

# Community Health Worker Advisory Body

## Meeting Summary

### February 3, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
February 3, 2022	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Via Zoom

#### Member Name and Attendance

Community Health Worker Advisory Body Members					
Lee Carezza	X	Milagrosa Seguinot	X	Fernando Morales	X
Mildred Landock		Adriana Rojas		Jean Jacobs	
Erika Lynch	X	Nilda Paris	X	Melanie Alvarez	X
Bianca Noronas	X	Chris Andresen			
Derricia Parker	X	Liza Estevez	X		
Other Participants Present					
Laura Morris, OHS		Dawn Fairservis, CRT		Christina Del Vecchio, CHCACT	
Leslie Greer, OHS		Jennifer Lane, CRT		Cherie Poirier, HEC	
Abby Alter, OHS		Julie Bryant, CRT		Rashawn Hughes, HEC	
Alyssa Marin, Bristol/Burlington Health District		Samantha Grados Ramos, CRT		Thalia Castro	
Alicia Woodsby		Brent Miller, OHS		Alyssa Languth	
Sonya Jelks, CSH		Meghan Tastensen, CHCACT		Billy Haung, Housing Collective	
Kiya Kennebrew, CSH		Victor Johnson, CRT			
Mike Gomes, CRT		Walt Glomb			

Meeting Information is located at: <https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Community-Health-Worker-Advisory-Body/Meeting-Materials>

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<b>Call to Order</b> The meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) was held on Thursday, February 3, 2022, via zoom. Laura Morris chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.	
2.	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No public comment</li> </ul>	
3.	<b>Review and Approve Annual Meeting Schedule</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A motion was made by Liza Estevez to approve the 2022 meeting scheduled and seconded by Lee Carezza. <b>Motion carried</b></li> </ul>	
4.	<b>Review November, December 2021, and January 2022 Minutes and Approval</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A motion was made by Milagrosa Seguinot to approve the November 2021 minutes and seconded by Fernando Morales. <b>Motion carried</b></li> <li>A motion was made by Milagrosa Seguinot to approve the December 2021 minutes and seconded by Derricia Parker. <b>Motion carried</b></li> <li>A correction was noted to add Center after Consultation under item 5, the last paragraph. A motion was made by Milagrosa Seguinot to approve the January 2022 minutes and seconded</li> </ul>	

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## Meeting Summary

### February 3, 2022

	by Fernando Morales. <b>Motion carried</b>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Membership Vacancies</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A motion was made by Fernando Morales to approve Melanie Alvarez as a member of the Community Health Workers Advisory Body and seconded by Bianca Noronas. <b>Motion carried.</b></li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Presentation by Technical Assistance Collaborative, CT Coordinated Action Networks and Housing Collective – Homelessness, Health and CHWs</b>	<b>Alicia Woodsby, TAC, Billy Haung, Housing Collective, Kiya Kennebrew and Alyssa Languth, CSH</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alicia Woodsby, Technical Assistance Collaborative, CT (TAC) provided a brief description of the work her organization does. TAC provides technical assistance and consultancy services to advance proven housing and services solutions for people who are low-income with disabilities and people experiencing homelessness. They are currently providing support to the continuum of care in the state and their statewide effort to better integrate healthcare and behavioral health care with the homeless system.</li> <li>Billy Haung, Director of Data Analytics and Impact from Housing Collective (formerly Supportive Housing Works) discussed healthcare integration between the homeless system and FQAC's. Here to learn more about the ecosystem of the community health worker and the advisory body and how it relates to their work. The goal of the project is to identify ways to improve mental and behavioral health access for clients scrolling through the homeless system. Would like to receive feedback from the CHWAB.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding is available to pilot a strategy. One of the core areas the stakeholder group has decided to focus on is the need for a community health worker role. Community care teams were identified as a potential solution and data-sharing platforms. Interested in learning more from the advisory body about the health enhancement communities, the extent to which the roles of a community health worker intersect with the homeless system and with people experiencing homelessness.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Kiya Kennebrew and Alyssa Languth, CSH provided a presentation on CHW projects. Projects currently working on are:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indiana CHW Certification – support a cohort of 15 individuals with lived expertise to complete the city-state certification for CHWs.</li> <li>Heal California is an employment readiness program targeting PWLE to become CHW and peers. Providing data analysis to track sustainability, income, tenure, and other measures to share for future program development and adaptations.</li> <li>Two national Learning Collaboratives for health centers to strengthen CHW programs and expand hiring for people with lived expertise.</li> <li>The long-term goal of the project is to develop a service delivery model that addresses health and how the needs of folks experiencing unsheltered homelessness through targeted training, system development and to formalize a relationship between the Community health care system and the homeless system.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Interested in learning more about sustainability, learning collaborative, and how to recruit Community health workers to join.</li> </ul>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>SB 2 – Added Language on Evidence-Based CEU Requirements for CHWs</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Laura Morris discussed Senate Bill No. 2 which included some additional CEU certification requirements for Community health workers, specifically, having to do with Suicide Prevention. In Chris Andresen's absence, he provided Laura Morris an update of what DPH is reviewing for the CEU 2.0 hour requirement. However, since all renewal requirements</li> </ul>	

# Community Health Worker Advisory Body

## Meeting Summary

### February 3, 2022

	<p>are suspended per the executive order from the Governor nothing will happen yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPH is looking at how these new requirements align with the executive order and will be following up with everyone who either has a license or a certification once it's all sorted out.</li> <li>• The language reflects it should be available and a requirement starting January 1, 2022, however, it's not an issue since there's an executive order suspending it. In the meantime, as a body, we can look at identifying and approving some Suicide Prevention training.</li> <li>• Training is being developed in conjunction with the Office of Child Advocate, and the Youth Suicide Advisory Board, which is evidence-based training, however for Community health workers evidence-based training is not required. There was mention that evidence-based training could be utilized to cover the CEU requirement, but it is not required.</li> <li>• Aware there are some mental health training that others may have taken as part of the CEU requirements. Not sure if it will satisfy the requirements for this CEU, will look at that and others for future review.</li> <li>• Per the executive order from the Governor, the certification requirements and license have been suspended. Laura Morris will confirm with Chris Andresen if this also includes those applying for recertification and who have completed their CEU's. Laura Morris will send confirmation out to the group.</li> <li>• OHS had no prior knowledge of the community health worker's legislative bill change.</li> <li>• Needs to be a roll-out or a reasonable timeframe for CHWs to be able to find the newly required training and participate in them.</li> <li>• Concerned what mechanism DPH will use to communicate these trainings to CHWs the rules are changing.</li> </ul>	
8.	<b>Review and Recommendations to revisions of CHWAB Statutory authority</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laura Morris discussed reviewing and revising the statutory authority of the advisory body since it is growing and evolving. Will discuss further how to expand and support the advisory's statutory scope.</li> <li>• These would consist of items such as CHW career pathways and pipeline including high school students, connecting with Connecticut Youth Services Bureaus within the profession and beyond to look at the development and implementation of an apprenticeship program which was originally developed under the state innovation model.</li> <li>• We will look at the entire statute to determine if any additional changes to be made including membership.</li> <li>• If there are other areas or fields that Community health workers are working in that should be part of this body, this would be a good opportunity. Will discuss this further at the next meeting.</li> </ul>	
9.	<b>Research on CHW &amp; CHW Associations Sustainability</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leslie Greer, Consumer Information Representative, and Community Health Worker, along with OHS intern Jake DeFrancesco, are researching the New England states. They are contacting all the New England States about their Community health worker associations, how they're currently structured and funded. Also looking at how Community health workers outside the New England states are being funded on a more sustainable model. Some of the</li> </ul>	

# Community Health Worker Advisory Body

## Meeting Summary

### February 3, 2022

	<p>states have Medicaid reimbursement through either an 1115 waiver or through state amendments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We will bring the research back to this body, so we can see what others are doing. Leslie and Jake will expand beyond New England to all the other states that have associations and are utilizing Community health workers.</li> <li>• We will also speak with the National Association to be a part of the conversation to come up with some real sustainability and reimbursement for Community health workers, as well as the association.</li> <li>• Discussed potentially in the future have this body hold a forum on these issues to include others within the state, but other states as well.</li> </ul>	
<b>10.</b>	<b>Funding Opportunities</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The state has received some CHW training funding opportunities for approved vendors through the Office of Workforce Strategy CareerConnect from the American rescue plan act. They award grants for innovation and innovative workforce development.</li> <li>• The career connect is focusing on rescaling and upscaling Community health workers.</li> <li>• There is additional training that is forecast to be released on February 15<sup>th</sup> for Community health workers and power professional training. Laura Morris will send information to the body when it becomes available.</li> <li>• The New England Community health worker collaborative is interested in seeing if the New England States that part of this funding is willing to earmark some funding in their proposals to work as a collaborative on some items. .</li> </ul>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>Review Committee Update</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have not received any new training vendor applications. Leslie Greer has been reaching out to other training vendors in the state to make sure they are aware we have this process and have them submit their applications to become approved.</li> <li>• Leslie Greer has been in contact with Housatonic Community College, and they are working on submitting their application.</li> </ul>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>DPH Update</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milagrosa Seguinot provided an update in Chris Andresen’s absence. As of this week, there are currently 245 certified Community Health Workers.</li> </ul>	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Marketing and Outreach</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amy Mirizzi was not present at today’s meeting. Laura Morris reported the Marketing and Outreach Committee will be meeting this afternoon to discuss the second phase of the outreach being led by O’Donnell and Company.</li> <li>• Laura Morris has a meeting scheduled with Amy Mirizzi to discuss additional funding for the association.</li> </ul>	

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<b>14.</b>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Next meeting:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March 3, 2022</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Presentation by OHS – Primary Care Roadmap</li> <li>○ Report on Research on CHWs &amp; CHW Associations sustainability</li> <li>○ Review Committee</li> <li>○ Certification Update</li> <li>○ Marketing &amp; Outreach</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>15.</b>	<b>Adjourn</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milagrosa Seguinot motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Derricia Parker. The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.</li> </ul>	