public health workers who

are trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables CHWs to serve as a liaison, link or intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. CHWs also build individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy.

During the summer of 2016, Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM) piloted an innovative High School Community Heath Worker Training Program. The thought was that high school students could provide vital health information to the underserved community and school population. During the pilot, MSM trained 13 High school students from 4 metro-Atlanta High Schools (Tri-Oties, McOarin, Washington, KIPP Collegiate) Students are ages 15-18, rising sophomores-2016 graduates. This is the 1st High School Community Health Worker training program in the country to be implemented. The pilot program has achieved great preliminary outcomes and the program model is highly sought after by Universities and Community-based Organizations.

MSM has trained Community Health Workers/promotores/lay navigators for more than 10 years. The initial MSM training

Provide a health careers pipeline program and mentorship for underserved students
Support & Promote the community Health worker field
Promote health education and health literacy in schools and community
Assist trained HS CHWs with the design and implementation of school-based and community-based health initiatives
Provide health

Family/Community Health Monitoring

In addition, there is a family/community health monitoring component. The HS CHWs are the "Chief Medical Officer (CMO)" of their family. They are the "First line of defense" responsible for collecting and monitoring the patient's (family members) vital signs, compliance with physicians' orders, and encouraging the patient to sustain his/her wellness.

Multiple stakeholders benefit from the program ranging from the <u>family</u>, with improved overall health; <u>insurers</u> with less member emergency room visits and hospital stays; <u>providers</u> with less re-admissions because of non-compliance; to the trained students prepared for a career in the health sector.

Program Expansion 2017

We are expanding this program by training an additional 40 high school students in the summer of 2017. We will add two additional high school partners as well as a rural Georgia program. The 2017-18 program will begin on July 5, 2017. The following are included in the program:

Instruction & materials

- Cassroom & field training
- Continuing education (Monthly & quarterly)
- o 3 CHW textbooks, Info binder, access to Learning Management System (Blackboard)

Equipment

o A tablet, Blood Pressure monitoring equipment, a portable scale,

Polo Shirt, Book bag

Marta Cards (transportation), training stipend

CPR certification, competency exam

Job training & placement assistance (for HS Graduates)

On-going community/school projects

CHW training completion certificate

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