

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

July 7, 2022

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
July 7, 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	X
Mildred Landock	R	Adriana Rojas	X	Melanie Alvarez	X
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	Dr. Raja Staggers-Hakim	R		
Dr. Alix Pose, Optimus Healthcare	R	Andrew Grossman, Grossman Solutions	R		
Kelsey Holmes, HEC	R	Evelyn Mantilla, Grossman Solutions			
Rhonda Way, Optimus Healthcare	R				
Angela Soltero, Optimus Healthcare	R				
Jennifer Behuniak, DPH	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)
1.	Welcome and Introductions	Laura Morris
	<p>Call to Order The meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) was held on Thursday, July 7, 2022, via zoom. Laura Morris chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:03 a.m.</p> <p>Laura Morris announced the upcoming retirement of Lee Carena. His contribution to the body will be missed.</p>	
2.	Public Comment	Laura Morris
	There was no public comment	
3.	Review and Approve June 2, 2022 Meeting Summary	Laura Morris
	Due to a lack of forum, the June 2, 2022 meeting minutes were not voted on. Later in the meeting, another member joined which secured a quorum. Milagrosa Seguinot moved approval of the minutes, Derricia Parker seconded and the motion was approved.	
4.	Presentation from Optimus Healthcare's Registered CHW Apprenticeship	Dr. Alix Pose

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

July 7, 2022

	<p>Dr. Alix Pose reported that in 2016 Fernando Morales of Southwestern AHEC approached Optimus to see if they were interested in developing a new apprenticeship program for Community Health Workers. A curriculum was created and the first two participants who graduated are still employees of Optimus. The main purpose of this curriculum is to recognize Community Health Workers as an official profession. We currently have 2 new CHW’s participating and they are very pleased with the professionalism of the program. The apprenticeship lasts 18 months.</p> <p>At the request of Kelsey Holmes, Optimus will look into creating some content such as video or written testimonials that could be used to promote the importance of CHW’s to providers. Laura Morris indicated that, with the help of Grossman Solutions, we would look to develop some marketing materials.</p> <p>When asked about what are the highest needs that CHW’s have identified among patients, Dr. Pose reported that it used to be housing but that right now the highest need is access to healthy food. Also, the undocumented population is in need of being connected to health care services before their health deteriorates and they have to be hospitalized.</p> <p>There was some discussion about funding for participants of the apprenticeship program as well as what time investment is required. Angela Soltero of Optimus reported on her very positive experience with the apprenticeship program.</p>	
5.	Community Colleges and CHW Training program application approval	Laura Morris
	<p>Beginning next year, all Community Colleges will be under the same umbrella which raised the question about whether each institution would need to submit a separate application to be a CHW training vendor. Laura Morris did some research and learned that in North Carolina, Oregon and Massachusetts, each college is required to submit an application.</p> <p>Laura Morris also reported on the Connecticut training vendor application requirements. She pointed out the fact that some of the requirements may be different for each separate Community College. Until the Community Colleges are all under the same system, each will need to submit separate applications.</p> <p>Laura Morris offered to research any other information that this body may need in order to make a decision on this matter. She will put this on the agenda for the September meeting.</p>	
6.	CHW Instructor Training program application approval	Laura Morris
	<p>The workgroup is meeting in 2 weeks. We will discuss what requirements may need to be established for instructors. Anyone interested in participating in this discussion, please contact Laura Morris.</p>	
7.	Review Committee Update	Leslie Greer
	<p>The Review Committee met in June. There was a question about whether we would add a CHW training organization to the review committee. During the first year, we will not include one, but after the first year, we will. Several members expressed the value of including the CHW training organization. Laura Morris offered to bring this back to the Review Committee so that the committee can come back with a recommendation to be voted on.</p>	

Community Health Worker Advisory Body

Meeting Summary

July 7, 2022

	<p>The Section 10 requirements were discussed by the Review Committee and they have made the recommendation that the language be changed to say that a training vendor would simply notify any changes to the CHWAB regarding persons delivering their training and they would certify that they meet the requirements. They would still have to report any substantive changes to the curriculum for approval by the CHWAB.</p> <p>A motion to approve these language changes was presented by Laura Morris and seconded by Milagrosa Seguinot. The changes were approved unanimously.</p>		
8.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Marketing and Outreach Update</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Jennifer Behuniak, DPH</td> </tr> </table>	Marketing and Outreach Update	Jennifer Behuniak, DPH
Marketing and Outreach Update	Jennifer Behuniak, DPH		
	<p>Jennifer Behuniak reported that they just wrapped up the marketing and outreach process for membership into the association and also for CHW's to be certified. Right now, they are just waiting for the marketing firm to provide the details of the campaign results.</p>		
9.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">DPH Update</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Chris Andresen</td> </tr> </table>	DPH Update	Chris Andresen
DPH Update	Chris Andresen		
	<p>Chris Andresen reported that there are no new updates. We are still at around 280 certified CHWs.</p>		
10.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">OHS Update</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Laura Morris</td> </tr> </table>	OHS Update	Laura Morris
OHS Update	Laura Morris		
	<p>Laura Morris reminded participants that we will not be meeting in August. Also, OHS, along with other state agencies are working on reimbursement and sustainability of Community Health Workers. We are looking at both Medicaid reimbursement as well as commercial.</p>		
11.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">General Questions</td> <td style="width: 40%;">Laura Morris</td> </tr> </table>	General Questions	Laura Morris
General Questions	Laura Morris		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ September 8, 2022 • Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Next Steps ○ CHW Instructor Requirements ○ Review Statute for CHW Advisory Body –recommendations on changes 		
12.	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Adjourn</td> <td style="width: 40%;"></td> </tr> </table>	Adjourn	
Adjourn			
	<p>The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.</p>		