

# PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*



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## **Community Health Workers are the Future of Healthcare**

**Providence, R.I.** – January 19, 2018 – The “Community Health Workers’ Value to Care” conference, sponsored by Rhode Island College’s Institute for Education in Healthcare, the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training Real Jobs program, and the Community Health Worker Association of RI brought together more than 60 healthcare and community agency professionals from around the state.

Rhode Island Department of Health Director Nicole Alexander-Scott, M.D., opened the event with an overview of the healthcare transformation efforts taking place in the state and the role of Community Health Workers (CHW). Following the Director’s remarks, keynote speaker Jill Feldstein, MPA, chief operating officer of the Penn Center for Community Health Workers presented research and strategies regarding the “return-on-investment” of Community Health Workers.

Brady Dunklee, a Master in Public Health candidate at the Boston University School of Public Health, presented the [2018 Executive Summary](#) of “*Community Health Workers in Rhode Island: Growing a public health workforce for a healthier state.*” Dunklee partnered with the Rhode Island Department of Health to conduct 25 interviews of employers and stakeholders. Following the report, Deborah Garneau, director of the Health Equity Institute, joined Dunklee for a Q&A.

“Even though the focus of the conference was on return on investment for employers, the big picture shouldn’t be lost sight of. The unique role of Community Health Workers -- and what our training drives home -- is that they empower people, and potentially communities, to learn how to sustain better health practices and be more connected to their community so that they really improve their overall lives and well-being” stated Marianne Raimondo, Rhode Island College Executive Director of the Institute for Education in Healthcare, Assistant Professor and Director of Health Care Administration.

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*Pictures of the event are available electronically by request. Please visit our [Facebook page](#) to view videoed portions of the event.*