

# Community Health Worker Advisory Body

## Meeting Summary

November 2, 2023

Meeting Date	Meeting Time	Location
November 2, 2023	10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	Via Zoom

### Member Name and Attendance

Community Health Worker Advisory Body Members					
Rachel Rusnak	R	Erika Lynch	R	Liza Estevez	R
Laura Morris	X	Nilda Paris	R	Fernando Morales	R
Kim Barry	R	Derricia Parker	R		
Stephen Fran Thung	R	Adriana Rojas	X		
Mildred Landock	R	Milagrosa Seguinot	R		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
Leslie Greer, OHS	R	Leigh Roberts, Population Health	R	Mariae Jackson, The Workplace	R
Shayna Cunningham, DPH	R	Dean Jones, CHW, LMSW, Hope Life Center New Initiative	R	Meghan Tastensen	R
Elizabeth Conklin, DPH	R	Dianne Jones	R		
Lionel Thomas, CHCACT	R	Ingrid Campbell	R		
<b>R = Attended Remotely, X= Did Not Attend</b>					

Meeting Information is located at: <https://portal.ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Community-Health-Worker-Advisory-Body/Meeting-Materials>

	Agenda	Responsible Person(s)
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
	<p><b>Call to Order</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting of the Community Health Worker Advisory Body (CHWAB) was held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, via zoom. Rachel Rusnak chaired the meeting. The meeting convened at 10:05 a.m.</li> <li>Rachel Rusnak took a roll call and reminded everyone that we are meeting bi-monthly and will not meet again until the new year.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
	There was no public comment.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Review and Approve September Meeting Summary</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
	<p>Item 6 there was extra wording in the first two lines. The second bullet should read "Apprenticeships are not required for certification".</p> <p>Milagrosa Seguinot Moved acceptance and Liza Estevez seconded. The motion passed unanimously.</p>	

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## Meeting Summary

### November 2, 2023

<b>4.</b>	<b>CT Community Health Workers - Work Hazards &amp; Wellbeing</b>	<b>Shayna Cunningham, PhD</b>
	<p>Dr. Shayna Cunningham, UConn School of Medicine gave a presentation on CT Community Health Workers - Work Hazards &amp; Wellbeing. The project is a partnership between the Department of Public Health Sciences at UConn School of Medicine and Hartford Communities that Care, a community-based organization that develops and implements culturally appropriate, high quality, and evidence-based crisis response, mental health, and supportive programs, partnerships, and policies to improve the lives of youth and adult victims of crime and their families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific Aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Build a Steering Committee consisting of CHWs and representatives who are CHW employers or advocates.</li> <li>○ Develop and test a CHW Well-Being Survey (CHW-WBS)</li> <li>○ Collect pilot data using the CHW-WBS from CHWs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Expectations for the Steering Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Convene five times for 60-90 minutes over a six-month period starting in November 2023. Virtual, in-person, or hybrid, based on input from the group.</li> <li>○ Members will be asked to review materials in advance of some meetings to make the most efficient use of time together.</li> <li>○ Steering Committee members will be compensated \$75/hour.</li> <li>○ Transportation costs will be reimbursed for any in-person meetings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>5.</b>	<b>Community Health Worker Association of CT Update</b>	<b>Milagrosa Seguinot</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended the Aging Connecticut Summit and had a table at the Connecticut Public Health Association Annual Conference identifying a lot of people in the field of CHWs.</li> <li>• Has been distributing pins to certified community health workers at events promoted by the CHW Association.</li> <li>• The Community Health Worker Association is moving for the first time into an office. Hopefully, this will happen in December with the United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut. They have an office in Bridgeport in the western portion of Fairfield County.</li> </ul>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Review Committee Update</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak/Leslie Greer</b>
	<p>The Review Committee met to discuss instructor-related complaints OHS has received. The CHWAB currently does not have a policy for how to address these complaints. The Review Committee met and came up with a few recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reminder sent to training organizations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Share the Qualifications requirements for instructors.</li> <li>○ Request an updated list of trainers.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Developed a clear scoring rubric for new trainers.</li> <li>• Updated the applicant checklist to include options available for Train the Trainer.</li> <li>• The CHW Training Vendor Application language was revised under Instructor Requirements to reflect that once the Train the Trainer program is finalized, new instructors will need to be</li> </ul>	

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## Meeting Summary

### November 2, 2023

	<p>certified in CT and have at least 3 years of experience working full-time as a CHW, proof of completion of the CHW Core Competency Training as well as the corresponding CHW Trainer Program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The option was added “I am exempt from this requirement (served as instructor prior to Nov 3, 2022) to check off for items 1 -3.</li> </ul>		
<b>7.</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>Marketing and Outreach Update</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Elizabeth Conklin</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>There was no update provided. Selma Alves, DPH, Heart, Brain and Diabetes Section introduced herself as the Diabetes Coordinator. She is replacing Jennifer Behuniak and will be working with Elizabeth Conklin.</p>	<b>Marketing and Outreach Update</b>	<b>Elizabeth Conklin</b>
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<b>8.</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>DPH Update</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Laura Morris</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>In Laura Morris’s absence, Milagrosa Seguinot reported she received an update from Laura Morris that there are 424 certified CHWs.</p>	<b>DPH Update</b>	<b>Laura Morris</b>
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<b>9.</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>General Questions/Announcements</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Rachel Rusnak</b></td> </tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rachel Rusnak announced the Family Bridge was officially launched at the end of October. The Family Bridge is a dual community health worker visiting RN program that is offered to all new moms in the greater Bridgeport region. Family Bridge has a fabulous group of certified community health workers skilled in newborn care and postpartum topics.</li> <li>Fernando Morales mentioned to Milagrosa Seguinot that any CHWs, getting certified, can provide proof of certification he has funding available. Anyone in the process of getting certified, recertified, or a new CHW is eligible. He has 43 \$100 gift cards funded through the CT Health Foundation to provide towards their certification to address barriers to certification for CHWs.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fernando will forward a flyer to the group with more information.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Nilda Paris would like to hear more discussion on CHWs dealing with mental health and patient safety.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milagrosa Seguinot suggested Nilda’s organization host an event to train CHWs in this program and the CHW Association would partner the event. Nilda Paris reported they are currently putting together a workshop.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mildred Landock attended the Training Hidden in Plain Sight training. She thanked Fernando Morales and said it was amazing! Nilda Paris seconded it.</li> <li>Marjae Jackson, an Employer Relations Specialist at The Workplace specifically with the Health Career Academy registered apprenticeships for CHWs inquired if we are aware of anyone who has started a registered apprenticeship for CHWs or has there been any talk about starting one. She would be interested in bringing people who have those interests to the table and start having conversations.</li> <li>Leslie Greer reported the survey results from the CHWAB meeting time revision were unanimously selected to be held the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday bimonthly from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.</li> </ul>	<b>General Questions/Announcements</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
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<b>10.</b>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;"><b>Next Steps</b></td> <td style="width: 30%;"><b>Rachel Rusnak</b></td> </tr> </table> <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>January 4, 2024</p>	<b>Next Steps</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
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**Community Health Worker Advisory Body**  
**Meeting Summary**  
November 2, 2023

<b>11. Adjourn</b>	<b>Rachel Rusnak</b>
The meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.	

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