



## Leadership Corner: A Conversation with June Tourangeau



When it comes to building Rhode Island's capacity to address asthma disparities, few individuals have played as central a role as June. A Licensed Practical Nurse and Certified Asthma Educator (AE-C), June serves as CTC-RI's Asthma Education Consultant, the lead trainer behind both the Asthma Core Training and the Asthma Home Visiting Training that have now reached more than 40 community health workers and healthcare professionals across 23 organizations statewide.

June's involvement in this work started at the foundation. In Summer 2024, she conducted a comprehensive environmental scan that evaluated asthma training programs used in other communities, ultimately recommending the Association of Asthma Educators' nationally recognized curriculum as the right fit for Rhode Island. She then led development of the Asthma Home Visiting curriculum, drawing on that research alongside her deep experience delivering home-based asthma education in prior clinical roles.

What makes June's approach stand out is her ability to translate complex clinical content into practical, accessible learning for community health workers. Participants in her trainings consistently highlight her knowledge, her energy, and the way she makes space for real questions and discussion. One participant put it simply: *"June's expertise in the subject matter and her thoroughness...she was knowledgeable and engaging. It made the two days go by really quickly."*

As CTC-RI launches its Asthma Learning Community in 2026 to continue supporting training graduates in their work, June remains a guiding voice — helping CHWs bridge the gap between what they learned in the classroom and the complex realities families face at home.

**Community health workers are often the first — and sometimes the only — professional connection a family has to asthma care. What do you want CHWs to understand about their role that they might not fully appreciate when they first come to training?**

**Q**  
**A**

CHW's come to the training with much knowledge already on how to connect their clients with needed resources and dealing with barriers, how to be an advocate for themselves etc. I feel with the asthma training they walk away being able to provide knowledge for their asthma clients on how to improve managing their Asthma, education on what is Asthma, what is needed to identify and remediated environmental triggers, how to use devices for Asthma medication and an understanding of Asthma medication where they can assist with advise for Provider questions, how to use an Asthma Action Plan (AAP), who and how to communicate with their asthma team and any other asthma related issues and or barriers that may arise.

**After years of delivering this training across Rhode Island, what gives you the most hope about where this work is headed — and what do you think still needs to change?**

**Q**  
**A**

For the CHW's and other asthma team members that have taken the training to reach out to the asthma community and assist people with Asthma better manage their chronic disease. I worked doing Asthma Home Visits for several years and saw what a difference it made in the lives of Asthma families. I see in the future with more Asthma trainings these differences continuing to happen: Quality of life improved with better management of their asthma, decreased ED and Hospitalization, improved environmental issues, less days missed from work and school, better understanding of medication and devices and use of AAP's, social service referral and other resources, better communication with their asthma team including providers and school nurses. The thing I feel needs to change is that Asthma Home Visiting is a service offered without cost to every person with Asthma in the State of RI.