

The Firehouse Model: Developing a Community Health Worker Program with Refugee and Immigrant Health Professionals to Engage Vulnerable Populations

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Disclosures - none

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goals

- Define the role of community health workers (CHWs)
- Define foreign trained health professionals (FTHPs)
- Explore benefits of CHW programs for vulnerable refugee/immigrant populations
- Outline benefits of CHW programs for FTHPs and healthcare systems
- Highlight the role of “co-production”

community health workers

public health workers who apply their unique understanding of the experience, language, and/or culture of the populations they serve in order to carry out one or more of the following roles:

- Providing culturally appropriate health education, information, and outreach in community-based settings
- Bridging/culturally mediating between individuals, communities, and health and human services
- Assuring that people access the services they need
- Providing direct services
- Advocating for individual and community needs

community health workers

- hired primarily for their understanding of the populations and communities they serve
- conduct outreach a significant portion of the time in one or more of the categories above
- have experience providing services in community settings

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- CHWs based in the community and accessible to the community
- Focus on vulnerable refugee and immigrant populations
- Focus on “crosstalk” to avoid siloing of communities

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Foreign trained health professionals

- 2,000 in MA underemployed/malemployed
- interested in working in healthcare and giving back to their communities

Governor's Advisory Council for Refugees and Immigrants Task Force
on Immigrant Healthcare Professionals in Massachusetts (2014)

population health

- Global payments
- CHWs in population health
- co-production

thank you

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