

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

Tuesday, December 18, 2018  
2:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Location:  
CTBHP, 500 Enterprise Drive, Suite 3D,  
Litchfield Room 500 Enterprise Drive, Rocky  
Hill, CT 06067

**Members Present:** Liza Estevez, Grace Damio, Lauren Rosato,

**Members on the Phone:** Terry Nowakowski , Darcey Cobbs-Lomax, Chioma Ogazi, Mayce Torres, Tiffany Donelson, Dana Robinson Rush,

**Members Absent:** Migdalia Belliveau, Robert Zavoski, Peter Ellis, Nicholas Peralta, Michael Corjulo, Millie Seguinot, Juan Carmona, Ashika Brinkley, Loretta Ebron, Thomas Buckley, Linda Guzzo

**Other Participants:** Jenna Lupi, Nadine Repinecz, Katharine London, Bruce E. Gould, Fernando Morales, Keturah Kinch, Takisha Everette, Erika Lynch, Supriyo Chatterjee

**Call to Order and Introductions:**

Terry Nowakowski served as Chair and called the meeting to order at 2:42 pm

**Public Comments:**

No public comments were submitted for discussion

**Purpose of the meeting:**

The purpose of the meeting is to continue discussion on the selection process for the Certification Advisory Body and the future of this CHW Advisory Committee.

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

- Updates: CHW Certification Legislation Discussion
- Advocacy Strategies to Support Certification Legislation
- Selection process for the Certification Advisory Body
- Committee Role in Supporting SIM Objectives & Beyond

## **Review & Discussion of Report to the Legislature on CHW Certification**

Fernando shared the advocacy strategies in support of the CHW Certification pointing out the relationship development with Health Equity Solutions, the Hispanic Health Council. One of the major key points that we are involved in are strong advocacy efforts, education process and reaching out to CHW employers, legislators and other parties. Fernando also stated that they are working with the CHW Association of CT in lieu of Millie Seguinot being out on medical leave to develop the strategy process. Fernando expressed to the CHW Advisory Committee the need to assist in supporting the advocacy and education campaign to reach all audiences.

Fernando shared with the group the Advocacy and Education Fact Sheets focused towards employers and designed to target return on investment, core competencies and overall goals of CHW Certification. Furthermore, educational campaigns are being designed to promote CHW Certification and its benefits to payers, CHW's and their employers.

Next, Jenna updated the committee on having a representative meet with key legislators to promote CHW Certification efforts. The committee representatives would play a crucial role in this strategy since they were involved heavily in the creation of the Report. Jenna proposed that the Members of the Advisory Committee and some of the Community Health Workers to include Terry Nowakowski, Grace Damio, and Liza Esteves and Loretta Ebron be the point persons to start the campaign. Moreover, Tekisha Everette from Health Equity Solution will also continue work on the Legislation.

Next, Fernando shared the progress with the development of the fact sheets and asked everyone to provide feedback, which would be helpful to improve the advocacy messages..

Fernando shared key facts deigned to discuss the selection process of the Certification Advisory Body and discussed extensive research on other states methods, including Texas, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and New Mexico. The presentation included research on who appoints selection of members, the process itself as well the methods of how the Advisory Body (members) are chosen through the composition of various members, appointments and final decisions.

Next, Jenna proposed some options for selecting the Advisory Body in CT to include:

1. The process for being considered:
  - The application process: applications are submitted for each category & reviewed.
  - Nomination process- organizations are designated to provide nominations review and final decision.
2. Process for review:
  - SIM Steering Committee/OHS Governing Body reviews & makes recommendations
  - CHW Advisory Committee reviews & makes recommendations
  - Internal staff review & make recommendations to final decision maker

3. Final Decision: Governor, or DPH Commissioner, OHS Director, SIM Steering Committee/OHS Governing Body.

Terry commented on the differences between the application process and nomination process stating that it is a good process. Grace recommended discussing the role of the Committee in Supporting SIM Objectives and beyond.

Jenna stated that as a result from the previous meeting she believes the Committee has made significant progress and wants to continue building from existing momentum and new voices added to the Committee.

Jenna discussed the short-term needs to support Community health workers. Jenna shared with the group few slides including both short term and long-term goals:

Short-term

- Advocacy Efforts to support Certification legislation including selection process for certification advisory body
- Approving Training Programs for Certification, role of the association and/or role for the Committee
- Input on new primary care delivery and payment initiatives
- Professional Support for CHWs

Long-term:

- Professional Support for CHWs
- Advocacy Efforts for Sustainable Payment Models for CHWs
- Advising on Technical Assistance Strategies for integrating CHWs into care teams

Next, Jenna shared with the group some facts about the future and the commitment of the OHS assuring the possibility to continue working and provide support to the Committee beyond the SIM funding. Jenna added that the continuation of such relationship should come from the Committee Members willingness to do such work and commitment.

Jenna then asked the group if Committee should play a role in the short and long terms needs of the CHWs as described above. She described, how the Committee relates to the Association and whether OHS should support these efforts. Jenna also asked the group if there are other agencies or organizations we can get involved.

If the efforts to answer questions posted by Jenna, Grace asked about the support from the Association regarding the professional support for community health workers in which the Committee will not be involved in. Tiffany also commented on the understanding of what's the role of the Association and role of the Committee going to be in the future. Liza also commented on the Association abilities to undertake some of the roles described. One member stated that continuing to have an organization to support the long term goals like some other states have. Jenna commented that it is possible upon the strong commitment and willingness from the Committee Members.

Dr. Gould added that the Association has ways to go and can assist depending on grant

funding.

Jenna offered to share the summary of this discussion with the OHS leadership including the support and commitment from the Committee to continue the work. Jenna asked the group for the agreement from the Committee to provide input to AHEC on development of the training programs for certification. Dr. Gould added that identifying the gaps and finding opportunities might be a role for the Committee as well.

Jenna confirmed that the short-term goals are already taken place. Jenna stated that there is a role for both organizations to play. One member of the group added that encouraging, support and the growth of the Association is important.

Next, Jenna asked the group for a general agreement whether providing new primary care delivery and payment initiatives align with the roles of the Committee, and adding that the professional support for CHWs a role for the Association.

Jenna continued to discuss the long term goals pointing out a possibility for a significant role in future supporting advocacy efforts for sustainable payment model and advising on teaching assistance strategies for integrating CHWs into care teams.

As for next steps, Jenna proposed to have a meeting with the Association in January to discuss their needs and better understand needed support.

Jenna asked about the Advisory Body selection. The discussion from October circled around who makes the final decision in the selection process. Jenna asked the group for the input on the application process vs. nomination process. The group had also discussed the final decision process, weighing on who should be the decision maker. The process for review should include the Committee members who are involved with Community Health Workers.

#### **Review and Next Steps:**

- Jenna will follow up with a summary of what was discussed during the meeting with OHS to share with the Committee
- Propose schedule for meetings next year
- Adjustment of Committee membership
- Strategy for developing next phase of Committee charge

Motion made Terry Nowakowski to adjourn at  
4:30 PM First: Grace Damio  
Second: Lauren

All in favor