

Community Health Workers Advisory Body Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2024 | 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

ATTENDANCE

BY ELECTRONIC DEVICE:

Rachel Rusnak	Mildred Landock	Liza Estevez
Erika Lynch	Nilda Paris	Milagrosa Seguinot
Dr. Stefan Fran Thung	Cynthia Jean Mary	

IN PERSON:

N/A

ABSENT:

Kim Barry	Fernando Morales
Derricia Parker	Laura Morris
Annabelle Melendez	Adriana Rojas

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Leslie Greer, OHS	Elisa Neira, OHS
Sandra Rodriguez, CT Dental Health Partnership	

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body was held on Thursday, December 5, 2024, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by Rachel Rusnak at 10:00 p.m. Attendance was taken by roll call and a quorum was reached.

Public Comment

There was no public comment made.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 31, 2024, MINUTES

The motion was made to approve October 31, 2024, minutes by Milagrosa Seguinot and seconded by Liza Estevez. The motion carried with seven members voting in favor.

CT Dental Health Partnership – Kate Parker-Reilly

Sandra Rodriguez, the Communications Manager at the Connecticut Dental Health Partnership, discussed the organization's mission to ensure equitable access to oral health services for Husky Health members. She highlighted the work of oral health navigation specialists and the importance of community-based organizations in this effort. Sandy also introduced the Oral Health Training Academy of Connecticut, an online learning management system launched in September 2024 with two courses. She sought feedback from community health workers on what they would like to learn about oral health, suggesting topics such as the connection between oral health and other medical conditions, and the barriers clients face in navigating oral health services.

Millie Seguinot raised the issue of handling uninsured or underinsured individuals, suggesting the need for resources to connect them with services. Sandy acknowledged this and mentioned the role of CT MOPS and other safety net services in this context.

Millie Seguinot and Millie Landock discussed the importance of addressing oral injuries and special needs in dental care training. Liza Estevez suggested adding the best practices for oral hygiene at home to the training. Nilda Paris emphasized the need to include stress management and seeking dental care in the training. CTDHP-Sandy confirmed these suggestions and mentioned plans to integrate them into the training. The team also discussed the potential to conduct quick oral health screenings at home and connect people to relevant networks. Millie Seguinot highlighted the challenges faced after the training.

Millie Seguinot and CTDHP-Sandy discussed the challenges faced by community health workers in integrating oral health training into their daily tasks. They agreed on the need to secure employer buy-in to support their staff in providing oral health care. CTDHP-Sandy mentioned plans to launch an online learning management system for training and to potentially offer continuing education credits for community health workers. Rachel Rusnak expressed gratitude for the input and shared that she would share the meeting's slides with the group. The team also discussed the potential for the training to count towards certification requirements for community health workers in Connecticut.

CHWAB Bylaws & Subcommittees

Rachel Rusnak led a discussion about the CHWAB subcommittees, focusing on the application review and instructor curriculum subcommittees. The application review subcommittee, led by Leslie Greer, reviews vendor applications to become a CHW training vendor. The instructor curriculum subcommittee, led by Rachel, is developing a curriculum for instructors teaching the certified CHW courses. The group also discussed the possibility of forming additional subcommittees if needed. Rachel emphasized the importance of avoiding conflicts of interest during the review process.

CHW Association Update

Milagrosa Seguinot reported that the Association has been assisting the CHWs with renewing their certifications.

Review Committee Update

Leslie Greer provided an update on the review committee, mentioning the approval of Central Connecticut's application and the upcoming review of Southwest's application.

The Review Committee currently has an opening, and the Instructor Curriculum pilot is looking for CHWs to participate.

Questions & Discussion

Discussed the CHW Advisory Body getting more involved with CHW reimbursement. Milagrosa Seguinot discussed the CHW Coalition has met with Health Equity Solutions regarding this issue. Milagrosa Seguinot reported they are waiting for the final report from DSS and the other stakeholders to be submitted to the legislators. They are expecting to receive the report in mid-January. Milagrosa Seguinot asked for the CHWAB's support and to be present when it's time for advocacy by submitting success stories, testimonies, etc. so they are aware of our needs.

NEXT STEPS & MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Milagrosa Seguinot made a motion to adjourn, and Liza Estevez seconded. The motion carried.

**In accordance with FOIA requirements re: meetings held by solely by electronic-means (remote) R= attended remotely, IP= attended in person, X= unable to attend*

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

March 6, 2025 | June 5, 2025