COMMUNITIES
ORGANIZING TO
PROMOTE
EQUITY

The role CHWs & community coalitions can play in addressing maternal health:

Leveraging community-driven solutions through the Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE) Project

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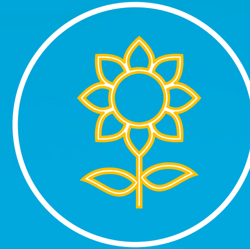
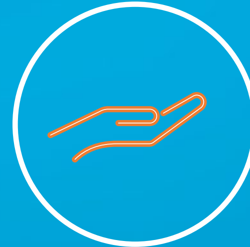
Dep. of Family Medicine & Community Health, KUMC
On behalf of the COPE Team

Overview of presentation



Overview of COPE



Overview of CHWs

CHW Maternal Health Interventions

Community Driven Solutions to MCH

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COPE on the Ground Technical Assistance Structure

CHEYENNE RAWLINS DECATUR NORTON PHILLIPS SMITH JEWELL REPUBLIC MAHA BROWN DONIPHAN

SHERMAN THOMAS SHERIDAN GRAHAM ROOKS OSBORNE MITCHELL CLOUD JACKSON ATCHISON JEFFERSON LEAVENWORTH WYANDOTTE

WALLACE LOGA TREGO ELLIS RUSSELL LINCOLN OTTAWA DICKINSON GEARY WABAUNSEE SHAWNEE DOUGLAS JOHNSON

SALINE ELLSWORTH MORRIS OSAGE LYON FRANKLIN MIAMI

GREELEY WICHITA S RUSH BARTON RICE McPHERSON MARION CHASE COFFEY ANDERSON LINN

HAMILTON KEARNY FINNEY HODGEMAN PAWNEE STAFFORD HARVEY BUTLER GREENWOO BOURBON

GRAY FORD EDWARDS SEDGWICK

STANTON GRANT HASKELL KIOWA ELK CRAWFORD

MORTON STEVENS SEWARD MEADE CLARK COMANCHE SUMNER COWLEY CHAUTAUQUA MONTGOMERY LABETTE CHEROKEE

West & Central
CHW PM
Angela Scott

RCL West
Clarissa Carrillo

RCL Central
Nadine Long

RCL Northeast
Kara Knapp

RCL Southeast
Jody Love

North & Southeast
CHW PM
Ton Miras

WEST CENTRAL NORTHEAST SOUTHEAST

Community Coalitions

Who

- Members live in the community and are diverse (e.g., race/ethnicity, gender & sexual diversity, religion, age, ability, education, income)
- Provide links to local networks and organizations
- Understand the context of the community

What

- Collaborate to identify the specific needs in a community in an ongoing way
- Learn together about assets and barriers in the community
- Build consensus around priorities within the team identity
- Develop action plans and strategies to intervene on issues that keep people from thriving

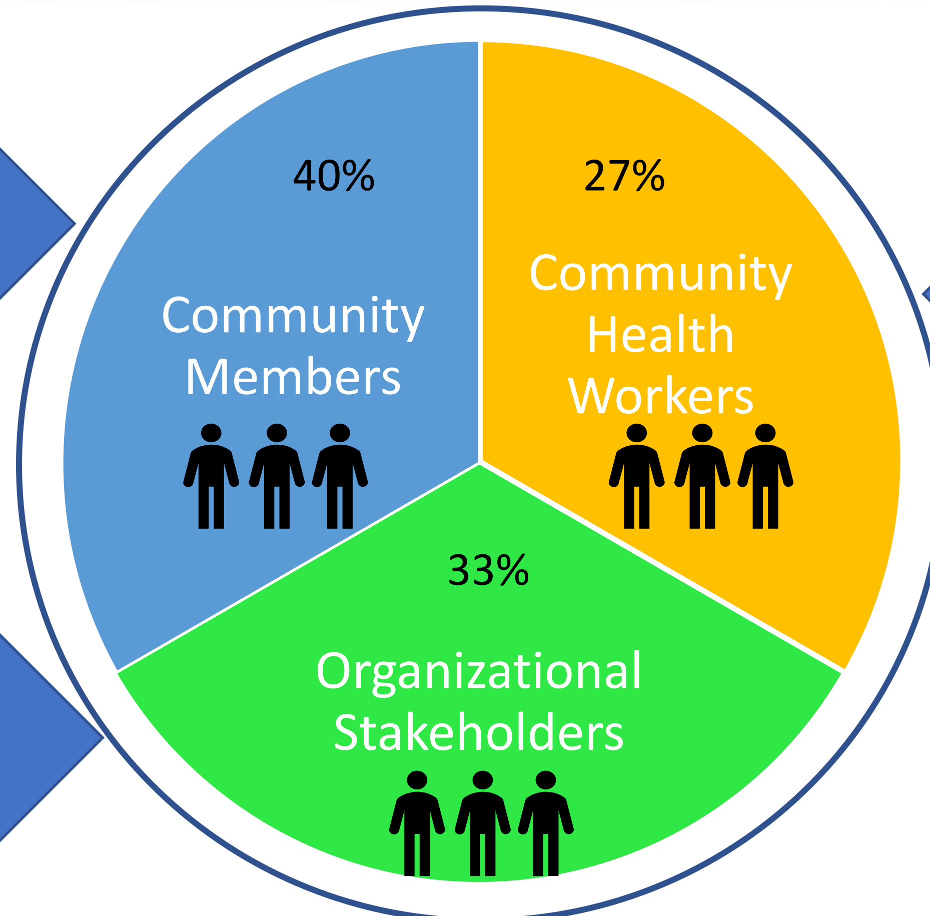
Why Community Coalitions?

- **To optimize <u>community engagement</u>**
- Community engagement is based on the democratic idea that everyone who is affected by an issue should have a say in the decision making around it

Local Health Equity Action Team (LHEAT)

These members provide the lived experience with unmet needs and have innovative ideas on how to improve access.

These members know the services and partners in the region. Also know the existing events/activities.



These members help implement the activities and events planned by LHEAT. Engage the communities identified collaboratively by LHEATs for service connections.

N=216 members, Mar-Sep 2022

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Community Health Worker (CHW) Role

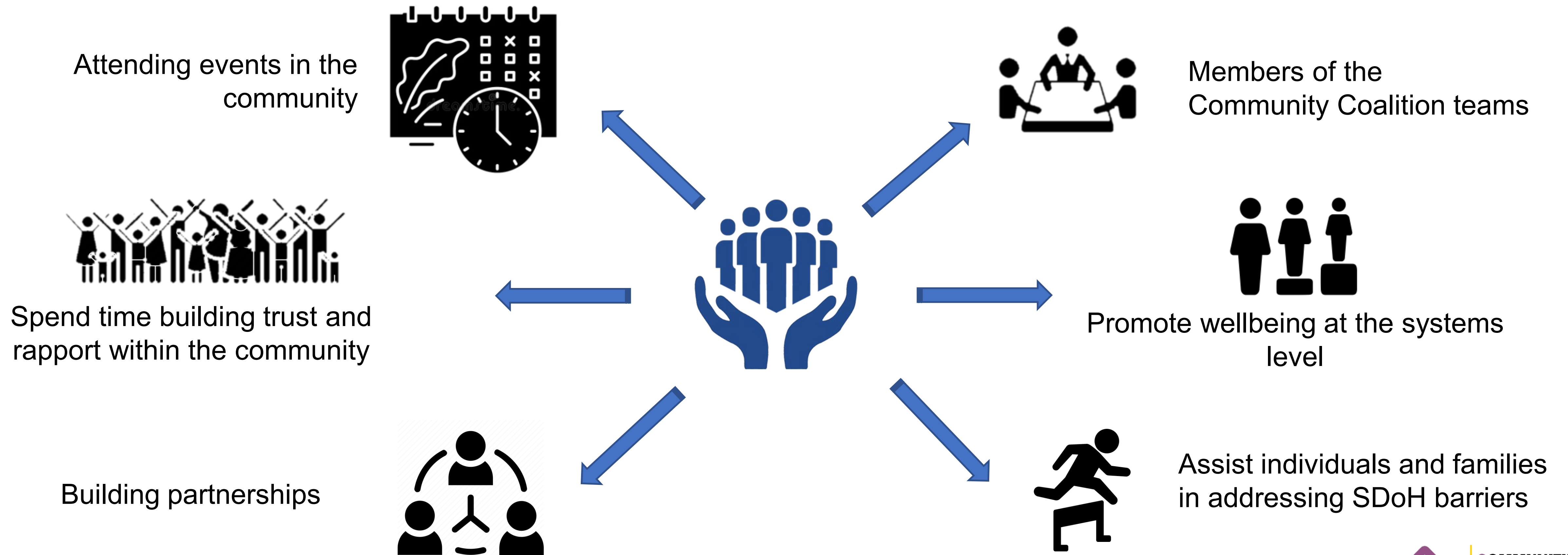
CHW Definition:

A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a **trusted member** of and/or has an unusually close understanding **of the community served**. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a **liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community** to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.

A community health worker also **builds 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.

Source: https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers

Community Health Worker Role



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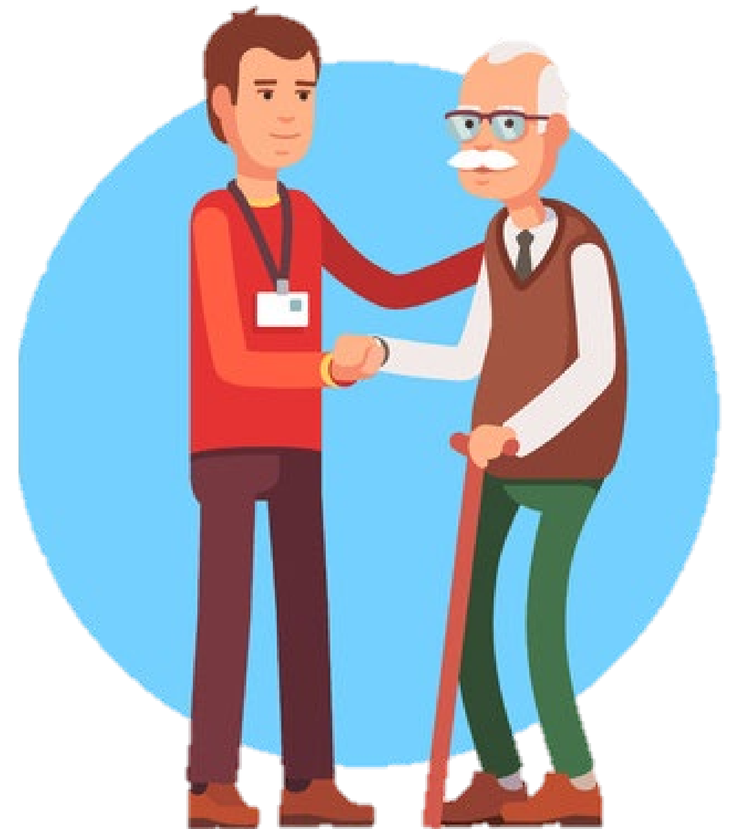
How do CHWs work with clients?

- Clients / patients are referred to CHWs by medical staff, community-based organizations, self-referrals.
- CHW connects with the patient on the phone and introduces the program.
- CHW sets up a time to meet with patient in their houses or in the community.
- CHW assesses clients' needs together create a care plan to address clients' needs & concerns.
- CHW and client work together to complete those goals.
- A client can be enrolled for as long as they have needs. And they always can come back if needed!



Common tasks a CHW does with a client

- **Links** clients to medical care.
- **Attends** medical appointments with patients and educates them on navigating the system. Also, **advocates** for them during appointments
- **Helps them apply for benefits** – food stamps, Medicaid, health insurance, WIC, etc.
- **Connects** them to community resources.
- **Teaches clients health literacy** – how to read prescriptions, how to ask the doctor questions, how to refill their medications, etc.
- **Perform home visits**.
- Moves patients towards **self-sufficiency** – teaching the client the skills needed to become self sufficient
- **Cultural mediator**

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Characteristics of CHWs & their Clients

Ton Miras Neira

Angela Scott

COPE CHWs, n=53

	n	%
Gender		
Female	46	86.8%
Male	7	13.2%
Non-binary	0	0%
Self-Identified Race/Ethnicity*		
White	21	39.6%
Hispanic/ Latino	20	37.7%
Black/ African American	9	17%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	1	1.9%
Asian/ Southeast Asian	1	1.9%
Other	1	1.9%

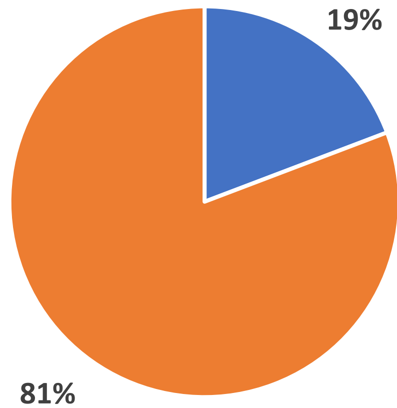
Languages spoken	n	%
English	30	56.6%
Bilingual English/Spanish	21	39.6%
Bilingual English/ Other	2	3.7 %

COPE Clients Served: 4,589

	n	%
Gender		
Male	1,367	29.8%
Female	2,769	60.3%
Not specified/Declined	189	4.1%
Self-Identified Race		
White	2,918	63.6%
Black/ African American	352	7.8%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	70	1.5%
Asian/ Pacific Islander	126	2.7%
Not specified/declined/other	831	18.1%
Ethnicity		
Hispanic/ Latino	1,357	29.6%
Not specified/Declined	723	15.8%

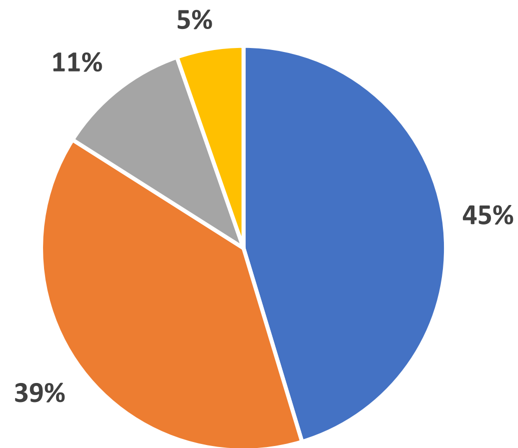
Placement of COPE CHWs

Urban - Rural CHWs



■ Urban ■ Rural

CHW Placement



■ CBOs ■ Clinics ■ LHD ■ Other

United Way
of Central Kansas

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CHW Maternal Health Interventions

Fourth Trimester Initiative

Maternal Mortality in the US – Timing for interventions

- Most KS maternal deaths occur between the time immediately after birth and the end of the 1st year.
- Additionally, the first year after birth presents many physical and emotional changes for the mother, baby, and family.
- Data from KDHE Vital Statistics, as well as the Kansas MMRC, demonstrated that **focused evaluation and intentional intervention in the postpartum period should be the primary goal to improve maternal health outcomes.**
- The Fourth Trimester Initiative is an innovative, cutting-edge approach to studying and improving the experience of our mothers and families in KS.

31% During pregnancy

17% Day of delivery

19% 1 to 6 days postpartum

21% 7 to 42 days postpartum

12% Between 43 and 365 days postpartum

FTI/COPE CHW HIGH-LEVEL WORKFLOW

COPE trained 25 CHWs on this initiative

Patient sources

Referral by FTI partner champion(s)

(Referral can be sent to CHW through different venues)

Outreach

CHW will call client in 24 hours and screen for eligibility

(CHW will attempt up to three times to connect with the client)

CHW Intake

CHW will meet with client (home visit or phone call) to sign consent and perform a needs assessment.

A[illegible]

p[illegible], [illegible] wi[illegible]

assist[illegible]ent t[illegible]

produc[illegible] a care plan and decide next steps.

Goals/ Referrals

- CHW and client will work together on completing their goals (including follow up visits)
- Once goals are completed, CHW will discharge client from the program.

Reporting back

- CHW will report back to provider once the care plan is ready, and upon completion.
- Provider can request an update at anytime.

Documentation

- CHWs document all the encounters with clients in a database

COPE CHW MCH Client Interactions

- Established **299** partners that can offer MCH resources
- Served **137** clients:
  - 223 goals related to MCH
  - 181 were successfully completed (81.2%)
- Example client goals:

Connections to baby supplies/resources

Links to childcare services

Connections to pediatric services

Parenting classes

Applying for WIC

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Coalition Maternal Health Interventions

Local Health Equity Action Teams

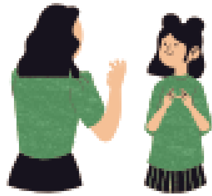
WHAT DO WE DO?

Since LHEATs for each county consist of members from that community, each team creates specific action plans with their unique needs and assets in mind..

Here are some examples...

WYANDOTTE COUNTY: LAUNDRY LOVE

Goal: address lack of access to clean clothes, water, electricity, ability to wash clothes
Plan: organize event at local laundromat, connect with Laundry Love to establish a location in WyCo



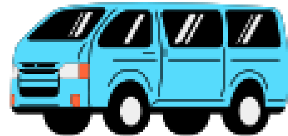
COWLEY COUNTY: INTERPRETERS

Goal: provide interpreter services to help non-English speakers access social services and other resources
Plan: assemble a list people to serve as local interpreters/health care advocates

JOHNSON COUNTY: BABY SHOWER

Goal: address infant mortality by providing safe sleep environments and safe sleep education
Plan: organize "SafeKids Johnson County community baby shower" to distribute crib sheets and provide tools and education to families

CHEROKEE COUNTY: TRANSPORTATION



Goal: provide transportation to patients for medical appointments
Action: Worked with the Cherokee County Ambulance Association to help fund the purchase of a passenger van

SEWARD COUNTY: CHILDHOOD VACCINES

Goal: provide COVID-19 as well as routine/school-related immunization for school-age children
Action: Organized weekend vaccine clinics during Summer 2022

And many more projects surrounding food insecurity, housing insecurity, mental health, financial education, among others!

Priority Concerns Raised Across LHEATS to Date

LHEAT Actions

120 Bags Donated to Support Shawnee County Children in Foster Care

3,400 Hygiene Kits To Support Pre-school to college-aged Children in Ford County: The LHEAT and local partners will sustain this effort annually.

Volunteers creating kits

By Phil Handsaker (The Ford County LHEAT Lead)

After the PE uniforms initiative, the Ford County LHEAT is following up with a hygiene kit distribution. It plans to sustain the effort to make the hygiene kit distribution an annual event.

Children ranging from pre-school to college and clients of Compass Behavioral Health, a ... health center, will soon receive ... contain handmade ... toothbrush...

Supporting Johnson County Families through Diaper Distribution

Diaper scarcity severely impacts low-income families. In the U.S., one in three mothers struggles to maintain a steady supply of diapers, further challenging childcare. In early February, the Johnson County LHEAT and CHWs hosted a diaper distribution event to support multiple families with young children.

The Shawnee County LHEAT's "Keep It Real Summit" Champions Youth Mental Wellbeing

Protect Beautiful Smiles in Sedgwick County

In partnership with Oral Health Kansas and the Oaklawn Community Wellness Hub, the Sedgwick County LHEAT and Thien Doan (CHW in Sedgwick County with a home base in GraceMed) sponsored an oral health awareness booth.

Forty 4th and 5th graders in the Oaklawn Elementary School's after school program participated in an experiment to learn about how to protect their "beautiful smiles." They also learned about how sugary drinks contain excessive amount of sugar. Each student received a dental kit from Delta Dental and a ...l Health Kansas.

Fighting for Birth Equity in Shawnee County

On November 4, Shawnee County LHEAT hosted a panel to examine infant mortality and the path toward equitable birth outcomes. With a full house in attendance, the panel spotlighted the causes of maternal

COPE LHEAT MCH Interactions

- Engaged in/supported **149** MCH related events in 2 years

Example Community Events:

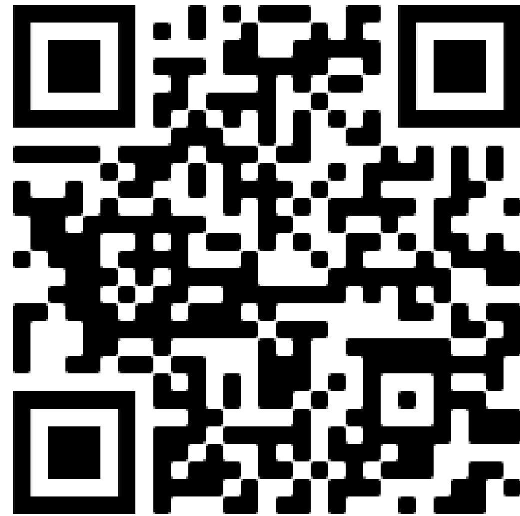
- Community baby showers/Resource distribution events
- Childcare/Educational Services
- Communication/Promotion/Advocacy
- Healthcare Services

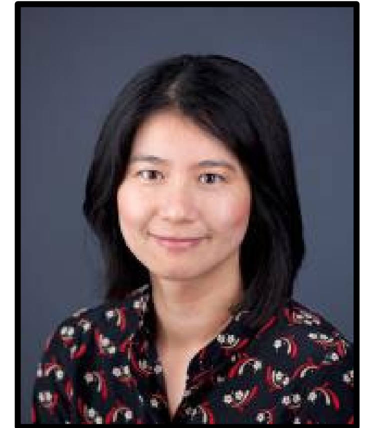
Example Capacity Building/Sustainable Approaches:

- Community assessment of childcare needs
- New Childcare Facility in the Community through the School District
- Safe Sitter certification classes
- Expansion of Dolly Parton Imagination Library in partnership with United Way
- Breastfeeding pumps rental through local health department
- New playground equipment / Youth football helmet recertification
- Harvey County Resource Guide for Maternal/Infant Health

Monthly Newsletter

Subscribe!





Dr. Yvonnes Chen

Visit!

www.kumc.edu/COPE for more information

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Acknowledgements:
Thanks to our COPE Team, CHWs, LHEATs, and community partners for their dedication to achieving health equity in Kansas!

Thank you to our funders at KDHE, and CDC for the opportunity to engage in this work and continual brainstorming on how to continue it.