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.