

Public Comment for Connecticut State Innovation Model Report of the Community Health Worker Advisory Committee

Submitted by:

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The CT-SIM Report of the Community Health Worker Advisory Committee provides a good overview of the requirements and recommendations for the Community Health Worker initiative in Connecticut. The report's content of Scope of Practice, Credentialing/Certification, and Sustainable Payment is adequate for going forward to the next step.

I would like to submit the following items for clarification and hope to provide more comments on these as the Community Health Worker initiative develops.

1. Technical Skills requirements

- a. With increasing use of health information technologies in mobile, homecare (telehealth), Data collection (e.g., Race, Ethnicity & Language) and other applications – a CHW will have to be adequately knowledgeable in the use of such technologies. Some extra considerations may be required within the Credentialing/Certification process.

2. Cultural Competency

- a. There are several mentions of “cultural competency” within the report but is not clear on the standards and methods of assessment. Recently, a six-year Federal-funded CLAS Standards (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) program drew to a close but the effectiveness of the program on health outcomes and provider organizations has not been established. How would this affect the CHW's role in providing culturally-based services with the providers? A reassessment of the CLAS program may be needed by the program participants: DPH, CMHP and Eastern AHEC (fiscal fiduciary).

3. Representation of the Community by the Community Health Worker

- a. Is there a formal procedure about the CHW's representation of the community?

Perhaps, recommendations by the community leaders and organizations - For e.g. clergy, schools, community centers, health centers, elected officials, town halls administrators, etc. Clarification on the CHW's representation will be useful during CHW candidate selection in a program.

4. Economic value of the Community Health Worker

- a. Appendix C (Community Health Workers Titles) of the Report contains many titles and roles which a CHW can take part in. While the focus in the Report is on Primary Care (e.g., CPC+) – other opportunities in high value programs like Population Health, CBPR assistants, Long term care, and Healthcare Navigators may provide more economic value that can be further emphasized.

Please let me know if there are any questions or clarifications needed to the above comments.

Thank you,

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