



CONNECTICUT  
*Office of Health Strategy*

# Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB)

November 7th, 2019

# Purpose of Today's Meeting

# CHW Advisory Body

## Meeting Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. CHW Advisory Body roles, legislation, and expectations
3. Priorities for upcoming meeting
4. Update from DPH on status of certification application
5. Address questions from members
6. Next steps and future meeting schedule and location
7. Adjourn

# Introductions

# CHWAB Membership

## CHWAB Chair

**Dr. Tekisha Dwan Everette**

## CHWAB Support

Vicki Veltri

Stephanie Burnham

Dashni Sathasivam

Jeannina Thompson

## DPH Appointee

Chris Andreson

## Community Health Workers

Mildred Landock

Bianca Noroñas

DeLita Rose-Daniels

Jerry Smart

Nilda Paris

Derrickia Parker

## CHW Association of CT

Milagrosa Seguinot

## Community College

Erika Lynch

## Community-based CHW training organization

Michele Scott

## Healthcare Employer

Adriana Rojas

## Healthcare Provider

Jean K. Jacob, PharmD

## CHW Employing Agency

Lee Carenza

# Role of CHWAB

- **Advise:** Office of Health Strategy & Department of Public Health
- **Review:** Training program certification and education requirements
- **Approve:** Vendors offering training and continuing education

## Legislation: Public Act 19-117, Section 160b

“There is established within the Office of Health Strategy a Community Health Worker Advisory Body. Said body shall

- 1) **Advise** said office and the Department of Public Health on matters relating to the **educational and certification requirements for training programs** for community health workers, including the **minimum number of hours and internship requirements** for certification of community health workers.
- 2) Conduct a **continuous review** of such educational and certification programs, and
- 3) Provide the department with a **list of approved educational and certification programs** for community health workers.

# Expectation of a CHW Advisory Body Member

**Attend 2 hour monthly meetings in person or via phone with possible ad-hoc meetings prior to January 1st, 2020**

## **Participate in subgroups of CHWAB**

For example:

- Marketing & Outreach
- Code of Conduct

# Overview of Connecticut CHW Certification Milestones

2015 – State Innovation Model (SIM) Convened CHW Advisory Body

2017 – Statewide CHW definition & scope of work established (Public act 17-74 became a part of 18-91 section 63)

2019 - Passed bill (HB-7424 ) creating CHW certification program administered by DPH and a CHW Advisory Body led by OHS

2020 - Certification of Connecticut CHWs goes live

# Review: CHW Certification

*“On or after January 1, 2020, no person shall use the title “certified community health worker” unless certified by the Department of Public Health”*

## **CHWs will need to apply to DPH for voluntary certification**

- \$100 application fee

## **2 continuous pathways for CHW certification in CT (no grandparenting)**

- Path 1 is for CHWs who want to use education & training as their path to certification and/or are just starting their career.
- Path 2 is for CHWs who want to use experience as their path to certification.

# Review: Paths to CHW Certification

## Path 1

- 1) Be at least 16 years old.
- 2) **Trained by a training vendor approved by the CHW Advisory Body.**
- 3) Submit a professional and community member reference on your CHW work experience.
- 4) Have 1000 hours proof of experience as a CHW within 3 years of application date.

## Path 2

- 1) Be at least 16 years old.
- 2) Submit a professional and community member reference on your CHW work experience.
- 3) Have 2000 hours proof of experience as a CHW in the past 3 years

# Review: CHW Certification Renewal & Enforcement

## **Certification is renewable every 3 years**

- \$100 application fee
- 30 hours of Continuing Education Requirements
  - 2 hours of cultural competency, systemic racism, or systemic oppression
  - 2 hours of social determinants of health

**DPH has authority to take enforcement action against certified CHWs failing to comply with professional standards**

# Upcoming meeting priorities:

- **Training program**
  - Minimum number of hours
  - Training modality
  - Instructor qualification
- **Internship requirements**
  - Length of internship
  - Training provider and Host Agency requirements
  - Internship supervision
  - Internship goals
  - Learning objectives
  - Assessment of knowledge and skills
  - Evaluation
  - Tools and Materials

## Upcoming meeting priorities:

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- **Training vendor approval process**
  - Application cost
  - Vendor application process
  - Application review process
  - Denied applications
  - Renewal of certification
- **CHWAB governance**
- **Design groups**
- **Connecticut CHW code of conduct**

# Updates from DPH

## Updates from DPH

- DPH website regarding community health worker certification requirements has been updated
- DPH is currently working on configuring licensing system to accept online applications
- Applications will only be accepted online
- Applicants will be able to upload all supporting documents as part of their online application
- Anticipating the system will be configured and ready to begin accepting applications after Thanksgiving

# General Questions

# Future Meetings

- Most members responded (9 out of 13) that the morning of the first Thursday of the month is best for them
- Next meeting will be December 5<sup>th</sup>
  - Time and location to be determined

# Contact

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# Adjourn