**Community Health Worker Network of Buffalo**

**Notes from Chew and Chat Session May 31, 2017**

**Networking**

* Meeting people
* Collaboration
* Web, makes a bigger voice
* Tight
* Relationships
* Make less complicated for client
* Provide more comprehensive care
* Correspondence
* Reliable
* Information
* Growth
* Sharing assets
* Partner services AND people

**Strategies to network**

Types of networking…

* Learn to take back to those you serve
* Share responsibilities
  + Meal provision
  + Day care
* Provide services- on & off-site (HIV testing)

Benefits of networking…

* Provides community perspective
* Familiarize self with similar agencies as well as those that don’t do it
  + Visit, left business card
  + Complement or fill gaps
* Link with CHWs we know
  + Call those you know who can help
  + Exchange cards/contact info at meetings/events
* Introduce through email-copy both parties- a warmer hand-off
* Be creative/think outside the box
* Intentional strategies
  + Business cards
  + Emails
  + Listservs
  + Social media
* Safety net coalitions
  + Hubs at food pantries and libraries (to be shared)
* Recognize different communication styles of different populations
  + Use many
* Sign-up as a “spot light” at a meeting- to share information
* Specific to Chew & Chats: Facebook closed group
* Marketing/Branding
* Social media campaigns
* Walk to neighborhood/fliers (more accessible to older/rural residents)
  + Ask people how they like to receive info
* Connect to community resources and tell your story, be genuine

**Improvements to Networking?**

* How to deal with failed referrals
  + Know about back-ups e.g. 211 as a hub of info
  + Know perameters/details of that assistance
  + Follow up calls
  + Finish the story
  + Be consistent and reliable
* Organizations provide updates to 211
* When wrong info identified- let them know
* Specific to housing: 1st time home buyer’s club, Buffalo Urban League
* Centralized communication spaces (bulletin board hub etc- virtual message board)
* Monthly calendar maintained- people send event & their information

**Barriers to Networking**

* Information not updated regularly, program funding discontinued
* Lack of supervisor buy-in for networking opportunities (must creatively word), (don’t take no for an answer)
* Bring the networking group into workplace space to show the value
* Share the successes (8 hours impact on 5 families), use database to record these
* Limited funds to support funding, creative low-cost options

**Upcoming events:**

**June 20, BOE meeting**

**June 27, next Chew and Chat**