

## Building Bridges in Healthcare

# The Builders The Tools The Locations

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## **Building Bridges**



## Gestures of unity, love and empathy





## Bridges

#### Why we build:

- To direct traffic over an obstacle
- To improve local economy
- To improve quality of life in rural communities
- To provide access to health care, education, and economic opportunity

Bridges are important links in modern society

"Rural isolation is a root cause of poverty; connection is the foundation for opportunity"

Bridges to Prosperity https://www.bridgestoprosperity.org/



#### How we Build:

- Planning
  - Identify the problem (assess; possible solution; research; create prototype; best solution)
  - Suspend preconceived ideas
- Building
  - Identify foundation type; equipment; bridge load; bridge metrics; risks vs benefits
  - Listen with humility
- Testing
  - Analyze data; check data results
  - Exercise emotional intelligence



#### Where we Have Built:

- Golden Gate Bridge: San Francisco, United States now 75 years old
- Sydney Harbour Bridge: Sydney, Australia opened in 1932
- Ponte Vecchio: Florence, Italy dates back to the time of the Romans, known for

its shops of jewelers, art dealers, & souvenir sellers



 Brooklyn Bridge: New York City, United States –completed in 1883, oldest suspension bridge in the U.S.

- Akashi-Kaikyo or Pearl Bridge: Kobe-Naruto, Japan
- Tower Bridge: London, England opened on 6/30/1894



### Building Bridges in Healthcare

#### **Objectives**

- Describe how Community Health Workers facilitate between the community and health services
- Identify Telehealth tools
- Identify healthcare locations
- Describe the change in healthcare due to Covid-19
- Identify impact of innovation on the role of Community Health

Workers





#### The Builder

(a.k.a. Community Health Workers)

How Community Health Workers Facilitate Healthcare

- Scope of Practice\*:
  - Bridge the gap between communities and the health & social service systems
  - Navigate the health and human service systems
  - Advocate for individual and community needs
  - Provide direct service
  - Build individual and community capacity





#### They **Bridge** the Gap:

- Enhance the quality and safety of health care by aiding in communication between provider and patient
- Educate community members about how to use the health care and social service systems
- Educate the health and social service systems about the community needs and perspectives

Community Health Workers: Patient Engagement
Kansas City CARE



#### Community Health Workers:

- Build individual capacity to achieve wellness
- Build community capacity by addressing social determinants of health
- Identify individual and community needs
- Mentor other CHWs





Effective public health programs depend upon a competent workforce. Community Health Workers are an important part of the health care team for addressing health disparities. (Doarn, 2021)

CHWs have long been essential components of the healthcare workforce. As this workforce has expanded, gaps have been identified such as:

- 1) unclear scopes of practice;
- 2) a lack of measurable, standardized core competencies.

It is essential to address these workforce gaps as it is expected this workforce will expand 18% by 2026. (Covert, Sherman, Miner, & Lichtveld, 2018)



#### The Tools

Digital Information and Communications Technologies

- Computers/Laptops/Tablets
- Smart phones
- Monitors
- Software Applications
- Peripheral devices
  - Electronic Stethoscopes
  - Electronic Otoscopes
- Remote Patient Monitoring
  - Wearable devices
  - Home Monitoring devices







## Tools and Telehealth























AND FAMILY SERVICES

#### and MORE Telehealth Tools





"Telemedicine is also a two-way bridge between us and our providers." (Doarn, 2021)

Expanding the use of telemedicine for CHWs has the potential to address training gaps, assist in program expansion, and provide safer patient care. (Vaughan, et al., 2020)

"The Covid – 19 pandemic has been one of the most significant medial challenges of modern medicine. To accommodate for social distancing to prevent spread of disease, the use of remote monitoring and telehealth became more prominent". (Kodama, et al., 2021)



#### Locations

#### Rural/ Urban/ Metropolitan areas:

- Rural Health Clinics
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Patient homes
- Health Departments
- Libraries
- Critical Access Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities
- Long-term care Facilities
- Public Schools















#### Locations

- Communities CHWs are trusted members who share lived experiences with their neighbors and peers.
- Clinics CHWs serve as a link between clinical and community-based services.
- Homes CHWs make home visits, provide education, and may accompany clients to medical appointments or social service agencies

(Peretz, Islam, & Matiz, 2020)



#### **Expected Outcomes**

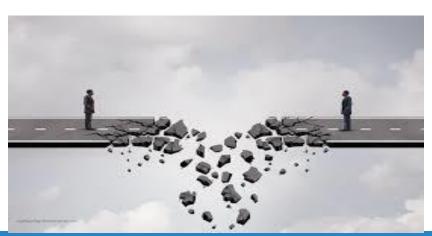
- Increased access to diverse types of healthcare
  - SUD
  - RPM
  - Acute and Chronic care
- Increased efficiency in medication management
- Improved patient/client education in both healthcare and technology
- CHWs ability for working effectively as healthcare team members



## Which will you choose?

#### **Stagnation**





#### **Innovation**







## Community Health Workers and Telehealth Education

## Community Health Worker Programs: "Call for Input" Listening Sessions by NCQA

- Listening Session for Community Health Workers
- The Listening Sessions are a series of four Zoom meetings, each geared toward specific participant groups: CHWs; community-based organizations; health care organizations/health plans; and researchers/government officials.
- Participants will engage in rich discussions and provide insights on what elements would ensure a sustainable CHW workforce and successful CHW programs.
- Community Health Worker Programs: "Call for Input" Listening Sessions (ncqa.org)

#### Telehealth Basics for Community Health Workers

- Northeast Telehealth Resource Center
- The content and design of this course was informed by interviews and focus groups with community health workers (or CHWs), community health teams, and a national survey of CHWs conducted during the early months of 2021.
- Telehealth Basics for Community Health Workers (telehealthclassroom.org)



#### The Expanding Role of CHWs



CHWs have the unique opportunity and ability to facilitate culturally appropriate care and services to help bridge the gap between rural Americans and the healthcare field. (Mock, Morton, Quijada, & St.John, 2017)









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Website: <u>Telehealth Program - Cabinet for Health and Family Services (ky.gov)</u>



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