

# Rhode Island Community Health Worker Conference: Building Bridges: Strengthening Communities and Advancing Systems Together



Thursday, June 26, 2025 8:00AM – 3:30PM

Time	Topic	Presenter	Location
<b>8:30 - 9:00 AM REGISTRATION &amp; BREAKFAST</b>			<b>MAIN HALL</b>
<b>9:00AM – 9:45AM</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Emcee: Perla Fernandez, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Community Health Worker, Tri-County Community Action Program <b>Welcome: Pilar McCloud, CHW (she/her)</b> , Community Health Worker, CEO, The Pilar McCloud Experience/ASC Youth Org <b>Ambar Delgado, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Certified Community Health Worker	<b>MAIN HALL</b>
<b>BREAK - 15 Minutes</b>			
<b>10:00AM – 11:15AM</b>	<b>CHWs in Our Community: Working Across Diverse Settings</b>	<b>Moderator: Jeannine Casselman, JD (she/her)</b> , Law and Policy Director, Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Dakota Gadson CHW (he/him)</b>, Community Health Worker, Connecting for Children &amp; Families</li> <li>◦ <b>Koren Carbuccia, CCHE (she/her)</b>, CEO, Rhode Island Independent Community Health Works</li> <li>◦ <b>Lisandra Salas, CHW (she/her)</b>, Community Health Worker, Women &amp; Infants Hospital</li> <li>◦ <b>Barbara Fernandez, CHW (she/her)</b>, Community Health Worker, Asthenis Pharmacy</li> <li>◦ <b>Denis Gonzalez, CHW (he/him)</b> Community Health Worker, Housing Program Manager, City of Providence</li> </ul>	<b>MAIN HALL</b>
	<b>Motivational Interviewing</b>	<b>Jacki Hecht, RN, MSN (she/her)</b> , Project Coordinator, Luci Baines Johnson and Ian J. Turpin Center for Gerontological Nursing, The University of Texas at Austin   School of Nursing	<b>MUTLI-PURPOSE ROOM</b>
	<b>CHWs in Research: Empowering Community Voices</b>	<b>Moderator: Tammy Thorson, MS (she/her)</b> , Project Manager, Advance RI-CTR @Brown University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Hilda R. Castillo, BS (she/her)</b>, Community Engagement Specialist, Advance RI-CTR @Brown University</li> <li>◦ <b>Denisses Cortorreal, CHW (she/her)</b>, Community Liaison, Women &amp; Infants Hospital</li> <li>◦ <b>Dilenia Cruz Rodriguez, CHW (she/her)</b>, Wellness Community Specialist, Progreso Latino</li> <li>◦ <b>Emelin Cruz, CHW (she/her)</b>, Community Health Worker, Care New Englad</li> <li>◦ <b>Mitchelle Abuna, ScM (she/her)</b>, Lead Evaluator, CDC CHW Initiative, Rhode Island Department of Health</li> </ul>	<b>MUSIC ROOM</b>

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Time	Topic	Presenter	Location
<b>11:30AM - 12:00PM</b>	<b>Guided Networking Activity</b>	<b>Mayelyn Gomez, CCHW (she/her)</b> , RI Works Program Coordinator, CCAP <b>Cristy Romero, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Community Health Worker, Family Service of Rhode Island	<b>MAIN HALL</b>
	<b>Self-Care Station:</b> Vision Boards + Reflection Tools	<b>Felix Colon, LCSW, CHW (he/him)</b> , Director of Family Strengthening, Connecting for Children and Families <b>Perla Fernandez, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Community Health Worker, Tri-County Community Action Program <b>Lina Roman, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Supervisor/Trainer, RI Support Network	<b>ART ROOM</b>
	<b>Democracy Wall / Interactive Poster</b>	<b>Ambar Delgado, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Certified Community Health Worker <b>Geraldine McPhee, CCHW (she/her)</b> , CHW Policy & Systems Specialist, RIPIN	<b>MAIN HALL</b>
	<b>Vendor Tables Open</b>		<b>MAIN HALL</b>
<b>12:00PM - 12:45PM</b>	<b>Lunch provided by our friends at Amos House</b>		<b>MAIN HALL</b>
<b>12:45PM - 1:00PM</b>	<b>Community Impact Awards</b> <b>Presenters: Tonya Glantz, MSW, PhD (she/her)</b> , Executive Director, CHWARI <b>Felix Colon, LCSW, CHW (he/him)</b> , Director of Family Strengthening, Connecting for Children and Families		<b>MAIN HALL</b>
<b>1:15PM - 2:15PM</b>	<b>Equity by Us:</b> <b>CHWs, Community, and Collective Leadership</b>	<b>Moderator: James Day (he/him)</b> , Health Program Administrator, Rhode Island Department of Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jessica Thigpen, CCHW (she/her)</b>, 02907 HEZ Program Director, 02907 HEZ</li> <li><b>Tonya Glantz, MSW, PhD (she/her)</b>, Executive Director, CHWARI</li> </ul>	<b>MUTLI-PURPOSE ROOM</b>

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Time	Topic	Presenter	Location
1:15PM - 2:15PM	<b>Community Connections: How CHWs support non-English speakers</b>	<b>Manuela Barcelos (she/her)</b> , Health Equity Institute, Educator, CLAS Trainer, Rhode Island Department of Health <b>Ambar Delgado, CCHW (she/her)</b> , Certified Community Health Worker	<b>MUSIC ROOM</b>
	<b>CHW in Community Wellness: Engaging and Empowering Positive Community</b>	<b>Moderator: Rachel Young, CCHW CHES (she/her)</b> , Engagement Coordinator, RIPIN- Alliance for Community Health Worker Employers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ <b>Michelle Martins, CHW BS (she/her)</b> Health Education Manager, RIPIN</li> <li>◦ <b>Erica Hanson, CHW (she/her)</b>, Community Health Network Manager,</li> <li>◦ <b>Joey O'Shea, (he/him/they/them)</b> Comprehensive Suicide Prevention/Fall Prevention, Rhode Island Department of Health</li> <li>◦ <b>Jorge Diaz, CCHW (he/him)</b>, Bilingual Health Education Coordinator, RIPIN</li> <li>◦ <b>Joao Carvalho, CCHW (he/him)</b>, Community Health Worker, Progreso Latino</li> </ul>	<b>MAIN HALL</b>
2:30PM - 3:00 PM	<b>Close out and Raffle!</b>	<b>Closing Remarks: Denise Smith, MBA, BS, CHW, PN, SFC (she/hers)</b> , Inaugural Executive Director at National Association of CHWS and Co-Founder at Vaccine Equity Cooperative <i>Be here to win a raffle prize!</i>	<b>MAIN HALL</b>

Check out the conference website for more info on our presenters, partners and sponsors!



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