



Utah Broad-Based Community Health Worker Coalition (CHWC)-CHW Definition

Utah CHW Definition

A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served.

This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a connector between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A community health worker is not necessarily a clinical professional but receives training to build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

Other names for CHWs:

- Community connector
- Community health advocate
- Community outreach worker
- Family health advocate
- HIV peer counselor
- Lay health advisor
- Maternal child health worker
- Parent support partner
- Patient advocate
- Patient educator
- Patient health navigator
- Peer support specialist
- Peer educator
- Promotore(a)
- Recovery coach
- Wellness coach