Alachua County Community Health Worker Program

Central Program Goal: Utilize CHWs for seamless coordination across the broad range of assets unique to Alachua County

Program's Definition of SDOHs aka Social Economic Barriers of Health: the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Program's Definition of a CHW: CHWs are individuals who promote health and wellbeing within the community in which the individual resides: a) by serving as a liaison between communities, health care agencies and social services; b) by providing guidance and social assistance to community residents; c) by enhancing community residents' ability to effectively communicate with health care and social service providers; d) by providing culturally and linguistically appropriate health and social education; e) by advocating for individual and community health; f) by providing referral and follow-up services or otherwise coordinating care; and g) by proactively identifying and enrolling eligible individuals in Federal, State, and local private or nonprofit health and human services programs.

Program Model: Lay Health Worker + Care Coordinator Model

In this model, community health workers (CHWs) are members of the target population and share many of the same social, cultural, and economic characteristics. CHWs help individuals with complex health and social conditions to navigate the healthcare and social services system. They advocate for and liaise between their clients and a variety of healthcare and social services organizations.

In this model, CHWs also support individuals by:

- Providing information on health and community resources
- Coordinating transportation
- Making appointments
- Delivering appointment reminders

In this model, CHWs also fulfill the following roles:

- Patient advocate
- Educator
- Mentor
- Outreach worker
- Translator

