

The Growth of a Movement:
History of The
Community Health Workers National Network Association
and
Lessons Learned

Zeida L. Estrada, CHW

MISSION

- To create a cohesive voice for Lay Health Workers/Promotores, including the development of a national agenda, advocating for Lay Health Workers/Promotores working both in rural and urban communities, and to serve as a centralized clearinghouse for information by, and for Lay Health Workers/Promotores nationwide

The Community Health Workers National Network Association, formerly known as the Lay Health Workers/Promotores National Network, Inc., was established in 1998.

The attainment of this long-sought objective reflected the growing conviction of community health workers, community organizations and professional supporters, that there was need for an organizational structure, through which the resources of the profession could be utilized most effectively for the improvement and strengthening of community health workers as a workforce.

The first formal steps leading toward the establishment of “La Red National”, was to organize an Advisory Council and a Board of Directors that included various states.

The Advisory Council was composed of nine professional members and the Board of Directors, was composed of a total of six community health workers.

- The Association was headquartered in Yuma, Arizona,
- The main source of funding was provided by the Regional Center for Border Health, formerly known as Western Arizona AHEC.
- In 1999 the By-laws were developed
- In 1999, The Lay Health Workers/Promotores National Network, Inc. was incorporated as a none for profit organization, under the 501(C)(3).

Members of the Advisory Board

Matilde M. Alvarado,
Amanda Aguirre, M.A.,R.D.
B.J. Ciesielski
Kendra Brandstein
Maria Lemus
Carol H. Rush
Eddie Farias
Sylvia J. Ruiz
Ileana Hinojosa

Members of the Board of Directors

Western Office

Veronica Peña
Antolin
Rodriguez

Southern Office

Luis Loya
Terry Smith

Northern Office

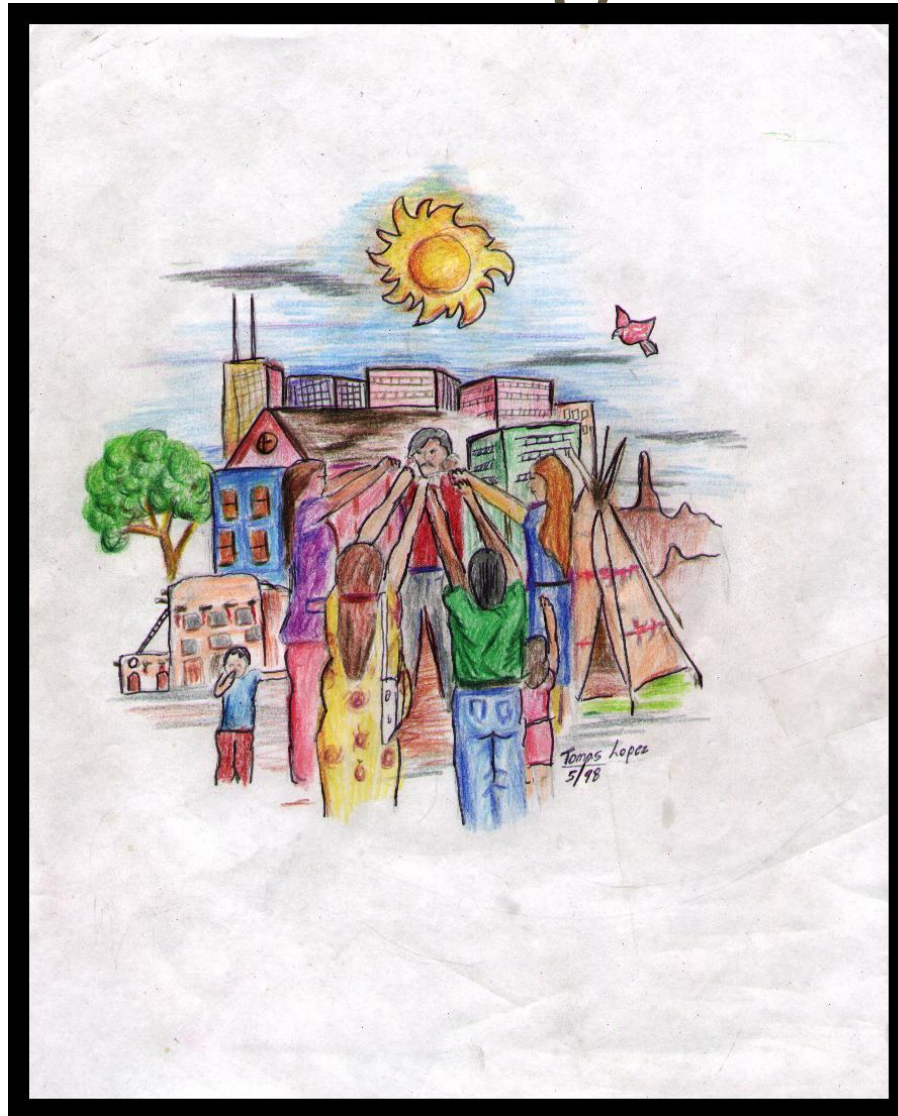
Teresa Rios

Eastern Office

Myrna Alfaro

- The Community Health Worker National Network Association, Inc. was incorporated as a non for profit under the 501(C)(3).
- In 1999 the By-laws that govern the membership were developed as planned. The By-laws have helped in the process to nominate and elect representatives into both bodies.

The Logo



Lessons Learned

- We are people who share the same set of values and skills and we come from all over the country and world
- Work in different settings
- Belong to different political parties
- The vast majority are being paid by grant funds
- We need more curriculums made for CHWs
- Continue to document efforts
- Support local, state and national efforts
- Overall support projects focus on the development of CHWs as a workforce.