

May 2021

Welcome summer!

Happy June, community health workers! We had a small group for our May meeting - right before Memorial Day, we should have known better! Thank you to our guests who provided great

information about vaccine confidence talking points, and housing assistance updates.

As you can see above, we have a new logo! Thank you to all that contributed ideas and feedback.

Remember to send in news, events, trainings, anything you'd like your fellow CHWs to know, to whatcomchwnetwork@outlook.com

WHATCOM CHW  NETWORK

Free webinar from Chuckanut Health Fnd

Trauma Stewardship Institute
Workshop

Friday, June 11 12-1 p.m.

Register <https://bit.ly/3v1QBKX>

Free Mixtec classes

Empower Next Generations is
hosting free Mixtec language
classes, starting in June.

They are also hosting English
classes. All classes are over
Zoom.

Email Mario at [Mario@empower
nextgenerations.org](mailto:Mario@empowernextgenerations.org) for more
info

Mental Health Crisis response

NAMI Whatcom is hosting a
community forum with the health
dept about mental health crisis
response in our county.

Help create options to mental
health crisis response

June 10 6 p.m.

Register at NAMIWhatcom.org or
360-671-4950 (held on Zoom)

COVID update

As of June 2, Whatcom County is over 50 percent vaccinated! (*percent of population 16+ full vaccinated 57.2% via Whatcom County Health Dept*). The Pfizer vaccine was also approved for those age 12 and up, and there are a number of mobile clinics throughout the county for all vaccines.

COVID-19 is still circulating (over 1800 cases confirmed in the last two weeks), mainly in Lynden and East County. For some, vaccine appointments are still difficult to make, due to schedules or language barriers. While the CHW Network and partners work on language equity, we remind you that anyone can make an appointment for a community member - the Community Vaccine Clinic (<https://bit.ly/3in7UmO>) or Peacehealth (<https://bit.ly/34VoKhE>). There is also a home-bound program, bringing the vaccine to [you]! Call 360-746-3450.

For many that are not vaccinated, it can also come down to fear of the unknown, learning false or misleading information, or wariness around racism in the healthcare system. With the

NAMI classes

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Whatcom hosts many classes and support groups for free for our community:

Classes for families, peers, and parents/caregivers of youth experiencing mental illness

Support groups (currently on Zoom) for individuals living with and experiencing mental illness, and for family members.

NAMI also has a free booklet about how to navigate a mental health crisis, in English and in Spanish. For a physical copy, email Kim at ksauter@namiwhacom.org. We can also email you a PDF copy (Kim or WhatcomCHWNetwork@outlook.com)

Go to NAMIWhatcom.org for more information.

Summer gathering

We aren't ready yet to bring back in-person meetings, but we'd like to have an outdoor gathering this summer with food, friends, and games! We'll send out a survey soon of dates - we hope to see you in real life!

Job posting

Bilingual Family Resource Navigator, at Within Reach Skagit County. Remote work with the future possibility of a work station at the Children's Museum of Skagit County. Apply at Smart Recruiters <https://bit.ly/3gkLS1B> or email ChrisG@withinreachwa.org

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help of the health department, we have included some talking points when discussing vaccine hesitancy with community members. The biggest takeaway from our discussion at the May meeting was make it personal. What was your experience getting the vaccine? What appeals to the person you are talking to? Every effort you make can help keep someone healthier and COVID-free, getting us closer to a return to 'normal.'

Please let us know your thoughts and experiences using these talking points - we want to inform the health department of real-life conversations, what works, what doesn't. It's our community's reality that should shape the healthcare experience!

Housing Assistance Updates

CHW Network member Mario Banuelos updated us on the T-RAP (Treasury Rental Assistance Program) at Northwest Youth Services, which helps youth with housing and skill building in Whatcom, Skagit, and Island Counties.

- For anyone in the household age 18-24
- Up to 12 months of past due or future rent, and utilities
- Must show low income and financial hardship due to COVID-19
- The housing can be an informal housing arrangement or a formal lease, but the landlord must sign the payment agreement
- Either tenant or landlord can apply
- Contact Sarah Bosch (they/them) for more information (360) 399-8513 sarahb@nwys.org

The Opportunity Council also assists with housing applications - call (360) 746-3826 or email melissa_gong@oppco.org for an intake for coordinated entry for housing assistance.

The state eviction moratorium is set to end June 30, but our housing advocates say it's possible it could be extended with new funds being released to help those with back rent or without stable housing.

Info flyers are attached.



Like us on Facebook for quick updates on trainings, webinars, local news and events!

What fun are you planning this summer?