

**STATE OF
CONNECTICUT
State Innovation Model
Community Health Worker Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Location: webinar

Members Present: Ashika Brinkley, Liza Estevez, Terry Nowakowski, Chioma Ogazi, Mayce Torres and Juan Carmona

Members Absent: Migdalia Belliveau, Thomas Buckley, Darcey Cobbs-Lomax, Michael Corjulo, Grace Damio, Tiffany Donelson, Loretta Ebron, Peter Ellis, Linda Guzzo, Nicholas Peralta, Lauren Rosato, Milagrosa Seguinot, Robert Zavoski

Other Participants: Bruce E. Gould, Ula Uszynski, Meredith Ferraro, Fernando Morales, Maggie Litwin, Fatawu Mahama, Kathy McDermott, Kelly Sanchez, Elena Padin, Maria Millan

Call to Order and Introductions:

Fernando Morales started the Webinar @ 2:30 pm

Public Comments:

No public comments were submitted for discussion

Purpose of the meeting:

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed CHW Portfolio, recommendations, training vendors and committee role in supporting CHW Advocacy and Education.

The following are the agenda items to be reviewed and discussed during the meeting:

- CHW Advisory Committee Presentation
- Proposed CHW Portfolio
- Possible changes to recommendations
- Training Vendors
- What has Happened to date
- Committee Role in Supporting CHW Advocacy and Education
- Next Steps

Review & Discussion

Fernando began the meeting by asking everyone to introduce themselves and went over the agenda for the meeting.

Next, Meredith went over the CHW Certification Portfolio Requirements and asked the Committee Members for the input on the proposed changes to the CHW Certification Requirements:

1. Portfolio Requirements: Recommend the following modifications:
 - a. Path 1 (proposed change: define to New CHW)
 - b. Path 2 (proposed change: define to Experienced CHW)
2. Statement of Professional Experience: current requirement is to respond one of the following questions: answers should be 500-1000 words.
The proposed change is to lower the number of words used to respond to the statement question.

The group feedback agreed with the proposed changes. However, there was no motion to accept these changes due to no quorum.

Next, Fernando moved to the next item on the agenda: Training Vendors – other than State Colleges. Meredith shared with the group that these requirements should be added to recommendations under training vendors criteria.

“The Connecticut Office of Higher Education has regulatory oversight for postsecondary career schools, hospital-based schools, and hairdresser/barber schools in the state. Programs that offer vocational training which lead to entry-level employment require approval.

Regulations of State Agencies § 10a-22k-2(n)

<https://eregulations.ct.gov/eRegsPortal/Browse/RCSA/%7B00FA585F-9334-4C83-A460-D36E77D8EDCD%7D>

Next, Fernando provided updates with the CHW Advocacy and Education and what has happened to date: The planning phase of the advocacy education efforts happened in December and January.

Over the past few months various meetings and presentations were conducted at the Hispanic Nurses Association at Bridgeport Hospital in Bridgeport, CT, St. Vincent’s in Bridgeport, CT, WIC Office at Bristol Hospital and Health Improvement Collaborative at Southeastern CT.

In March, group met with Community Health Center, Inc. Leadership in Middletown CT and Health Care Cabinet, State Capitol in Hartford CT to promote and provide advocacy on the CHW Certification. Upcoming presentations are currently scheduled for the month of April throughout the state.

Next, Fernando provided updates to the CHW Certification Legislation:

- Currently working with Health Equity Solutions and Hispanic Health Council to identify

- champions in legislature, strategies to market across the state and target audience.
- CHW Association of CT
 - CHW Advisory Committee
 - Office of Health Strategy
 - Working with CT Health Foundation to utilize their work done on CHW Certification and CHW information.

Next, Fernando shared advocacy strategies to support Certification Legislation: 30 min slide deck presentation specifically tailored to groups such as Legislators, CHW and non CHW employers, CHW's to discuss topics such as the need and benefits of the CHW Certification.

Bruce Gould, MD added that CHCACT in Cheshire could potentially be a target to promote CHW Certification and asked Fernando to provide him with presentation materials.

Fernando continued to talk about the advocacy strategies to support Certification Legislation such as advocacy and education fact sheets: what is needed to know and how to get involved.

Presentation content:

- Provides previous efforts of CHW Advisory Committee on CHWs (definition, scope of work & need/opportunity for payment)
- Provide recommendations on CHW Certification (Progress to Date; Next Steps & Need for Support)

Next, Fernando and Meredith went over the March 2019 Legislative Public Hearing which turned out to be a great success. Fourteen individuals signed up to testify and over forty individuals provided written testimony.

Review and Next Steps:

- Public Health Committee has until April 3rd to vote the bill out of committee.
- Currently working with DPH on substitute language for CHW Certification Requirements.
- Ask CHW Advisory Committee members to get involved.
- Prepare to speak to your representative and senator on the importance of CHWs and CHW certification.
- Provide testimony on this important bill 859

Not sure who your Rep or Senator are? Use this tool to find out:

<https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/menu/cgafindleg.asp>

Adjourn