



CONNECTICUT  
*Office of Health Strategy*

# Community Health Worker Advisory Committee

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October 16, 2018

# Meeting Agenda

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| 1. Introductions/Call to Order                         | 5 min  |
| 2. Public Comment                                      | 10 min |
| 3. Approval of the Minutes                             | 5 min  |
| 4. Updates: CHW Report and Legislation                 | 10 min |
| 5. Discussion: Future Role of the Advisory Committee   | 45 min |
| 6. Discussion: Selection Process for the Advisory Body | 30 min |
| 7. Next Steps: Ways to Get Involved                    | 15 min |
| 8. Adjourn   |        |

# Introductions/Call to Order

# Public Comment

2 minutes per comment

# Approval of the Minutes

# Updates: CHW Report & Legislation

# Report Approved & Legislation Pending

- Report to the Legislature on CHW Certification approved by Steering Committee on September 13
  - Information was added to the Report to clarify the expected salary and fringe rate for a half time DPH staff member to oversee certification: \$44,662
  - The Committee discussed adding eligibility criteria that would protect against certain types of felonies- no changes were made to the Report
- OHS is not currently planning to submit legislation for CHW Certification, but expects to see legislation proposed- Health Equity Solutions will be involved

# Discussion: Future Role of the Advisory Committee



# What is the Future Role of the CHW Advisory Committee?

- Short Term
- Long Term

# Short Term

Advocating for the passage of  
legislation for CHW Certification

How can the Advisory Committee support  
this work?

Other considerations?

# Long Term

Does the Advisory Committee become a free-standing body after SIM?

What is the relationship of the CHW Advisory Committee to the Advisory Body for Certification?

Should there be a direct relationship with the CHW Association of Connecticut?

# Changes to the Advisory Committee composition

## Positions:

Yolanda Bowes- resigned

Jacqueline Ortiz Miller- resigned

Nicolas Peralta- not actively participating

**Is now the right time to make changes to the composition?**

# Discussion: Selection Process for the Advisory Body

# How should Advisory Body members be Selected?

How did other states make these selections? (i.e., Massachusetts, New Mexico, Rhode Island, Texas)

# Selection process for the Advisory Body - Continued

Becoming a member of New Mexico Community Health Workers Certification Board?

Members: Must be Residents of New Mexico.

Membership includes: 3 currently practicing CHWs, with at least 1 tribal community health representative; the Secretary of Health or Secretary's designee; and 5 additional members from community stakeholders.

Process of Select of Members?

A panel of DOH staff reviews the applications, ranks them and forward to the Governor for vetting. The Secretary of Health makes the appointment.

Who decides? (Function of the Certification Board)

The Board serves as an advisory body to the Secretary of Health on the implementation of standards, guidelines and requirements for state certification of community health workers.

# Selection process for the Advisory Body - Continued

Becoming a member of the **Rhode Island** CHW Certification Subject Matter Experts?  
SME pick up application and it is reviewed.

Process used to select members of the Rhode Island CHW Certification Subject Matter Experts?

(1) Applications are available for people to pick (2) Applications received, reviewed and process by the Rhode Island Certification Board (3) During processing, applicants are chosen depending on a diversity of practice, experience, geographic regions and education. We want every group/population to be represented in the group. The group originally should be 6 or 8, but we have 10 members now because we need more representation in the group.

Who decides?

The RI Department of health (health equity Institute and chronic disease office representatives) and RI certification board meet to select members for the board.



# Selection process for the Advisory Body – Continued

Becoming a member of the Massachusetts Certification Board

11 members are residents of the commonwealth, 1 is the commissioner of public health or the designee thereof, who shall serve as chair of the board, and 10 of whom shall be appointed by the governor.

Process used to select members of the Massachusetts Certification Board

Of the appointed members of the board, 6 shall be appointed to ensure representation of all 6 geographic regions of the executive office of HHS and shall include not fewer than 4 CHWs selected from recommendations offered by the Massachusetts Association of CHWs; 1 shall represent a CHW training organization; 1 shall represent the Massachusetts Public Health Association; 1 shall represent the Massachusetts Association of Health Plans; 1 shall represent the Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers; 1 shall represent a community-based CHW employer; and 1 shall represent the public.

Who decides?

The Governor (DPH Commissioner makes recommendations to the Governor, others can make recommendations to the Governor as well).

# Selection process for the Advisory Body - Continued

Becoming a member of **Texas** Community Health Workers Training and Certification Advisory Committee?

Members have to apply. A term is 3 years, then individuals can reapply. Membership: 4 certified promotores(a) or CHWs, 2 members of the public, 2 professionals who work with CHWs in a community setting, and a member from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or a higher education faculty member who has teaching experience in community health, public health, or adult education and has trained CHWs.

Process of Select of Members?

Applications are reviewed and graded by a group of 6 individuals (3 are from 3 different departments from the DSHS and 3 are Advisory Committee members). Graded based on background, interest, diversity and other factors.

Who decides?

Once reviewed and graded members are appointed by the Commissioner.

# Next Steps- Ways to Get Involved

# Ways to Get Involved

- Share the CHW Report with key partners & allies- specifically share the executive summary to reduce reading burden
- When legislation is proposed, discuss with partners & allies why it is important
- Connect with the SWAHEC team for 1-2 concrete activities to support their CHW Engagement Work Plan

# Next Steps

- November Meeting: Tuesday, November 20
  - 1-hour webinar
  - Update on legislation and engagement activities
  - Relevant updates on the overall Office of Health Strategy plan
  - Review any decisions made today (October 16) on Committee's future role & Advisory Body selection process

# Adjourn