (CHWLC) Workgroup Meeting Agenda

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Location: Howard County Health Department, Heroes Conference Room A, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD 21045

Growing Healthy Families Co-chairs: Amanda Toohey and María José Candanoza

2. Meeting Purpose:

To discuss the planning for the National CHW Awareness Week event, to learn more about the Cancer Health Ambassador Program, discuss about the role of CHWs in vaccine education and professional development opportunities, and recognize organizations' CHWs as part of the CHW Appreciation Day.

3. Agenda Items

10:00 – 10:15 Welcome

- Introductions
- Previous Meeting Recap
- Announcements

10:15 – 10:35 Cancer Health Ambassador Program

Devlon N. Jackson, PhD, MPH

04/2026



Assistant Research Professor, Department of Behavioral and
Community Health, University of Maryland School of Public Health

10:35 – 10:55 National CHW Awareness Week Event (August 24-28)

Amanda Toohey, Co-chair, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical
Center

10:55 – 11:10 Vaccines and the Role of CHWs and Professional Development

María José Candanoza, Co-chair, HCLHIC

11:10 – 11:25 CHW Appreciation Day Recognition

María José Candanoza and Amanda Toohey, Co-chairs

11:25 – 11:30 Next Steps & Wrap-Up

Maribet Rivera-Brute,
Director,
Local Health Improvement Coalition (LHIC),
Howard County Health Department

4. Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative FY26-28 Goals:

- **Goal 1.** Create a centralized Community Health Worker (CHW) network across all organizations in Howard County to enhance collaboration, improve culturally appropriate, accessible, and inclusive resource sharing, and expand access to community-based health initiatives.
 - **Objective 1.1.** By June 2028, lead efforts to connect CHWs across the county to share resources and funding opportunities.
 - **Objective 1.2.** By June 2028, maintain and expand the CHWLC Workgroup membership to enhance workforce retention, foster professional development and ensure the long-term sustainability of CHW programs across the county.
 - **Objective 1.3.** By June 2028, increase participation of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Howard County during the CHWLC meetings and training events.

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- **Goal 2.** Elevate CHWs as trusted advocates in healthcare and social services by strengthening public awareness, expanding professional development and fostering partnerships that improve access and equity in community health.
 - **Objective 2.1.** By June 2028, develop best practices and expectations for CHWs to enhance professionalism, ensure consistency in service delivery and strengthen their role in bridging healthcare and social services.
 - **Objective 2.2.** By June 2028, establish a sustainable network connecting CHWs with community organizations, schools, local leaders and businesses by portraying the positive impact of CHWs in the community, developing structured referral mechanisms, fostering ongoing partnerships and increasing awareness of CHW contributions to healthcare and social services.
 - **Objective 2.3.** By June 2028, integrate CHWs into existing Howard County Health Department (HCHD) programs by developing structured workflows that enhance coordination, streamline service delivery and strengthen CHW engagement in healthcare and social services.