



Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers

c/o Massachusetts Public Health Association

434 Jamaicaaway, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

December 23, 2009

Oral Health Project Consultant

The Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers (MACHW), the state's professional organization for community health workers (CHWs), is seeking an Oral Health Project Consultant to be based in our Jamaica Plain location. The Oral Health Project Consultant reports to MACHW's Policy Director, and works closely with the organization's members and partner organizations. This is a part time (20 hours/week preferred) position to begin in January 2010.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Collaborate with oral health advocates to finalize curriculum for a workshop for CHWs on integrating oral health promotion into their outreach
- Co-facilitate workshops with a CHW from that specific region
- Coordinate 3 oral health advisory council meetings
- Assist with coordination of 8 regional oral health workshops
- Assist with recruiting workshop participants
- Promote relationships between CHWs, oral health organizations, advocates, and practitioners
- Other duties as needed

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Knowledge of oral health, health disparities, and community health is essential
- Knowledge of curriculum development is essential
- Excellent organization, written and verbal communication skills
- Strong organizational skills to coordinate information, prioritize projects, and meet deadlines
- Ability to take initiative, and work independently, as well as with others
- Excellent Windows-based computer skills including on-line communications
- Knowledge of community health workers preferred

TO APPLY:

Email cover letter and resume to Cindy Marti at cmarti@mphaweb.org (subject line "Oral Health Consultant") by Monday, January 18, 2009.

BACKGROUND DESCRIPTION:

Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers is the statewide professional organization for CHWs. Our membership has over 1,000 community health workers and supporters from more than 140 cities and towns across the commonwealth. According to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) CHW National Workforce

Study (2007) there are over 2,400 CHWs in MA. For more information visit www.machw.org.

Community health worker (CHW) is an umbrella term and job titles under this umbrella include outreach educator, patient navigator, community coordinator, promotora de salud, etc. Many studies, including the well known 2002 Institute of Medicine's *Unequal Treatment* report, recommend using CHWs as an effective strategy in reducing health disparities. CHWs also improve quality of health and contain costs for the health system. CHWs are successful because they are rooted in the community and understand the culture, language and experiences of the people we work with. Roles of CHWs often include: bridging and culturally mediating between individuals and health and human services; assuring that people access the services they need; providing culturally appropriate health education, information and outreach in community-based settings; providing direct services, such as informal counseling, social support, care coordination and health screenings; actively building individual and community capacity; and advocating for individual and community needs.