## Building New Educational Models: Community Health workers

Hector Balcazar, MD, PhD UT School of Public Health Building New Educational Models: Community Health Workers in the Context of Interdisciplinary Teams

Community health workers are lay members of communities who work either for pay or as volunteers in association with the local health care system in both urban and rural environments and usually share ethnicity, language, socioeconomic status and life experiences with the community members they serve... (roles)

Can we create and validate an agenda of educational opportunities for CHWs as part of an interdisciplinary team to provide health care and prevention?

Can CHWs help close the gap for meeting challenges of health care delivery? (in many of its facets (i.e. medical, nursing, dental))

Reference: National Community Health Advisor Study (Rosenthal, Wiggins, Brownstein, NCHAS, 1998)

## Can CHWs Support the Interdisciplinary Health Care Team with their Roles/Functions?



\*Quality.

Core Roles and Competencies of Community Health Advisors, NCHAS, Chapter 2. Wiggins in Rosenthal et al.

## Can Comprehensive Policy Approaches Advance the CHW Field?

| Occupational<br>Regulation:<br>Credentialing by CHWs<br>for CHWs            | <b>Financing:</b><br>Sustaining full<br>spectrum of CHW roles<br>and settings |
|---|---|
| Workforce   | <b>Evaluation and</b>   |
| <b>Development:</b>   | Research:   |
| CHW-led , employer/funder -<br>supported education and<br>capacity building | Core metrics and common agenda  |
| See college key considerations chw-nec.org                                  | See CHW research agenda<br>http://bit.ly/b0ZAub                               |

Rosenthal, Brownstein, Hirsch, Willaert, Rush, Scott, Holderby, and Fox in Health Affairs, July 2010