

Abstract

Project based learning and community health worker outcomes

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Over 500 community health workers have graduated from the University of Houston Community Health Workers Initiative since 2017. Our course has adapted the eight Texas CHW core competencies into a project-based curriculum that provides adult learners with limited English proficiency or English learners from limited educational experience an opportunity to use their existing knowledge on their communities and past experiences to develop projects that use the competencies to overcome negative social drivers of health in their communities.

Our students work in teams of up to 5 individuals to develop their project. Through this process they develop organizational, negotiation, and collaborative skills that are essential to CHWs in today's workplaces especially in interdisciplinary health care teams. In addition to edifying employability skills, project based learning develops in our students a sense of agency in being able to develop and implement solutions to community health issues.

We began collecting assessments on our students in the Fall of 2021. Students were given an initial survey to provide their goals. At the end of the semester, participating students were given a new survey where they provided feedback on whether they had met their goals and what role the course had played in meeting those goals. This presentation will provide learners with a better understanding of project-based learning and its relationship to community health along with data regarding the experiences of our students as it relates to the class to provide CHW instructors learning methods that can be adaptive to shifting health priorities.

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Advocacy for health and health education
Diversity and culture
Planning of health education strategies, interventions, and programs