

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

Utah Community Health Workers Coalition

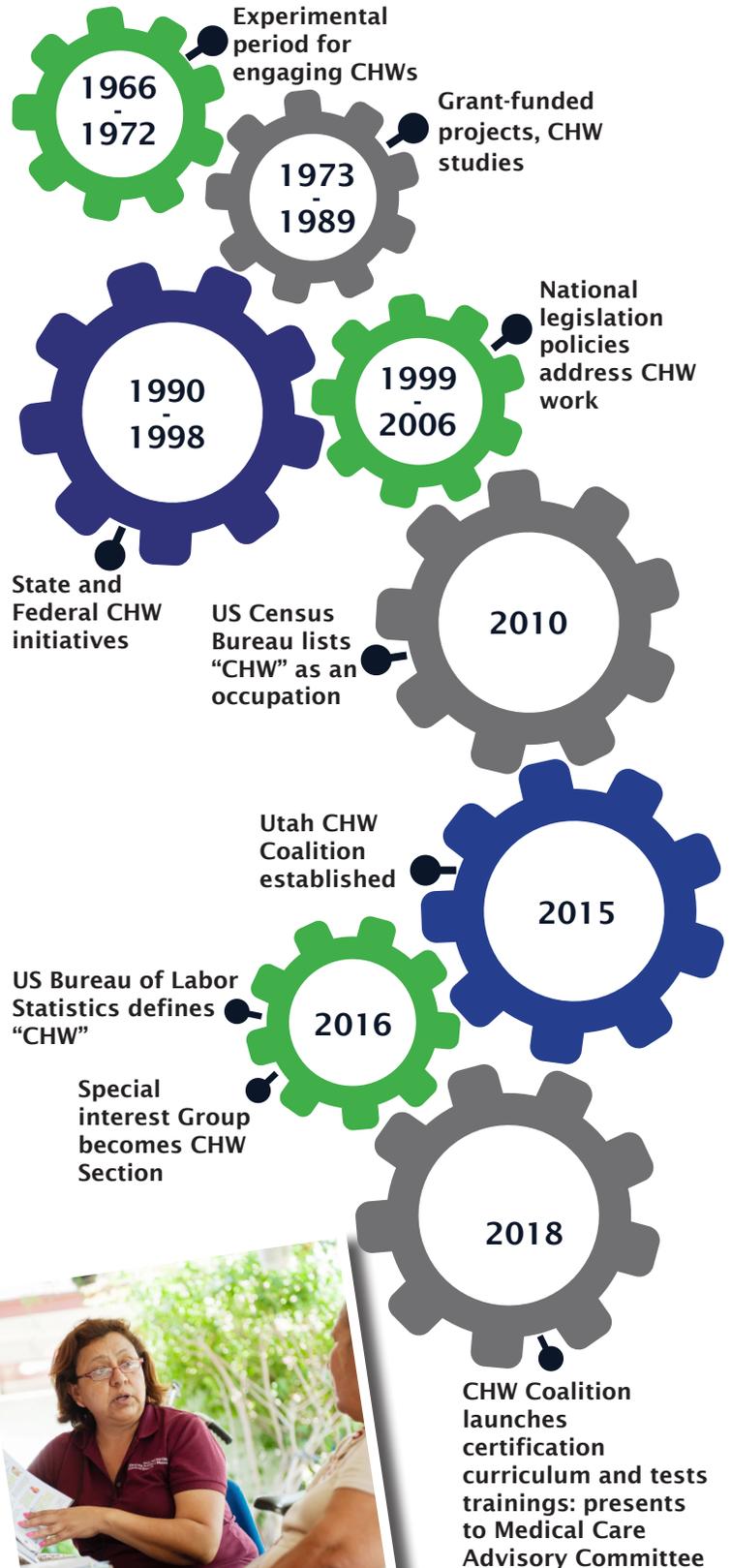
MISSION: To promote, support and advance the work of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Utah.

CHW DEFINITION: The jobs and roles of CHWs are as varied as their titles (promotora, patient advocate, peer support specialist, etc.). All CHWs, however, share trust and a connection with their communities. Community Health Workers are trained lay people who provide education and social support to their neighbors, while serving as a liaison with health care providers. CHWs offer interpretation, provide culturally appropriate health information, assist people in receiving the care they need, help overcome barriers, give informal counseling and guidance on health behaviors, and advocate for individual and community health needs.

COALITION STRUCTURE: Led by an Advisory Board, the CHW Coalition consists of two workgroups served voluntarily by members of local government, non-profit organizations, health systems and Utah businesses.

The workgroups are: Workforce Development and Finance and Advocacy. Workgroup members meet regularly on these focus areas:

- Standardized training of CHW core competencies for CHWs, accessible statewide
- Certification for CHW training upon completion
- Defined Scope of Practice for CHWs
- Development and growth of the CHW Section, under the Utah Public Health Association (UPHA)
- Public and professional recognition for the work of CHWs
- Return-on-investment business case for CHW work, with sustainable finance mechanisms



Community Health Workers Core Skills & Roles



Advocacy

Speak up for individuals and communities; advocate for policy changes.



Outreach

Conduct case-finding, recruitment and follow-up; prepare and distribute material.



Capacity Building

Help others identify their potential; work to increase individual empowerment; network and build community connections.



Individual & Community Assessment

Observe and actively inquire about individuals and the community to develop assessments.



Coordination & Navigation

Identify and access resources; overcome barriers; develop goals and action plan; coordinate with clinical and community services; follow-up and track outcomes.



Interpersonal & Relationship Building

Provide informal counseling, social support, and coaching; use motivational interviewing techniques; manage conflict.



Education & Facilitation

Use teaching strategies to facilitate group discussions; plan and conduct classes and presentations; find and share information; collaborate with other educators.



Communication

Use language confidently in ways that engage and motivate; communicate with empathy; actively listen; use written and electronic communication methods.



Professional Conduct

Develop and follow a work plan; balance priorities and manage time; use pertinent technology; pursue continuing education; work safely, and observe ethical and legal standards; participate in professional development and networking opportunities.



Knowledge

Seek and maintain knowledge about physical health issues, healthy living and self-care, mental health, behavior theories, public health principles, background about the community served, social determinants of health, and problem solving techniques.

Want to help?

We need more people supporting Community Health Workers. Join the Utah CHW Coalition — each workgroup welcomes your passion and skills!

Please contact:
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