

2024 NNPHI ANNUAL CONFERENCE: BUILDING PATHWAYS TO IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH

4 CHW Awardees Attended the conference

The *National Network of Public Health Institutes* (NNPHI) Annual Conference, held in New Orleans, LA on May 21–23, 2024, was a transformative experience for the four community health workers (CHWs) from the Tulsa Health Department who attended it with partial support from the *2023-2025 OPHTC Conference and Continued Education Fund for CHWs in Oklahoma*. The CHWs valued the rich educational sessions on key public health topics such as health equity, violence prevention, and cardiovascular health. Attendees also deepened their understanding of CHW roles and learned about how to apply new assessment tools and evidence-based practices in their communities. The CHWs observed that the conference fostered professional growth, and they emphasized the importance of ongoing learning, cultural competence, and community-driven solutions. As one CHW shared: *“Attending this conference was crucial for my professional growth as a CHW. The discussions emphasized the critical roles CHWs play in improving public health outcomes. Understanding the extensive training and core competencies required for CHWs enables me to support my community better through education, advocacy, and health promotion.”* The energizing environment, filled with passionate public health professionals, inspired attendees to build stronger partnerships and pursue further education, with one participant stating: *“My biggest takeaway from this experience is that I will pursue an MPH in the new year.”* Another participant reflected: *“The knowledge and skills gained from attending the NNPHI Annual Conference will significantly enhance my job performance. I feel that I am now better equipped to apply the latest evidence-based practices and intervention strategies in my daily work, ensuring that I provide the highest quality of care. The conference emphasized the importance of building strong relationships with community members and partners, which will help me foster deeper connections and drive collaborative health initiatives.”* Networking opportunities allowed CHWs to build deeper connections, share experiences, and return to their roles better equipped for meaningful impacts. The conference not only strengthened the CHW’s knowledge and skills but also reinforced their commitment to advancing public health through relationship-building and collaborative initiatives.