

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

June 2, 2022

| Meeting Date | Meeting Time | Location |
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| June 2, 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 | R | Fernando Morales | R |
| Mildred Landock | X | Adriana Rojas | R | 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 | Angie Molina-Ortiz | R | | |
| Jennifer Behuniak, DPH | R | Doris Maldonado Mendez, PATH CT | R | | |
| Elizabeth Conklin, DPH | R | Cherie Poirier, HEC | R | | |
| Kelsey Holmes, HEC | R | Mary Scully, Khmer Health Advocates | R | | |
| Rashawn Hughes, HEC | R | | | | |
| Christine Caruso, Hispanic Health Council | R | | | | |
| Meghan Tastensen, CHCACT | R | | | | |
| R = Attended Remotely, X= Did Not Attend | | | | | |

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

| # | Agenda | Responsible Person(s) |
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| 1. | Welcome and Introductions | Laura Morris |
| | Call to Order The meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) was held on Thursday, June 2, 2022, via zoom. Laura Morris chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m. | |
| 2. | Public Comment | Laura Morris |
| | Laura Morris reviewed the rules and regulations for statutory committees. Melanie Alvarez announced her workplace, Advancing Connecticut Together, has job openings on its website for a Community health worker in the Harm Reduction Branch. There are also jobs posted from other organizations in their continuum of care such as Case Management and outreach positions for homeless. Additionally, Melanie Alvarez has a position in her Rapid Rehousing Department that is not health worker specific. If anyone knows persons looking for work and would like to refer them, please have them send a cover letter and resume. Melanie Alvarez will share the information with Milagrosa Seguinot for the CHW Association of CT website. | |
| 3. | Review and Approve April and May 2022 Meeting Summaries | Laura Morris |
| | A motion was made by Milagrosa Seguinot to approve the April meeting summary and seconded by Lee Carena. Motion carried A motion was made by Derricia Parker to approve the May meeting summary and | |

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| | seconded by Lee Carena. Milagrosa Seguinot abstained. Motion carried | |
| 4. | Gateway Community College | Erika Lynch |
| | <p>Erika Lynch discussed Community colleges are going to be listed as one Community college and will be called CT State and will be listed as individual campuses starting around this time next year. There will be one year of consolidation and after graduation next year, Gateway Community College will become CT State at the Gateway Community College. The program for Community health workers is approved program by Gateway Community College. Moving forward there will be program alignment across the campuses. They want to start to look at all the programs and align them across all 12 campuses. The question for discussion to the group was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should each individual campus submit its own application to become an approved training vendor? <p>We will research other states to see what they have done with their CHW training programs, do some pros and cons, and case scenarios, and give a report at next month's meeting.</p> | |
| 5. | CHW Instructor Requirements | Laura Morris |
| | <p>Laura Morris discussed the requirements for CT CHW instructor requirements along with other states researched for comparison to determine if we want to revise the CT requirements. Laura Morris opened the floor for discussion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The body agreed a bachelor's degree or higher should not be required to become a CHW instructor. • Require instructor to have additional training i.e.; Train the Trainer • There should be some additional training on classroom management <p>Will send Missouri's CHW instructor requirements to everyone to review and will discuss at next month's meeting. Would like to learn from current CT trainers what other additional training instructors need to manage classroom settings and teach in general. Milagrosa Seguinot and Melanie Alvarez volunteered to be a part of the workgroup to work on this.</p> | |
| 6. | Reciprocity for CHWs from other States to apply for Certification in CT | Laura Morris |
| | <p>Laura Morris opened the discussion for Community health workers who received training from another State wanting to know if there's reciprocity to become certified in Connecticut.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Andresen, DPH stated there's nothing prohibiting somebody with no certification from doing CHW work, which is the way it's been historically done but reciprocity would mean they can get a certification in Connecticut not that they would function under in other states' certification. • The law that applies to CHWs states if a person moves to Connecticut and they moved to Connecticut, and they've practiced in another State for four years that would automatically qualify them for the licensure certification and Connecticut. | |
| 7. | Review Committee Update | Leslie Greer |
| | <p>Leslie Greer provided an update that OHS has met with two potential training vendors last month. There has been one new user registered in the CHW training vendor portal. There is a meeting scheduled with the Review Committee on June 9th for a discussion.</p> | |
| 8. | Marketing and Outreach Update | Jennifer Behuniak, DPH |
| | <p>Laura Morris announced Elizabeth Conklin, DPH will oversee the 1815 grant and the Community health worker work. Evelyn had to leave the call early. Jennifer Behuniak provided a Marketing and Outreach update. There are radio spots going out, and several targeted ads on multiple social media platforms. Currently in the last efforts of having everything translated into Spanish to make sure we're reaching a majority of the CHWs in the state.</p> | |

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| 9. | DPH Update | Chris Andresen |
| | Chris Andresen reported there are 276 certified CHWs and 11 pending applications. | |
| 10. | OHS Update | Laura Morris |
| | Laura Morris reported OHS is continuing to move forward with the apprenticeship program. We have a registered apprenticeship site Optimus Healthcare, which has received its certification from the Connecticut Department of Labor. As a body, we will continue to get more apprenticeship sites. OHS is applying for a CHW training grant that will include and is part of this funding opportunity, and it is a requirement that we look into registered apprenticeships. | |
| 11. | General Questions | Laura Morris |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 7, 2022 ○ August 4, 2022 –Postpone • Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Steps ○ Add an approved Training Vendor to the Review Committee ○ Apprenticeship Program ○ CHW Reimbursement & Sustainability ○ CHWACT Sustainability Plan ○ Review Statute for CHW Advisory Body –recommendations on changes | |
| 12. | Adjourn | |
| | Laura Morris requested a motion to adjourn. Milagrosa Seguinot made the motion, and Melanie Alvarez seconded. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m. | |