



CENTER FOR HEALTH LAW & POLICY INNOVATION Harvard Law School

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Harvard Law School's Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation Presents Policy Roundtable on Integration of Community Health Workers into Diabetes Care

WASHINGTON, DC (September 30, 2015) – The Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation (CHLPI) of Harvard Law School, in collaboration with Peers for Progress and the NCLR (National Council of La Raza), hosted *Beating Type 2 Diabetes: A Policy Roundtable on Seizing Current Opportunities to Integrate Community Health Workers into Diabetes Care*.

The event convened government agency representatives and diabetes stakeholders from across the country to discuss the important role that community health workers (CHWs) can play in improving health outcomes for people at risk or living with type 2 diabetes.

“Community health workers are an integral part of a patient’s journey through the healthcare system,” said Robert Greenwald, JD, Director of CHLPI and Clinical Professor of Law at Harvard Law School. “Especially for patients with pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes, community health workers bridge the gap between patients and the organizations that deliver diabetes education and care. The support of community health workers is crucial to ensure proper adherence to treatment and key lifestyle changes.”

To explore the significance of CHWs, the roundtable featured a panel of experts: Charlie Alfero, MA (Executive Director for the Southwest Center for Health Innovation, New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium, National Center for Frontier Communities); Edwin Fisher, PhD (Global Director for Peers for Progress of the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation, and Professor in the Department of Health Behavior at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health); L’Tanya Gilchrist (CHW at the Durham Diabetes Coalition); and Vicki Hatfield, CFNP, CDE (Principal Investigator for the Southeastern Diabetes Initiative).

The panelists shared their expertise on the key issues that policymakers must consider as they work to formally recognize and support CHW services and identify the current opportunities and barriers to integrating CHWs into diabetes care.

Additionally, the event featured a presentation on findings from the Providing Access to Healthy Solutions (PATHS) Report, *Beating Type 2 Diabetes: Recommendations for Federal Policy Reform*. The report was developed by CHLPI with the support and guidance of people living with and at risk for diabetes, health and social service professionals, food providers and producers, government officials, and other stakeholders, and was released on May 20 of this year. To access the report, click [here](#).

PATHS is part of the Together on Diabetes™ Initiative, a major endeavor launched by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation (BMSF) in 2010, which supports community-based organizations across the United States that are working to improve the health outcomes of people living with type 2 diabetes by strengthening patient self-management education, community-based supportive services, and broad-based community mobilization.

About PATHS: PATHS is led by the Center for Health Law & Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School. PATHS works to strengthen federal, state, and local efforts to improve type 2 diabetes treatment and prevention through the development and implementation of strategic law and policy reform initiatives that can bolster these efforts, including federal and state-level research reports. Visit www.diabetespolicy.org for more information.

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