



# Developing a Peer Mentoring Program to Advance the CHW Practice Florida Community Health Worker Coalition, Inc. (FCHWC)

## FCHWC Peer Mentoring Program

1. Florida Community Health Worker Coalition, Inc. (FCHWC) held its 4th Annual Florida CHW Coalition Summit in Orlando, FL in September 2014. Summit attendees identified Mentoring as an Action Item of the Practice Subgroup for 2015.
2. In the Winter 2014 FCHWC began development of the Peer Mentoring Program through ongoing stakeholder conference calls, periodic face-to-face meetings and review of a draft manual and program supplements e.g. mentoring contract, mentoring log, timesheet, etc.
3. FCHWC's Practice Co-Chairs recognized an opportunity to offer a "work-based learning" experience to entry level CHWs to work in diverse settings of health and social service agencies differing from the standard on-the-job training model.
4. The Peer Mentoring program goal is to Advance the Practice of CHWs and expand workforce opportunities promoting FCHWC's overarching mission to advancing the CHW profession. Its format design enables both the CHW and the agency to benefit from the experience. In return, the placement offers valuable opportunities of working and interacting with diverse professionals and diverse populations in assigned regions. Program piloted, orientation and recruitment began August 2015 in Region 5 - Southeast Florida (Miami-Dade County). Practice Subgroup Co-Chairs serve as coordinators and monitor peer mentoring program and modifying components as applicable under directions of FCHWC Board of Directors.
5. FCHWC is pursuing funding to provide stipends to participants and agencies however, the program moves forward through dedicated community partnerships. CHWs currently enrolled in Peer Mentoring Program CHWs provide services such as: client advocacy and outreach, health screening, client interaction and intervention, community engagement, and more. Peer Mentoring Program participation qualifies towards the 532 hours needed for the FCB Certification.

### About the Florida Community Health Worker Coalition, Inc.

In 2010, Florida's Cancer Program in the Department of Health received a Policy, Systems and Environmental Change grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and began convening CHWs and other stakeholders from various disciplines to develop and promote the work of CHWs as a strategy to increase access to healthcare. The FLCHWC was established in early 2011 as a result of those efforts. Dedicated to promoting the CHW profession in Florida, FLCHWC has grown to over 750 members meeting by conference calls, regional trainings, webinars, and annual face-to-face summits. FLCHWC convenes subgroups focused on networking/sustainability, curriculum, policy, research, and practice. The FCHWC promotes increased engagement of CHWs to support health education and prevention efforts, and to reduce health disparities.

### APHA MEETING 2015, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FOR MORE INFORMATION: [WWW.FLORIDACHW.ORG](http://WWW.FLORIDACHW.ORG); [FLCHWCOALITION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FLCHWCOALITION@GMAIL.COM)  
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