

Transforming Health Disparities into Health Possibilities: Serving the Community as CHEER Community Health Workers

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION: People from diverse backgrounds are CHEER community health workers (CHWs). They are an important part of the CHEER team. Our CHWs include three residents of the 38126 community (three females), five students from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center (two nursing students, one pharmacy student, one dual pharmacy/PhD student, and one PhD student); and three undergraduate students from Lemoyne-Owen College.

OBJECTIVES: This poster details the demographic profile and background of the CHW who elected to work on the CHEER grant to improve the health of residents and individuals attending churches located in the 38126 zip code area.

METHODS/STRATEGIES: Each CHW provided their demographic profile to show the diversity of their contributions and talents. We summarized these profiles and added photographs to display the contributions of the CHW.

RESULTS: Each of these individuals has participated in activities to help educate and assess residents and church congregants in the 38126 zip code area. They have participated in activities such as health screenings and assessments, educational classes about increasing physical activity and reading food labels, and getting to know and support community members. They provide perspectives as residents living in 38126 communities or as health professions and graduate students interested in supporting community health.

IMPLICATIONS: The diversity of the CHWs has enabled the fusion of different perspectives to tackle health issues in 38126.

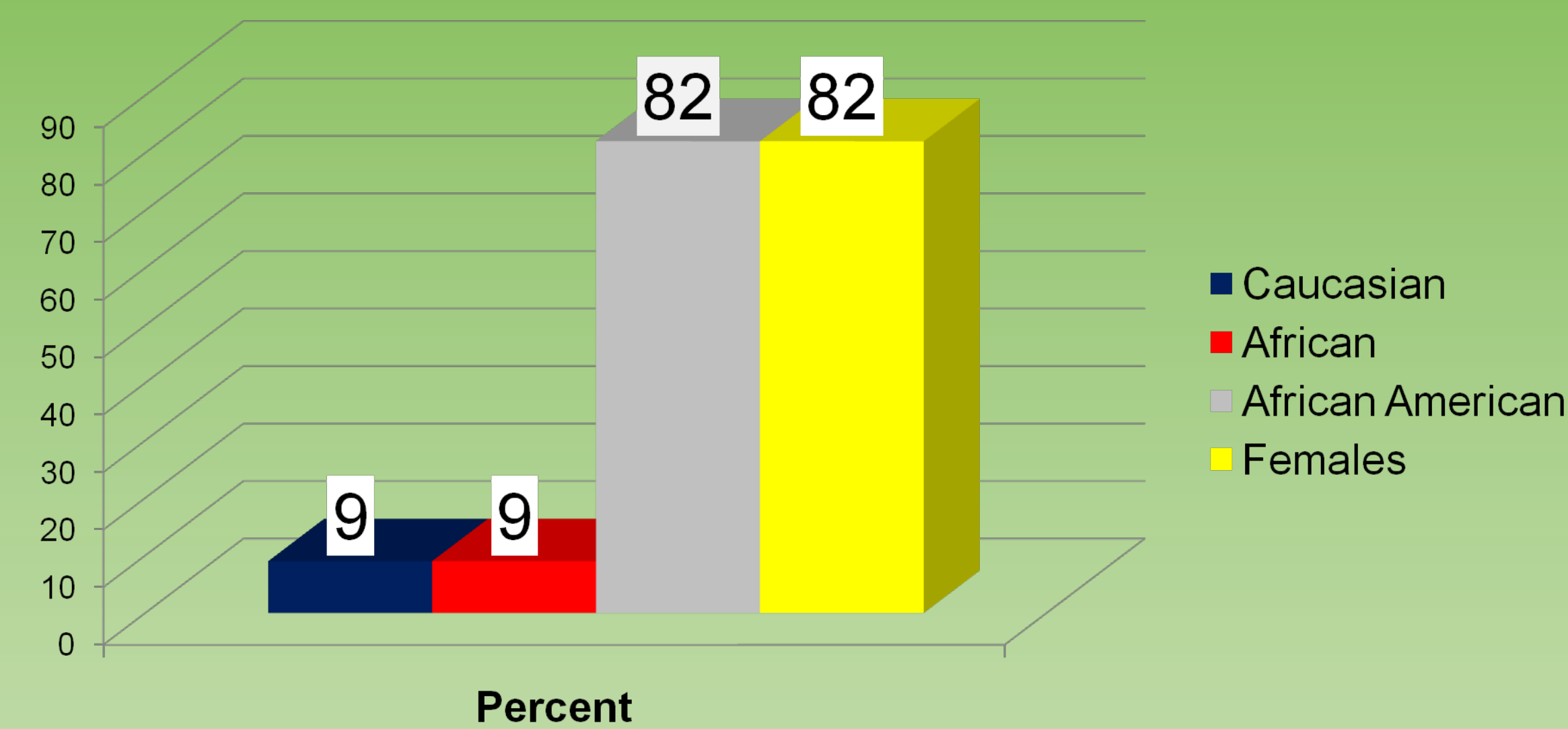
CORE CHW ROLES

Although the job description for CHW varies by setting, employer and community needs, **seven core roles** exist for them, according to the National Community Health Advisor Study. Core roles include:

- Proving cultural mediation between communities and health and human services systems,
- Providing informal counseling and social support,
- Providing culturally appropriate health education,
- Advocating for individual and community needs,
- Ensuring that people obtain necessary services, and
- Building individual and community capacity.

RESULTS

Characteristics of CHW (N=11)



Age: 21 to 57 years

Reside in the zip code area: 36%

College graduates or attending college: 10

CHW Profiles

MCLisa Davis, a third year student pharmacist at the UTHSC, enjoys working with CHEER because of its proactive approach to build the overall community. After graduation she wants complete a one year residency program that focuses on clinical pharmacy management and education. She plans to become a college of pharmacy professor that works in retail or a hospital pharmacy, volunteers within the community, and takes international medical trips.

Linda Farmer is a resident of M. H. A. in 38126 and also is a community service worker in her neighborhood. She does lawn service around the schools and the churches in 38126. As a CHW she has been able to inform the people in the community about the CHEER research study. She believes the CHEER program is helpful to the community because it gave them information about health awareness, diet, exercise, doctor visits, and how to live a better life.

Latoya Maxwell is a graduate from Lemoyne Owen College. She also is a member of Life Changing World Ministries and the Lemoyne Owens's wellness program. With the skills she has obtained through CHEER she plans to further her education with a Master's in Public Health and give back to her community through service and leadership.

Lamarcus Wingate is a pharmacist and graduate student in health outcomes and policy research. He has prior experience in community based participatory research through the partnerships for Asthma Trigger Free Homes Grant conducted throughout the 38126 zip code. He is also an active participant in the Hickory Hill Community Redevelopment Corporation, where he works with youth in the Youth Reformation Program. He would like to use the skills that he has learned in the area of health outcomes research in order to aid in the design planning of future studies.

Katie Mosley attended Lemoyne-Owen College and Mid South community college. She works in 38126 at Mustard Seed Inc., a CHEER partner. As a CHW she enjoys her work and being in contact with study participants has helped her tremendously. She has learned to deal with different attitudes. She also feels confident with doing assessments with the participants and plans to continue to work in her community.



CHW Profiles (continued)

Latoya Maxwell is a graduate from Lemoyne Owen College. She also is a member of Life Changing World Ministries and the Lemoyne Owens's wellness program. With the skills that she has obtained through CHEER she plans to further her education with a Master's in Public Health and to give back to her community through service and leadership.

Adole Alipoe is a fourth year graduate student at the UTHSC. She has been working with Accredo Health Group, Inc., a pharmaceutical company, since 2009. She is interested in coverage expansion among individuals with low-income and low resources and expanding access to resources through community involvement. She plans to focus on cost of illness burden among Medicaid enrollees by state and implications for Medicaid expansions for her dissertation.

Marva Jones is a graduate of Lemoyne Owen College and 38126 resident. As a CHW she has learned that persons with income appreciate receiving information about their health. She learned that the attitudes of others contribute to mental and stress factors within the community. She also has learned how to correctly check blood pressure.

Brandy DeWeese is a registered nurse and a graduate student at the UTHSC in the College of Nursing's nurse practitioner program. She is married and has two children. As a CHW she has learned that people from different backgrounds (medical or non-medical) can be effective lay workers and that people want to learn more and ask questions about specific health problems.

Ashley Gaither is a graduate from Anthem College and 38126 resident. She recently completed a program in massage therapy. She is a mother of one daughter. Also Ashley has taught preschool bible study during vacation bible school at her church.

Jessica Davis is a junior at Lemoyne Owen College majoring in social work. She is a member of Tabernacle of Praise. She is also a member of Lemoyne Owen College wellness program. As a CHW she has gained skills that she will use while furthering her education as well as her career.



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