

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

May 5, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
May 5, 2022	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Via Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

Community Health Worker Advisory Body Members					
Lee Carena	R	Milagrosa Seguinot	X	Fernando Morales	R
Mildred Landock	X	Adriana Rojas	X	Melanie Alvarez	R
Erika Lynch	R	Nilda Paris	X	Laura Morris	R
Bianca Noronas	X	Chris Andresen	R		
Derricia Parker	R	Liza Estevez	R		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Leslie Greer, OHS	R	Jake DeFrancesco, OHS	R		
Abby Alter, OHS	R	Doris Maldonado Mendez, PATH CT	R		
Meghan Tastensen, CHCACT	R				
Kelsey Holmes, HEC	R				
Rashawn Hughes, HEC	R				
Christine Caruso, Hispanic Health Council	R				
			R = Attended remotely; IP = In person		

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

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Laura Morris
	Call to Order The meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) was held on Thursday, May 5, 2022, via zoom. Laura Morris chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.	
2.	Public Comment	Laura Morris
	No public comment	
3.	Review and Approve April Meeting Summary	Laura Morris
	There were not enough members for a quorum to approve the April meeting summary. Approval tabled until next meeting	

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4.	Notice of Funding Opportunity	Laura Morris
	<p>Laura Morris provided an update on the new funding opportunity from HRSA to train Community health workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to \$1 million per year for three years • Application Due June 14th • Anticipating awarding approximately 75 grants • Looking to hire a total nationwide of 33,000 Community health workers which roughly comes out to about 440 newly trained Community health workers for CT. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Purpose is for funding Community Health Worker Training Program to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expand – recruit and train new CHWs to include competencies for Public Health and Essential Public Health Services; include upskill training for existing CHWs ➤ Employment – provide job placement and on-the-job experiential training through DOL’s registered apprenticeship programs. ➤ Health Equity and SDOH – Address gaps in public health and community needs and increase the diversity of the CHW workforce in underserved communities. • Since we have been working towards an apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor this would give us an opportunity to really propel that forward. • Will be required to do outreach to people in the community who live in underserved communities and upskill train them and have them go back and work within those underserved communities. • Allows for training financial support to include tuition reimbursement, stipends for travel, childcare, laptop, Internet, etc. Also includes job readiness skills and other items so that they're able to then go out and secure a job. • Required to address HRSA’s clinical priority areas: primary care, mental health, and dental health. We will have to incorporate this into our training program. The three approved training vendors has been meeting with OHS and others to help move the application along. • Laura Morris has agreed to be the Project Director. There is a requirement that we hire a Data Coordinator rather through OHS or one of the training vendors. This will require a lot of community partnerships for the apprenticeship or on-the-job training. If anyone is interested in that please reach out to Laura Morris, Fernando Morales at Southwest AHEC, Erika Lynch or Kelsey Holmes at the Health Education Center. 	
5.	Presentation on Nationwide research on CHW Reimbursement and Sustainability	Jake DeFrancesco
	<p>Jake DeFrancesco an intern at OHS, provided a presentation on nationwide research on CHW reimbursement and sustainability. Laura Morris, Leslie Greer, and Jake DeFrancesco have been working on nationwide research on Community health worker reimbursement and sustainability by each state. For more information, please see the meeting recording link below.</p> <p>May 2022 Meeting Recording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next steps will be to do more in-depth research on the Tier 2 states. Also, to schedule meetings with Tier 2 states to learn detailed information about Medicaid and other reimbursement/funding of CHWs. • There were suggestions made to include the no-show rate to express the financial benefits of 	

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	<p>the CHW for Medicaid patients and how often they show up for appointments. Also, include rates of recidivism in medical care from people who have been released from the hospital and return for the same problem.</p>	
6.	Review Committee Update	Leslie Greer, OHS
	<p>Leslie Greer reported there are not any new applications however, there are seven new registered users. Leslie has reached out to them to inquire if they need assistance with the application. Laura and Leslie have a meeting next week with a user who would like assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erika Lynch discussed next year the state Community college system will eventually be one Community college. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The body was asked should each college submit its own paperwork to this body to be approved as a vendor. We will add this to the meeting agenda next month when we have a full body to vote. 	
7.	Marketing and Outreach Update	Laura Morris, OHS
	<p>Laura Morris provided an update on the Marketing and Outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are moving into phase two of outreach and engagement we've met with the vendor. • There are some radio spots, that will be out shortly, and she will send out links once that happens so everybody can get that information. There will also be flyers and handouts that have been created and these will also be sent to the group to share with as many people as possible. • The messaging is geared to folks who are working in those roles as Community health workers but are not yet certified, we want to get people certified which is a requirement for reimbursement in Connecticut under any model. 	
8.	DPH Update	Chris Andresen
	<p>Chris Andresen reported there are currently about 270 certified Community health workers and there are about a dozen pending applications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPH received one complaint on a CHW that has been dismissed. • The updated information on renewals that have been suspended for licenses and certifications in the state will be coming out soon and it will include information on continuing education. • CHWs will not be responsible for any continuing education that was required, while the suspension was happening. DPH will put in some dates so people can understand it. 	
9.	OHS Update	Laura Morris
	<p>Laura Morris provided an OHS update. Laura Morris has been meeting and talking with the coalition that Health Equity Solutions, has put together for reimbursement and sustainability. A person from the Department of Social Services has been identified to be included in these discussions. Hoping to have more state agencies involved since there is a lot of state agency work that's been conducting on Community health workers to ensure we are all working together towards the same goal.</p>	

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10.	General Questions	
	None	
13.	Next Steps	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 2, 2022 • Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CHW Reimbursement & Sustainability ○ CHWACT Sustainability Plan ○ Apprenticeship ○ Review Statute for CHW Advisory Body – recommendations on changes ○ Community Colleges coming under one system 	
13.	Adjourn	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m. 	

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