



## STATE OF WASHINGTON

February 25, 2016

Dear Community Health Worker Task Force:

Whether you refer to them as community health advisors or community health representatives or promotores(as) de salud, the people who take on this work possess common traits of empathy, sincerity, dedication, and a powerful commitment to uplift their neighbor and their community.

The wider health sector has come to recognize the influential role community health workers (CHWs) play within their communities and their unique ability, demonstrated by research, to engage individuals in their own health care and to support the delivery of efficient and effective health care services.

We are privileged to share with you the enclosed Community Health Worker Task Force Recommendations. These recommendations are the result of five months of intensive work by a broad-based statewide task force convened to agree on definitions, roles, tasks, skills, and attributes. Workgroups also addressed education and training as well as financial considerations for engaging the CHW work force.

This was a large task force, with some 55 members including representatives of Tribes, clinics, hospitals, educators, legislators, workforce organizations, behavioral health, health plans, professional associations and state and local agencies, as well as eighteen individuals working as CHWs. We appreciate and respect the work of each task force member, and their willingness to engage in conversations from a range of perspectives to forge working recommendations. It was our privilege to personally participate in these conversations.

The alignment between this workforce and the goals of the Healthier Washington initiative are clearer thanks to this task force. We look forward to using these recommendations to integrate CHWs into our health system transformation strategies. Look for an update this spring.

You can read more about the health sector transformation occurring under Healthier Washington at [www.hca.wa.gov/hw](http://www.hca.wa.gov/hw). And we would welcome your comments at [healthierwa@hca.wa.gov](mailto:healthierwa@hca.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Dorothy F. Teeter, MHA  
Director  
Health Care Authority

John Wiesman, DrPH, MPH  
Secretary of Health  
Department of Health

Enclosure