

GREATER PHILADELPHIA HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIP



GPHHP Partners Hear Community Health Worker Panel at April 2019 Meeting

April 24, 2019 -The fourth and final of our 2018-2019 meetings was held today at the Training Fund. Susan Thomas led off with an update on Partnership and Training Fund activities including a review of training participations year-to-date as well as additional plans for this year. Participations so far include CPR trainings at PASSI, 81 RTW grant participants in OJT or Registered Apprenticeship, CHW related classroom instruction at Temple University, and a large Dementia project at Simpson House. We are looking forward to some planned projects for the remainder of the 2018-19 year including Customer Service and Communication at employer sites including Salus University Physician Practices, additional Community Health Worker training with Temple, Active Shooter training from our renewed OSHA grant and additional CPR classes on-site. Ms. Thomas also discussed the growing Apprenticeship business at the Training Fund; there are 14 approved Registered Apprenticeships in six career paths. The Advanced Medical Assistant and Addictions Counselor Apprentices have been approved and are on their way. An expansion of the Early Childhood Teacher program is happening statewide beyond the 30 Apprentices signed up in Delaware and Chester counties as well as recruiting for an additional cohort in Philadelphia.

It should also be noted that the Training Fund/Industry Partnership received 3 PA Smart grants to cover Apprenticeship/Pre-Apprenticeship, Capacity Building in various occupations as well as Ambassadorship for the Early Childhood Expansion. Finally, Susan outlined various special events related to our work (See photo on page 2).

After this IP recap, the group heard a distinguished panel of hospital –based Community Health Worker program managers. This included Olenga Anabui, Director of the Penn Center for Community Health Workers; Deborah Swavely, Director of Population Health and Innovations at the Temple Center for Population Health; and Rickie Brawer, Assistant Professor and Co-Director of the Center for Urban Health at Jefferson University Hospitals. Each speaker described a robust CHW program.

Olenga described the genesis of Penn’s program which grew out of a community survey showing a



L- R, Olenga Anabui, Deborah Swavely and Rickie Brawer

need for more than a patch up scenario, but instead a proactive innovative program integrating CHWs with the hospital and clinic teams who treat patients. The CHWs also train Nurse Practitioners and Medical

Students to have an understanding and appreciation of the need to guide and counsel patients beyond hospital discharge or physician appointment. So far this intensive CHW relationship with patients has worked. The program (aptly named Impact Program) has shown a 65% reduction in patient days spent in the hospital, a 19 % fewer hospital admissions, and a 12 % higher rate of getting patients to primary care. The return on investment for the CHW program is about \$2 return per \$1 invested.

Deborah Swavely was next up, and again with the Temple Health program, she pointed to analyzing neighborhoods and the need to address social disparities in some of the nearby neighborhoods, as this often impacts health. Temple uses CHWs as part of the care team and they do telephonic and in-home visits. The result is fewer admissions and more primary, early stage care as CHWs work to encourage patients to make and keep physician appointments. CHWs also try to address social barriers; this is integral to success with health.



L to R – Lorelei Gauthier, Chief Strategy Officer, Philadelphia FIGHT; Susan Thomas, Training Fund, and Jeffrey Bond, CHW Apprenticeship Grad at FIGHT – with National Skills Coalition delegation in DC.

Rickie Braver presented on the Jefferson program which looks at geography in South Philadelphia up through the Northeast. Jefferson trains CHWs and has set up a career path for them. Jefferson’s training program is full time and is closely allied with community development organizations given that other social needs have to be addressed along with healthcare. The program is also looking at alternative populations such as re-entry citizens who have valuable “lived experience”.

Join us for GPHP’s 2019-20 meetings beginning this summer; details will follow later.

The Greater Philadelphia Healthcare Partnership (GPHP) offers our partners free to highly-discounted employer-driven health and human services training. Contact GPHP Director Susan B. Thomas at 215-568-2220x5102, sthomas@1199ctraining.org, www.greaterphilahealthcare.org, or on Facebook ([/GreaterPhilaHealthcare](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterPhilaHealthcare)) and Twitter ([@PhilaHCPartners](https://twitter.com/PhilaHCPartners)).

