



Texas Association of  
Promotores &  
Community Health  
Workers

# THE CHAMPION

*Our Mission is to support and expand opportunities for the CHW profession at the state and local level through advocacy, education, empowerment, and policy.*

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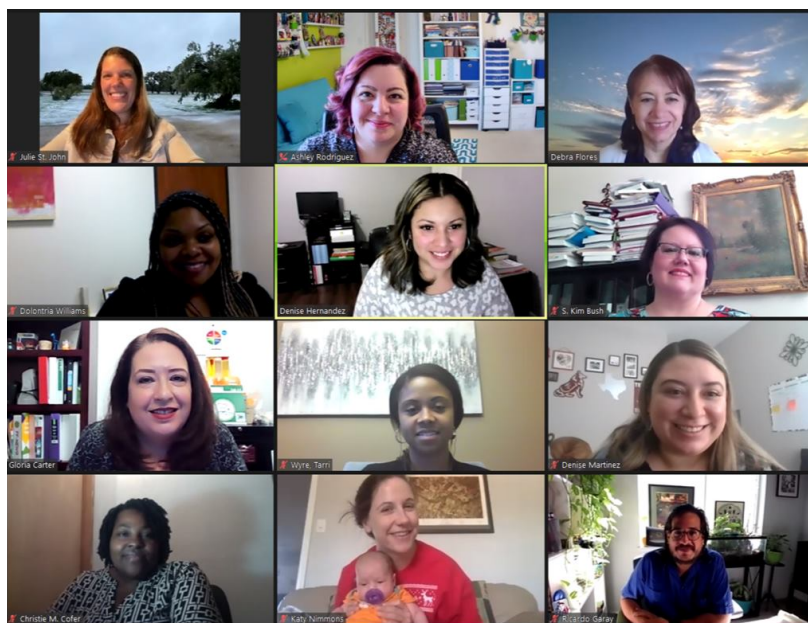
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## A Message from the President of the Board of Directors



TAPCHW held our official kick-off in fall of 2019 - in some ways, it's hard to believe two years have passed since then. We're grown as an organization not only in terms of members (~ 170 currently) and affiliate organizations (see page 6 for listing), but also as a board and recognized entity in Texas, as well as Nationally. We've been active in more than a dozen projects and have just as many partnerships in the works - all in support of our mission to support and expand opportunities for the CHW profession at the state and local level through advocacy, education, empowerment, and policy.

Throughout the pandemic, we've worked tirelessly to support you, **our valued members!** We will continue to strive to support CHWs across Texas - read more about our projects and partnerships on page 4!

*Ashley Rodriguez*  
President of the Board of Directors

## Conference Keynote Speakers: State & National CHW Leaders

TAPCHW is excited to announce that this year's 2nd annual virtual conference will kick-off with state and national CHW leaders: Beatrice Smith from the Texas Department of State Health Services CHW Program, and Denise Smith who serves as Founding Executive Director for the National Community Health Worker Association. Both will be presenting on the first day of the conference, lending us insight on their roles as leaders in the CHW field.



The 2021 2nd Annual TAPCHW Conference "CHWs Moving Forward: Reset & Refocus" on September 27th - 28th, 2021! Sessions in English and Spanish will be hosted daily - with the opportunity to earn 9 CEs! The conference cost is \$15 for members, and also open to non-members for \$20!

**PLUS: Don't miss the happy hour networking session on Monday at 5:30 pm CST**

**Register today: [www.tapchw.org/conference](http://www.tapchw.org/conference)**

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## TAPCHW Partnership & Projects Update

Here's a quick update on some of our exciting upcoming partnerships & projects:

Since March of this year the TAPCHW Board has been actively working on a few partnerships to support the CHW workforce.

One is with the [Texas Department of State Health Services \(DSHS\), Center for Health Emergency Preparedness and Response](#) and [Texas Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster \(TxVOAD\)](#) to help build capacity on incorporating CHWs in Emergency Response. At the end of July, we held two Facebook Live events - one in English, and one in Spanish to talk about how to be prepared for a disaster. We're excited to share more about this long-term partnership to better support CHWs and communities across Texas in the event of a disaster.

The other is with the [National Library of Medicine \(NNLM\) Region 3](#) to provide continuing education on topics TAPCHW members have expressed interest in. Currently, we're working on a 3-part series with NNLM and Texas Health Literacy. Stay tuned for more!

TAPCHW board leadership regularly updates our projects and partnerships on our website here: [www.tapchw.org/projects](http://www.tapchw.org/projects)

## We Wish You Well, Founding Board Members



A few months ago, one of our founding board members and former treasurer, Katie Nimmons (*pictured left*), MPH, MSc, Manager of Research Projects Administration, in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the Texas A&M College of Dentistry stepped down due to transitions in her career.

More recently, founding member and former President of the Board Dr. Debra Flores (*pictured right*), Ph.D., M.A., CCHWI a Program Director and Assistant Professor in the MSHA Program at the College: School of Health Professions at Texas Tech University Health Science Center stepped down to focus on other priorities.



Both are missed in leadership, but continue on as general TAPCHW Members.

# Welcome

## Meet our Newest Board of Directors Member

Meet our newest board member, Yamaceeta Thompson - who filled Katie's spot on the board. Yamaceeta is a certified CHW and describes herself as "a connector and relator with good presentation skills; I am an analytical thinker who leads a team within a small home health agency." Yamaceeta recently completed her city's Chamber of Commerce's Leadership program, and she has board of trustees experience. She currently leads a CPR Training business. Some of her skills include proficiency in conflict resolution, document and social media content editing, and coaching.



Yamaceeta applied to join the TAPCHW Board of Directors to further the mission of CHWs. "I look forward to creating community partnerships on behalf of TAPCHW which bring encouragement, education, equipping, and professional development to CHWs and expansion to the work we do."

Learn about other TAPCHW Board of Directors Members [here](#)

*We're working to fill Deborah's spot on the board now, thanks to all that applied.*

## Advocacy Alert - Legislative Update

At the core of this newsletter, TAPCHW wants to highlight the various advocacy issues affecting our communities today.

[American Rescue Plan Act](#) legislation includes components such as \$7.6 billion dedicated to hiring an expanded public health workforce of contact tracers, nurses, epidemiologists, **community health workers** and other essential staff to help assist in the efforts of addressing COVID-19.

*see page 39, under Subtitle F—Public Health Workforce*

On July 21, the [Congressional Social Determinants of Health Caucus](#) was officially launched after months of planning. The Caucus is seeking feedback from Members and stakeholders by September 21 on how/what Congress and federal Agencies could to do to advance policies addressing SDOHs.

Specifically, the caucus will spotlight the disparate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on certain populations and communities; convene thought leaders to educate members on the evidence around social determinants; collect stakeholder input on how best to facilitate effective social determinant interventions; discuss bipartisan legislative efforts to address social determinant challenges; and highlight priorities to external stakeholders and the Executive branch. It invites comments from stakeholders **through Sept. 21** on challenges and opportunities related to social determinants of health. [Submit your comments here today.](#)

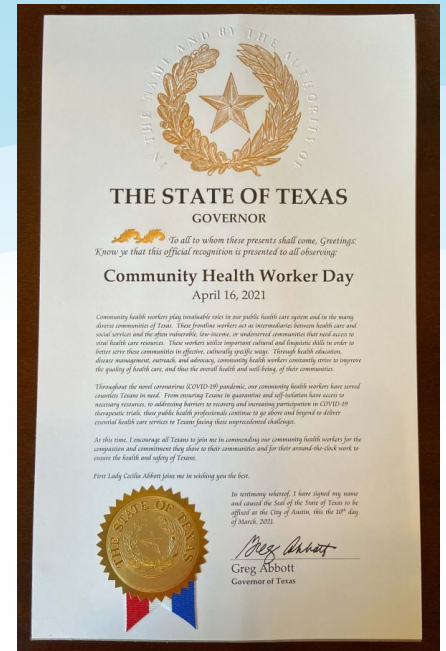
The following are a few 87th Legislature bills that passed that may be of interest:

*'SB' stands for Senate Bill, 'HB' stands for House Bill*

- [SB 73](#) (Sen Miles, Rep Klick) was a big bill supported by TACCHO and it was funded and signed by the Governor. The bill would create a provider number and class for public health departments to more easily be paid by MCOs for services that they give to underserved populations. Hopefully, the bill will really benefit our local departments in these services.
- [SB 1353](#) (Sen. Miles) Aims to reduce disparities in accessing vaccines and improve vaccination rates
- HB1 /SB1 (Rep. Bonnen, Sen Nelson) The Surplus Agricultural Products Grant, which ensures food banks have the produce to keep Texans from going hungry during the pandemic. (Grant was fully funded \$1,512,958)
- [HB 133](#) (Rose, Kolkhorst) Extended Medicaid postpartum coverage from 2 months to 6 months. \$122 million in funds
- [HB 1164](#) (Oliverson) Directs HHSC to develop patient safety practices regarding placenta accreta spectrum disorder
- SB 1 (Nelson, Bonnen) Health Texas Women Family Planning Program Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program. Received \$353 million in funding a \$5.7 million fund increase over 2020-2021

# Texas Celebrates CHWs!

Community Health Workers (CHWs) are an integral part of the public health care system and play a key role in advancing health equity, increasing access to care, and reducing health disparities. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, CHWs have been identified as “essential critical infrastructure workers” and are a part of the public health response team. Thanks to local association efforts, the Governor of Texas, Greg Abbott declared April 16th, 2021 [Texas CHW Day](#) which was celebrated and recognized by several CHW employers, local CHW associations, and advocates across the state as well as TAPCHW.



Denise Martinez (center), TAPCHW Treasurer & Training Center Manager poses with the declaration issued by Brazos County amongst NCHWTC peers and Brazos County elected officials.



Martha Maldonado (left), DFW-CHW Association vice president of the board of directors and fellow board member Mona Elmar (middle) pose with the Dallas Community Health Worker Week proclamation at the U.S. House of Representatives' office.

At the local level, the [DFW-CHW Association](#) (pictured) submitted a local proclamation for April 26 - 30, 2021 as Dallas Community Health Worker Week. Moreover, at local and county levels, the [National CHW Training Center \(NCHWTC\)](#) as a tribute to the first CHWs reached by the NCHWTC - the training center submitted three local proclamations were submitted and passed at its flagship in Brazos County, and two in South Texas for summer month celebrations.

Although there's been these fantastic efforts from local organizations across the state to recognize and celebrate the workforce (and probably others we're unaware of), it is important that we all keep advocating and keep the fight going!

# Upcoming TAPCHW Events



Training Center  
Overview

Stay Tuned!



Heath Literacy  
Series

Tentative for November 5th



Next Quarterly  
Meeting

Set for November 19th

## Have Membership Questions?



Membership

If you have questions about your TAPCHW Membership, reach out to one of our membership co-chairs, Dolontria Bryant-Williams (pictured left) or Gloria Carter (pictured right) at [info@tapchw.org](mailto:info@tapchw.org).



## Thanks to Our Affiliate Members for Your Support!

