

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

April 7, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
April 7, 2022	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Via Zoom

Member Name and Attendance

Community Health Worker Advisory Body Members					
Lee Carena	X	Milagrosa Seguinet	X	Fernando Morales	X
Mildred Landock	X	Adriana Rojas	X	Melanie Alvarez	X
Erika Lynch	X	Nilda Paris	X	Laura Morris	X
Bianca Noronas	X	Chris Andresen			
Derricia Parker	X	Liza Estevez	X		

Other Participants Present		
Leslie Greer, OHS	Casie Derosier (CRT)	Natasha Michael
Abby Alter, OHS	Marisa Russo, Mental Health CT	Angie Marlene Molina-Ortiz
Walt Glomb	Amanda Colon	Norma Williams-Rosado
Meghan Tastensen, CHCACT	Ingrid Campbell-Holub	Katrina Scott
Kelsey Holmes, HEC	Katrina Jones	Zuleika Soriano
Maggie Goodwin,	Jaileen Larriuz	Janet Rodriguez
Catellia Casey	Dana Lisella	Christina Delvecchio
Emily Fox, Family & Children's Agency	Kate Parker-Reilly CT Dental Health Partnership	Suzi Craig, Mental Health CT

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, April 7, 2022, via zoom. Laura Morris chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.	
2. Public Comment	Laura Morris
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maggie Goodwin asked about the legislation that's moving the funding for the Community health workers from the Department of Public Health to DSS if there was a bill that we should be supporting or legislators, we should be talking to about this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Morris responded "Yes, that is correct, that is the plan, or last I heard that the plan was that DSS would oversee any requests for proposals for bids on that funding specifically for the Community action agencies. Not sure where that is in the process, but it does need legislative approval to be able to move forward and utilize the funds so that probably won't happen until the session ends, which is you know less than a month now." • Maggie Goodwin is also interested in working with folks to look at the funding possibilities for Community health workers. For example, ARPA funding or Medicaid funding could be used for Community health workers, and wondering if we could get a committee or a subcommittee together from this group or form another group to really advocate for actual 	

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	<p>funding for Community health workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Laura Morris addressed what we're calling sustainability and reimbursement models for Community health workers and explained there is a lot of work being done across the state agencies regarding funding. Health Equity Solutions is spearheading a CHW coalition just on reimbursement. Laura Morris asked if anyone in the meeting would like to be a part of this meeting to put their name and email in the chat and will make sure you're included on those invites. ● Melanie Alvarez announced Connecticut Together is organizing a legislative advocacy day for people with HIV and for HIV legislation specifically Bill No. 519, An Act Concerning HIV Testing, which will greatly affect our Community health workers. The event will be held on April 25th, on the North Steps of the Capitol at 10 a.m. There will be a rally and box lunches will be provided. If you're working in the Community, with people who are infected or affected by HIV please bring your folks out all are welcome it's open to the public. 	
3.	Review and Approve March Meeting Summary	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A motion was made by Melanie Alvarez to approve the March meeting summary and seconded by Milagrosa Seguinot. Motion carried 	
4.	Presentation by Mental Health Connecticut	Marissa Russo
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marissa Russo, Director of Specialized Residential Services discussed the services offered. One of the new Community support programs that is being offered is called Mental Health Concierge and what it is, is a recovery support program for folks who have a formal diagnosis of a mental illness. But also, just for folks who are kind of integrating back into the community and need support to place, it is a private pay hopefully soon to be picked up by private insurance companies. ● Offered throughout Connecticut, Mental Health Concierge supports individuals with maintaining a home, managing finances, negotiating external systems of support (physical and behavioral health), developing community connections, skill-building, and self-advocating. These services are designed to (1) reduce symptomatology, (2) increase coping strategies, (3) teach life skills (4) decrease the use of emergency services, and (5) enhance the overall quality of life. ● The initial assessment fee is \$200 but will work with the client. ● Husky will not pay, but if they are on Medicaid through the mental health waiver then all of the services are covered. 	
5.	CT Community Health Workers Day Celebration	Milagrosa Seguinot
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Milagrosa Seguinot announced April 7th has been Connecticut's official day to celebrate Community health workers since 2009. In the past, there have been various events held throughout the state. The last one was held at the Legislative Office. There was one planned at Gateway Community College but covid came and it was canceled. Hopefully will be able to get together at some point during the year and celebrate all the accomplishments and all the work the Community health workers have been doing during covid and have some time for self-care. ● Milagrosa Seguinot sends an email to Community health workers every year reminding them to take time for themselves because we work hard and barely take time for ourselves. This is a good opportunity for all of us to remind those professional Community public health workers that are working with communities and present in their communities to say thank you for the 	

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	<p>work that you have been doing. It's a very important day, and we should it at a state level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Morris thanked the Community health workers on the call and the employers who work with Community health workers employee Community health workers train Communityhealth workers. She also thanked everyone for the time they commit to volunteering to serve on this committee.
6.	<p>Membership Vacancy Laura Morris, OHS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Morris discussed there is currently a vacancy for a chairperson, which she is currently filling until we have a permanent person. We also have a vacancy for a healthcare provider. In addition, we have a vacancy for a co-chair which would be filled by an existing member of the CHWAB. If anyone is interested in either one of these positions on this committee, please email Laura Morris or Leslie Greer, so we can have a full committee.
7.	<p>Development and Implementation of Apprenticeship Program for CHWs Laura Morris, OHS</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Morris provided background information on the development and implementation of the apprenticeship program for CHWs. During the days of the SIM CHW Initiative, the State Innovation Model, Meredith Ferraro, Fernando Morales, and others had researched and met with the Connecticut Department of Labor to decide to discuss getting a CHW apprenticeship started in Connecticut. They did quite a bit of work and had written documents presented it in many different forums and identified an employer at the time which was Optimists Healthcare in Bridgeport who worked with the SWAHEC and began to apply for and develop standards of apprenticeship for Community health workers. Discussions at this time talking about starting a core curriculum were just starting and when SIM ended the project sort of got lost in that transition. Discussed the Department of Labor criteria for apprenticeship occupations. Laura Morris also discussed the benefits of having an apprenticeship program for Community health workers. Laura Morris asked the CHWAB the following questions for discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should the CHWAB consider researching and pursuing the development and implementation of an Apprenticeship Program for CHWs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fernando Morales stressed the hardest part was getting the buy-in from the apprenticeship organization. Who will monitor this for the Department of Labor? What agencies are willing to participate in this program. would be the monitoring site? Erika Lynch agreed that once the employer is on board, they are willing to give you money for training. Melanie Alvarez suggested some centralized resources of organizations that host interns for folks to collaborate with one another in case there are openings for people in other places, so people can share in turn sort of at the Employment phase. Milagrosa Seguinot will connect Fernando Morales with SWAHEC's CEO. Would a CHW Apprenticeship Program be a good fit for high school students/graduating high school students? There is a new Office of Workforce Strategy that has received some ARPA funding to train Community health workers. Laura Morris has been in touch with them on multiple occasions to see if some of that funding could be utilized for this apprenticeship Program.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone interested in continuing as a workgroup, please email Leslie Greer or add your name to the chat. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liza Estevez, Fernando Morales, and Derricia Parker have volunteered. 	
8.	Review Committee Update	Leslie Greer
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have several new user registers and are hopeful to have applications for the Review Team soon. 	
9.	Marketing and Outreach Update	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marketing and Outreach workgroup that has been meeting with DPH and the contractor for phase 2. We are in the process of dealing with the marketing company to launch the marketing campaign. The finalized phase two plan and the timeline for when the marketing begins soon, we will let everyone know and be on the lookout on radio, TV, social media, and other outreach marketing as well. 	
10.	DPH Update	Chris Andresen
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Andresen was not present, however, Milagrosa Seguinot reported we should have over 250 certified Community health workers from the last update she received from Chris Andresen. 	
11.	OHS Update	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The link for the Community Health Worker Primary Care Engagement which will be held on 4/12/22 @ 1:30 pm was sent out to the group. We set one day, however, if there is a lot of participation, we will add another date, and another link will be sent. Health Equity Solution has formed a CHW coalition specifically to work on reimbursements for Community health workers. If you are interested in attending the monthly meetings, email me or Leslie Greer. Laura Morris, Leslie Greer, and Jake DeFrancesco have been researching what other states have been pursuing regarding sustainability and reimbursement for Community health workers, but also the sustainability of their Community health worker associations. For our May meeting, we will have a presentation on our findings to this group. Material emailed from Casie DeRosier, Director of Integrated Services-MAT 	
12.	General Questions	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
13.	Next Steps	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 5, 2022 Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apprenticeship Research on Sustainability/Reimbursement of CHWs 	
13.	Adjourn	Laura Morris
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milagrosa Seguinot motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fernando Morales. The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. 	