HEALI Meeting Notes

2/16/2022

**Updates**

* New York State Department of Health (DOH) released a new 1115 Waiver concept paper last year.
  + The new concept paper focuses on health equity, recognizes the impact of COVID-19 and gives a strong opportunity for a coalition like HEALI to address the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH).
  + Emily Engle presented the new information to the HEALI coalition.
    - Information from her presentation can be found [here.](https://hwcli.com/work-we-do/coalition-grassroots-organizing/heali/)
  + The concept paper will likely be put in an application for public comment after the budget period (April 1st).
  + The HEALI Steering Committee drafted feedback/comments for the 1115 Waiver Concept paper.
    - To reinforce the importance of CBO funding.
    - Clarification on the role of Local Health Departments.
    - Unified and streamlined data reporting and technology system
      * Urge the NYSDOH to choose one technology system for data sharing and reporting and to ensure the integration of this system with other departments across NYS.
    - Asked for clarification for workforce development opportunities for the SDOH and CHWs.

**Panelist**

Arielle Burlett, Director, Healthcare-Community Partnerships at Public Health Solutions

* What is a CHW?
  + They are trusted messengers, front line workers who live in the community they serve.
  + They are advocates for patients and make sure they get the care that they need.
* Public Health Solutions
  + Largest Public Health Nonprofit in NYC.
  + They strive to achieve health equity through their direct care staff (CHW).
  + PHS has multiple CHW models
    - 1) Home visiting model: Focuses on Child and Maternal Health.
      * New York Presbyterian Queens works with a variety of CBOs that have CHW. The pediatricians do the initial intake then refer the patient to the appropriate CBO.
    - 2) Managed Care Partner: Conduct telephonic support to individuals living with HIV and other chronic conditions.
      * The CHW encourages autonomy to help them manage their care over the long term.
  + Their CHW training includes:
    - An understanding of the healthcare system
    - Care coordination.
    - Working with interdisciplinary teams.
    - Understanding the specific clinical teams they interact with at the hospitals.
    - Understanding cultural competence.
    - Technology

Carmen Garcia, Community Health Worker Supervisor, Make the Road NY

* Make the Road NY is a CBO that helps working class and immigrant communities by connecting them to services.
  + Services include:
    - Legal
    - Health (SNAP, health insurance)
    - CHW training and services
    - Food pantries
    - COVID Education
* What is a CHW?
  + Someone from the community who acts as a bridge between those individuals and the clinical healthcare team.
  + For a patient with asthma, their CHW will conduct environmental assessments to see if they have mold, cockroaches etc., as well as helping them navigate the healthcare system.
* What are some challenges CHW face?
  + Inconsistent funding stream makes it difficult for organizations to plan new programs.
  + Working remotely during COVID-19.
    - They adapted by doing virtual visits instead of home visits.

Stanley Smith, Community Health Advocates Supervisor at LIFQHC

* Their Community Health Advocates (CHA) take care of the patients regardless of insurance or immigration status.
* The CHA does an initial screening of the patient to see what their SDOH barriers are, then create a plan to address those barriers.
* The CHA training includes:
  + They spend one week at each of LIFQHC’s sites.
    - The trainees are exposed to different kinds of patients and healthcare workers.
  + Technology training.
  + Basic understanding of the healthcare system.
  + Stan views empathy and interpersonal skills as essential for a successful CHA.
* LIFQHC secures funding for their CHA through grants.