

Bridges to Health

A Program of the Columbia Gorge Health Council



A network of Community Health Workers

- Addressing barriers to health and wellbeing
- Improving health quality, access, and equity
- Growing a skilled network of community health workers



COORDINATION

Improving health quality, access, and equity with cross sector coordination. Community Health Workers support hospital discharges, case management and appropriate health care utilization by making meaningful connections to clients who are seeking community services and resources.

DIRECT SERVICE

Addressing barriers to health and wellbeing by providing tailored support for clients. We address barriers to care and services, so clients get what they need and feel more confident in accessing services on their own. We help service providers understand how to better support community members.

COLLABORATION

Growing a skilled network of Community Health Workers (CHWs) by attending continuing education trainings and engaging in community collaboratives. We support community partner initiatives and health care incentive metrics as well as urgent community response.

- ✓ Guided by the community using the evidence-based Pathways Community HUB model.
- ✓ Funded by PacificSource Community Solutions Coordinated Care Organization - Columbia Gorge Region shared funding, community-based initiatives and grants.
- ✓ Serves residents in Hood River and Wasco counties.
- ✓ Contracts with local agencies to employ Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- ✓ Purchases items that support clients' health and wellness goals.

3,500 clients since inception

770 clients in 2023

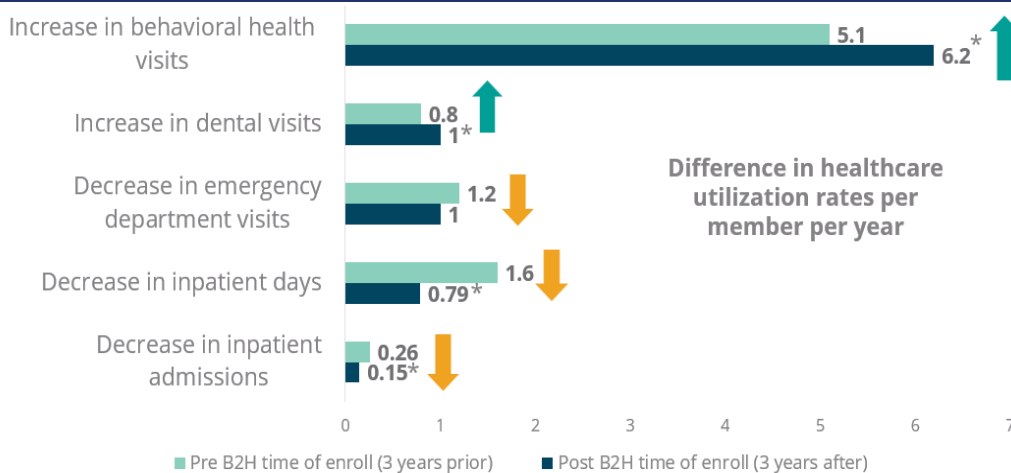
300 current clients

Bridges to Health Community Health Workers Impact Health Care Utilization

CHWs help resolve issues so that our patients can manage their own care better.

CLIENTS MORE LIKELY TO USE HEALTH CARE APPROPRIATELY AFTER PARTICIPATING COMPARED TO BEFORE

Source: Partner Agency Interviews & Behavioral Health Provider Focus Groups 2023



CHWs work their magic by:

- Reducing stress & time burden for busy clinical providers
- Working in tandem with clinical providers to provide wraparound care, ensuring clients' needs are met
- Sharing their knowledge about complex healthcare and social service systems

Source: PacificSource CCO/Medicaid members enrolled 36 months before and up to 36 months after enrollment in the Bridges to Health Program as recorded on claims incurred and paid by November 2022.



SUPPORTING COMMUNITY DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

Through severe weather events and Covid 19, Bridges to Health (B2H) provides support to community members most in need.

- Partnering with public health from April 2020 to June 2023, Bridges to Health provided Covid 19 wraparound support to more than 5% of the population in Hood River and Wasco counties.
- During severe weather, B2H supports clients with referrals to shelter services, cold/hot weather supplies, food and hotel support for the most vulnerable.



INCREASING NATIVE AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TRUSTED RELATIONSHIPS

Senior Native American CHW Rosie Strange provides support and guidance to communities along the Nch'i Wana.

- Empowering clients to overcome barriers to housing, medical appointments, transportation, SUD recovery, restorative justice and much more.
- Along the way, clients are healing intergenerational trauma by sharing stories, connecting to their culture, and learning new ways to manage stress.

"It's my greatest honor to serve my people along the Nch'i Wana on our ancestral homelands." - Rosie Strange

*Pictured: Left - Lissette Rivera and Katy Williams (B2H) meet up with Scott Radford (Columbia Gorge Food Bank) to load up food and deliver to families in need during a severe snow event. Right - Rosie Strange doing outreach at a tribal site along the Nch'i Wana prior to a cold weather snap and a horse named Sadie, who loves carrots.

