

Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Proclamation

PROCLAIMING AUGUST 28 - SEPTEMBER 1, 2023 AS NATIONAL COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS WEEK IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

WHEREAS, the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) has developed the first-ever national campaign to celebrate and commemorate Community Health Workers for the week of August 28th through September 1st, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Community Health Workers (CHWs) are individuals who are frontline public health workers who are trusted members of and/or have an unusually close understanding of the community they serve; and

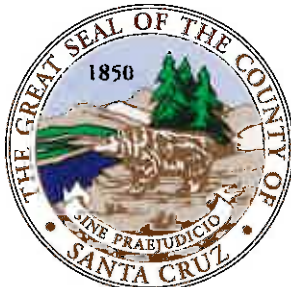
WHEREAS, "CHW" is an umbrella term that can include promotoras, community health representatives, and over 90 other job titles, and under this umbrella term for many decades, CHWs are a unique workforce, diverse in ethnicity, language, and culture and recognized as health professionals by the Affordable Care Act (ACA); and

WHEREAS, CHWs play a crucial role in societal healthcare efforts, as documented in countless randomized control trials, systematic reviews, and Return On Investment studies of CHW interventions, and are increasingly recognized for their contributions to addressing racial equity and the social determinants of health by connecting individuals to basic needs and by organizing communities to address inequitable social conditions; and

WHEREAS, at the breakdown of the Pajaro River levee in March 2023, which flooded the community of Pajaro, multicultural and multilingual CHWs were essential in Santa Cruz County's effort to meet the needs of the displaced community members by providing resources and access to community services; and

WHEREAS, CHWs are a precarious workforce and need improved policy, funding, and legal support to promote their sustainability, professional development, career ladders, and recognition for their integral role in reducing health inequities.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Zach Friend, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors, hereby proclaim on behalf of the County and all residents thereof, the week of August 28th through September 1st, 2023 as Community Health Worker Awareness Week, and encourage the many community, agency, and business partners to support local, state, and national efforts that improve policies that respect, protect, and authentically partner with the CHW profession and recognize it as a vital local workforce in Santa Cruz County, the state, and across our nation and an important driver to reduce racial health inequities.



Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

August 15, 2023

Date