The community health worker serves as a trusted link between health/social services and the Spanish and Latino population to facilitate access to services, increase health knowledge and self-sufficiency, improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery, and close health care gaps.

Activity Focus

As part of the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), participants in the community focus groups stated that the Hispanic and Latino population has difficulty accessing healthcare services due to language barriers and stigma. Members of the Spanish-speaking focus group reported a lack of confidence in translation services, and/or struggled with finding free or low-cost resources to develop stronger English-speaking skills so they would be able to confidently and effectively communicate with their healthcare providers.

Additional unmet needs identified included a growing concern for behavioral health issues, lack of knowledge about local health and social services and how to access these resources. The goal of the CHNA is to obtain greater insight into the the needs and issues facing the community, including awareness of cultural thoughts and norms, perspectives related to preventative and chronic case management, knowledge of resources, and more. Ongoing communication has allowed the community health worker to address identified individual needs and gaps in the services available to meet the unique needs of the Hispanic and Latino population.

Program Results

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023:

- The community health worker has addressed the needs of 543 individuals since the start of the program; 105 of which occurred since February 2023.
- The list of addressed needs includes the following: assisting with paying rent; finding food; obtaining clothing; finding a physician; enrolling children in school; finding housing; finding COVID-19 information; scheduling screenings; learning English and more.
- There have been 256 referrals that the community health worker has assisted with for those who wish to learn English through participation in classes offered by the King Street Church or other organizations.
- The community health worker contacted and networked with a number of committees, organizations, and groups to schedule and participate in various activities. This list includes United Way’s Learn and Play Day; Chief Advisory Committee of the Chambersburg Police Dept.; Franklin County Dept of Health; local churches; First Start Partnerships’ Family Café; Women in Need; NEtwork Ministries; Chambersburg YMCA; Franklin Co. Human Services; Coyle Free Library; SCCAP: WellSpan Health Financial Assistance; Chambersburg Area School District; Aerotek; Franklin County Housing Authority; Keystone Health; the Healthy Franklin Coalition Health Disparities Task Force and many more.
- The community health worker continues to research various sources for Spanish versions of educational material, which are available on different web sites (CDC, Medline Plus, etc.). She also works with other organizations to help them to obtain material in Spanish, depending on the topic being addressed.
- Based on an ongoing assessment provided to community members, the community health worker has been able to obtain perspectives regarding usage of physicians, preventative care interest and access, and the ability to have different social issues addressed, including having a job, housing, transportation and financial issues. This data is being used to identify and prioritize the gaps in services for this population.
- In addition, the community health worker assisted with a Mobile Mammography clinic in November 2022 – in partnership with the Coyle Free Library — where a total of 27 individuals received mammograms.
WellSpan Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). The committee sought to identify key issues including access to care, nutrition, physical activity, and behavioral health. Specific objectives that aligned with the Healthy People 2030 leading health indicators and the Pennsylvania Department of Health State Health Improvement Plan were developed. Federal and state-level resources were used to categorize and better align grant making to address the unmet needs of our community.

Successful applicants were required to participate in the Healthy Franklin County Task Force, continuing collaborative efforts in planning, supporting and measuring their work. Grantees consistently reported the benefits of task force participation including resource sharing, relationship building and shared excitement in the opportunity to work together to achieve real and lasting impact.

Capacity Building Workshops

In October 2022, the Summit Endowment offered education to help community organizations enhance skills to achieve success. A grant making workshop was offered virtually to support non-profit organizations in preparing successful applications for Summit Endowment funding.

The conditions where people live, learn, work, and play affect their health risks and outcomes. These conditions are known as social determinants of health (SDOH). The Summit Endowment strives to better understand and address the social determinants of health and identify the distinct needs of vulnerable populations. Throughout the year, the endowment improves the health of community members living in Franklin County by supporting many health initiatives as well as developing programs and activities offered by other nonprofit organizations as they, too, work to improve the health of the Franklin County area.

Greencastle-Antrim Endowment Scholarships

Greencastle-Antrim Endowment, a component of the Summit Endowment, awarded eight scholarships to graduating seniors at Greencastle-Antrim Senior High School who are pursuing a career in healthcare. They also awarded 13 renewal scholarships for students in their second, third, and fourth year of college.

The Endowment awarded $42,000 in scholarships this year.

2023 Summit Endowment Grant Awards

The following organizations were awarded grants for their efforts in addressing the health needs of Franklin County:

- Boys and Girls Club of Shippensburg and Chambersburg (BGCCS)
  - Empower Youth Mental Health
  - This program will combat rising mental health issues facing youth within the WellSpan service area. Utilizing proven methods, Empower Youth Mental Health will provide BGCCS club members with tools to deal constructively with stress and talk about mental health issues.

- Central PA Food Bank
  - Providing Nutritious Food to Franklin County Military and Veteran Families
  - This program will provide quality, healthy food to armories, VFWs, AMVET, and other military and veteran affiliated locations in Franklin County.

- First Start Partnerships for Children and Families, Inc.
  - The Family Center
  - This program will continue to address the community’s needs by creating multiple Family Centers as a primary vehicle for supportive and safe environments in homes, schools and communities, fostering knowledgeable, nurturing parents and caregivers.

- Franklin County Reentry Coalition
  - First Responder and Community Training Program
  - This program will provide a series of trainings that focus on topics related to populations re-entering the community with the goal of creating a system of improved open communication, problem-solving and networking.

- NE/Work Ministries
  - Growing Gardens, Cultivating Community
  - This program will serve low-income and multi-ethnic community members in the Redwood neighborhood of Chambersburg by increasing access to healthy, locally-grown food.

- Shippensburg University Foundation
  - Growing Edges Community Clinic Expansion
  - This program will expand the existing community clinic to provide additional days and times for clients to receive services and add a second clinic location.

- South Central Community Action Program
  - Food Pantry and The Gleaning Projects for Adams and Franklin Counties
  - This program will obtain nutritious and locally sourced produce from farms and backyard gardens from local farms and backyard gardens and distribute it through the network of community partners to reach individuals experiencing food insecurity.

- Thriving Thoughts Global
  - Franklin County Proactive Mental Health Billboard Messaging
  - This program will proactively promote the importance of prioritizing mental health for everyone. The campaign places emphasis on educating the public on building and protecting their mental health through changes in thinking.

- WellSpan Summit Legacy Physician Services
  - Community Health Worker Program
  - This program will serve as a link between health and social services and the community to coordinate access to services, increase health knowledge and self-sufficiency, improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery, and close healthcare gaps.

- WellSpan Summit Legacy Physician Services
  - Community Health Worker: Spanish/Latino Patient Population
  - This program will provide a butterfly release memorial event for family members of patients who died in WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital Critical Care Unit during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.