

Howard County Local Health Improvement Coalition (HCLHIC): Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative (CHWLC) Workgroup Meeting Agenda

Date: September 17, 2026

Time: 10:00 – 11:30 am

Location: Howard County Health Department, Heroes Conference Room A, 8930 Stanford Blvd, Columbia, MD 21045/Virtual via Zoom

CHWLC Co-chairs: Amanda Toohey and María José Candanoza

2. Meeting Purpose:

To learn more about Alzheimer's and dementia care, engage participants in a roundtable discussion about the topic and identify next steps for the CHWLC Workgroup.

3. Agenda Items

10:00 – 10:10 Welcome

Christine Ballou, HCLHIC Community Engagement Coordinator

- Introductions
- Previous Meeting Recap
- Announcements

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10:10-10:30 Guest Speakers – Howard County Office of Aging and Independence

María José Candanoza, Co-chair, HCLHIC

- Kami Bennett, Dementia Navigation Coordinator
- Felicia Stein, Social Day Programs

10:30– 10:45 Guest Speaker - Right at Home, Memory Café

María José Candanoza, Co-chair, HCLHIC

- Dan Shaw, Business Development Manager

10:50 – 11:10 Roundtable Discussion: Alzheimer's and Dementia Care

Amanda Toohey, Co-chair, Johns Hopkins Howard County Medical Center

11:10 – 11:25 CHWLC Goals FY 2026-2028

María José Candanoza, Co-chair, HCLHIC

- Brief review/discussion of the CHWLC goals and objectives

11:25 – 11:30 Next Steps & Adjourn

Christine Ballou, HCLHIC Community Engagement Coordinator

4. Community Health Worker Learning Collaborative FY26-28 Goals:

- **Goal 1.** Create a centralized Community Health Worker (CHW) network across all organizations in Howard County to enhance collaboration, improve culturally appropriate, accessible, and inclusive resource sharing, and expand access to community-based health initiatives.
 - **Objective 1.1.** By June 2028, lead efforts to connect CHWs across the county to share resources and funding opportunities.
 - **Objective 1.2.** By June 2028, maintain and expand the CHWLC Workgroup membership to enhance workforce retention, foster professional development and ensure the long-term sustainability of CHW programs across the county.
 - **Objective 1.3.** By June 2028, increase participation of Community Health Workers (CHWs) in Howard County during the CHWLC

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meetings and training events. - Christine Ballou

- **Goal 2.** Elevate CHWs as trusted advocates in healthcare and social services by strengthening public awareness, expanding professional development and fostering partnerships that improve access and equity in community health.
 - **Objective 2.1.** By June 2028, develop best practices and expectations for CHWs to enhance professionalism, ensure consistency in service delivery and strengthen their role in bridging healthcare and social services.
 - **Objective 2.2.** By June 2028, establish a sustainable network connecting CHWs with community organizations, schools, local leaders and businesses by portraying the positive impact of CHWs in the community, developing structured referral mechanisms, fostering ongoing partnerships and increasing awareness of CHW contributions to healthcare and social services.
 - **Objective 2.3.** By June 2028, integrate CHWs into existing Howard County Health Department (HCHD) programs by developing structured workflows that enhance coordination, streamline service delivery and strengthen CHW engagement in healthcare and social services.