

## COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ADVISORY BODY MEETING

### DRAFT Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2025 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

#### ATTENDANCE

##### BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

Rachel Rusnak, OHS (Chair)  
Mildred Landock  
Erika Lynch

Nilda Paris  
Milagrosa Seguinot  
Liza Estevez

Fernando Morales  
Dr. Stephan Fran Thung  
Derricia Parker

##### IN PERSON:

N/A

##### ABSENT:

Laura Morris  
Kim Barry

Adriana Rojas

Cynthia Jean-Mary

##### OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Amy Tibor, OHS

Ian Matthew Harrington

Robin Pierce

#### WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Rachel Rusnak called the CHWAB meeting to order at approximately 10:02 a.m. A roll call determined that a quorum was present.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Rachel opened the meeting for public comments. Ian Matthew Harrington announced an event, *Scholarsips*, which will take place on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Lake of Isles. Ian will share the link with Rachel.

#### APPROVAL OF March 6, 2025, MINUTES

Rachel requested a motion to approve the March 6, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion was made (M. Seguinot) and seconded (M. Landcock). Motion passed unanimously. Minutes were approved.

#### EASTERN CT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COLLABORATIVE

Rachel introduced Ian Matthew Harrington, Director of Workforce Development and Training for The Health Education Center, to present on the Eastern CT CHW Collaborative. Ian described the program's origin as an initiative that evolved from a collaboration with the United Way of Southeastern CT. The program has evolved into ongoing training for CHWs. Ian described some of the challenges faced by CHWs, which have contributed to high turnover rates.

Ian described the program as having a two-track plan with a central community to support CHWs and shared program highlights, including:

- monthly Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for early CHWs, and quarterly in-person skill-building opportunities.
- Veteran-CHWs would be involved in advocacy campaigns; helping to develop social collateral, vet trainings, and assist with curriculum design.
- Ian described several tools, including a shared community calendar, a calendar of events, access to past trainings, and curated training topics.

- Ian described a community forum for CHWs to ask questions, share resources, and discuss events, etc. He stated that this would all live in a “Skool Community”, a digital gathering space where CHWs across the state can communicate, learn, and collaborate.
- Ian described the Skool as an *always-on* learning and leadership platform. He shared a demonstration of the platform, which can be viewed starting at 15:00 into the recording: [ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS\\_CHW-AdvisoryBody\\_Recording\\_06052025.mp4](https://ctvideo.ct.gov/ohs/OHS_CHW-AdvisoryBody_Recording_06052025.mp4)

Ian summarized work that is already occurring, such as a podcast. He expressed interest in having others involved. Benefits to partner organizations would include retention, stronger onboarding with a structured CEU system, access to the learning platform and community, real-time feedback loops, and collaboration. He described various ways in which partners can support the concepts, such as by nominating pilot CHWs to participate in the podcast, participating in the Skool community, and giving feedback.

Rachel opened the floor for comments and questions. Millie Seguinot inquired whether the opportunity is state-wide or concentrated in eastern CT. Ian indicated that whereas it has started in Eastern CT, it can expand. Millie Seguinot expressed appreciation and support. Rachel invited Robin Pierce from Family Bridge to introduce herself. A brief discussion about the Family Bridge program occurred.

The full presentation can be accessed here: [CHW Advisory Body June 5, 2025 Presentation](#)

#### **CHW ADVOCACY**

Rachel shared an update on legislative activities related to CHW advocacy. She described a proposed bill that would require DSS to report twice a year on the status of CHW reimbursement for Medicaid, which did not appear to have passed. She then discussed a grant from the Connecticut Health Foundation (CHF) on CHW advocacy in the State and invited Fernando Morales to share an update. Fernando shared that Southwestern AHEC, along with the CHC Act and CAFCA, was awarded a grant in October 2024 by the CHF to initiate the development of a CHW advocacy effort aimed at promoting CHW billing in CT. He described some of the efforts undertaken, including holding webinars regarding the legislative process, discussions about Medicaid, and learning sessions. Fernando discussed the bill that was introduced requiring DSS to report twice yearly. Ultimately, it was determined that, aside from the reporting mechanisms, additional measures need to be incorporated to address reimbursement and achieve overall sustainability for CHWs. It was decided to pause efforts, and whereas some advocacy will occur between now and December, more will occur in January 2026 once the session begins.

Rachel invited others to report on advocacy efforts during session and beyond. Millie Seguinot reported on work occurring through the CHW Coalition, being led by Health Equity Solutions. She stated that a visit to the LOB occurred in April to inform about the need for funding for Medicaid reimbursement. Millie indicated that they want to engage more workforce members to learn about what is happening in CT.

#### **CHW ASSOCIATION**

Millie Seguinot shared two updates related to national efforts:

- 1) She recently joined a quarterly meeting through the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW) for leaders. A Unity Conference will take place in Columbus, OH, from July 30th to August 1st, and the registration link is available.
- 2) National CHW Week will take place from August 25-29. The Association is trying to see if there is anything CT wants to do.

On statewide efforts, Millie shared that they are thrilled that over 600 CHWs are now certified. Millie discussed a small ceremony she attended following certification of 24 CHWs at the health network in Wallingford. She's been providing information and supporting them with the process of recertification and professional development opportunities.

#### **CHW REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Rachel announced that the Committee elected to approve an application from Goodwin University; the new training vendor will be coming online soon. No other applications are pending for review at this time.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & QUESTIONS**

Rachel announced that OHS has been considering developing a quarterly newsletter for CT CHWs. She invited members to become directly involved in this process or to share events and information; she is open to feedback on how this new tool can be developed. Members can reach out to her directly. Ian offered support with developing the newsletter.

Millie Seguinot inquired about the total number of approved vendors. It was discussed that there are presently six approved vendors, including the recently approved Goodwin. Millie further asked if this list along with contact information can be shared among the members. Rachel stated that the plan is to publish the approved instructors on the OHS website.

#### **NEXT STEPS & MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Rusnak announced the next meeting is September 4, 2025. A motion to adjourn was made by Millie S. and seconded by Liza and Derricia. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:00 am.

Statutory Citation: C.G.S. §20-195sss

#### **UPCOMING MEETING:**

September 4, 2025