

Community Health Workers Review Board

Meeting March 21, 2025

2:00 – 4:30pm

Meeting can be viewed [HERE](#)

1. Call to Order

- **CHW Review Board members present:** Dr. Janice Phillips, Wandy Hernandez, Kristin Hartsaw, Monica Cuevas, Leticia Boughton Price, Noelle Moore, Tracey Smith, Esther Sciammarella, David Sanders, Emma Villarreal, Kevin Wood, Angela Ellison, Kathryn Gunther, Lubia Nunez-Montelongo, Ket Herena, Rep. Camille Lilly, Dr. Shami Goyal.
- **CHW Review Board members not present:** Ashley Colwell, Rep. Maura Hirschauer, Ryan Croke, Latoya Greenwood, and Ofelia Figueroa
- **IDPH staff present:** Melissa Stalets, Sarahjini Nunn, Lori Weiselberg, Allison Nickrent, Patricia Montalvo, Omayra Giachello, and Monica Dunn.
- **Invited Guests present:** Leslie Carnahan, Anna Williams, and Brenda Soto, UIC; Robert Marlow and Rushini Kuruppu, SIUC; Chris Azpilcueta, Interprenet.
- **Other Guests present:** EB York and Cealisa Johnson, University of Chicago; Stephanie Standish, IPHA; Eva Haubrich, HAP Foundation; Marcia Burgess, HMPRG; Caitlin M. Burke, OSF Healthcare; Lizette Martinez and Jennifer Rojas, Alivio Medical Center; Angela Stoltzenburg, Memorial Health; Veronica Sek, SUHI; Brittany Cain and Gregory Scott, Carle Healthcare; Edward Seol, Governors Office; Jennifer Schindl, Shawnee Health; and Adam Scheffler.

2. Approve February Board Meeting Minutes

- Kevin Wood moved to approve the minutes from the February 21, 2025 Board Meeting.
- David Sanders seconded the motion.
- Lubia Nunez-Montelongo abstained. *Motion Passed*

3. Board Process Decisions and Reminders

- Wandy Hernandez reminded Board Members and guests of the Board protocols for being recognized to speak, public comment period, Board member attendance, and the mission of the Board.

4. Public Comment Period

- Rep. Camille Lilly gave an overview of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus and the establishment of the Community Health Worker Certification and Reimbursement Act. The intent of the Act is to train CHWs to support vulnerable populations, enhance access to care, and reduce barriers in healthcare communication. She emphasized the importance of placing CHWs in underserved communities to improve life expectancy and foster collaboration with healthcare teams.
- Sarahjini Nunn, Lori Weiselberg and Dr. Janice Phillips followed with a brief presentation addressing:
 - Systemic Racial and Income Inequalities in the State's Health Care System: Role of CHWs

- CHW Certification Program: Progress Highlights in Infrastructure Development
- CHW Review Board Accomplishments: Key Recommendations for Administrative Rules

- Esther Sciammarella asked for clarification about Board members ability to apply for IDPH grant funding. Allison Nickrent clarified that the CHW Review Board is an advisory board (as opposed to a binding board) so there is usually not a conflict. However, the Board will not discuss or have purview over any IDPH CHW funding opportunities.

5. Revisit Review Board Timeline for Administrative Rule Review

- Lori Weiselberg reviewed the timeline for finalizing Board recommendations related to administrative rules. She indicated if the Board completed its approval of recommendations at the March 21st meeting, the rules could be submitted to the State Board of Health Rules Committee for their August 14 meeting, with program implementation expected mid-2026.

6. Administrative Rules Review

- **Subpart C: CHW Certification – Revisit Selected Sections**

1. Lori Weiselberg provided an update on IDPH's interpretation of the intent of related to the work experience pathway. The legislation requires a "*grandfathering*" pathway for those practicing as a CHW prior to the certification program. It does not preclude IDPH from creating an ongoing work experience pathway. Lori asked for any comments on this.
 - a) Dr. Janice Phillips shared that she would like us to apply the standard of the IDPH-certified Training Program pathway to all CHWs applying for certification after the initial "*grandfathering*" of CHWs. For this reason, she requested the Board reconsider its prior recommendation of continuing the work experience pathway indefinitely and called for a straw poll to gauge the Board's position.
 - b) Leticia Boughton-Price questioned the need for another vote since the Board had already voted not to expire the work experience pathway at our February meeting.
 - c) Lori Weiselberg suggested that we have flexibility in when to expire the work experience pathway if we chose to, and suggested consideration of expiring the pathway after 5 years. Rep. Lilly suggested 7 years. Leticia Boughton-Price suggested that the work experience not be sunset, but recommended the CHW's work experience be more current, i.e., within 5 years of the application as opposed to 10.
 - d) A straw poll was taken to determine whether to sunset the work experience pathway in 7 years or do not sunset.
 - e) Results of the Straw Poll – Sunset: 7; Do Not Sunset: 9
2. Lori Weiselberg reviewed the training program equivalence pathway that was added based on interest from the Board. She proposed the certification of individuals who have successfully completed an academic or community-based training program that was NOT certified by IDPH, completed after 2023, and meets other criteria for competencies, classroom time, and field experience.
 - a) Leticia Boughton-Price shared that there were COVID-related trainings offered more than four years ago that should be captured.
 - b) Kevin Wood mentioned First Aid certification must be renewed every 2-3 years and

does not support going back 7 years.

- c) Dr. Janice Phillips expressed favor for the pathway, but when going beyond 4 years, there is concern about how current the training is. Angela Ellison suggested 3 or 5 years. She also reminded the group that CHWs will be asked to recertify every 3 years.
 - d) Tracey Smith added that HRSA training began around January 2023 and proposed that date. Angela Ellison agreed.
3. Lori Weiselberg reviewed the reciprocity pathway which allows for certification of individuals who have received state CHW certification in another state.
- a) Lubia Nunez-Montelongo asked if the states would be listed that are not reciprocal. Lori Weiselberg responded that specific states would not be in the Rules because state programs change. Allison Nickrent and Dr. Janice Phillips agreed that is unlikely this information would need to be in the Rules.
4. Lori Weiselberg posed the following question to the Board. Should an applicant be required to “live or work in Illinois” to apply for certification?
- a) Ket Herena said “no” because there may be people who live just over Illinois borders, working in Indiana or vice versa. Noelle Moore agreed.
 - b) Leticia Boughton-Price and Rep. Lilly indicated that they want to ensure that people who live in Illinois apply for and get Illinois jobs. Emma Villareal agreed.
 - c) Wandy Hernandez mentioned that people should apply where they live because the essence of the work is people that actually live in the communities being served.
 - d) Tracey Smith mentioned that in southern Illinois, many of the health systems cross state borders. The CHWs are doing great work in Illinois but live across the border in Missouri.
 - e) David Sanders mentioned that his institution is open access and must admit anyone that wants to come.
 - f) Kristin Hartsaw stated that there are Medicaid enrollees receiving care at hospitals in Missouri and those hospitals can bill Illinois Medicaid for the care because they are enrolled in Illinois Medicaid.
5. Lori Weiselberg revisited age and education requirements for CHW applicants. The age requirement is 17 years of age. She asked if there is any feedback on the education requirement being 8th grade (like the CNA Program).
- a) Leticia Boughton-Price suggested the word “preferred” be added and stated as 8th grade education preferred because employers will have their own requirements. Melissa Stalets doubted that the word “preferred” can be used in the Rules.
 - b) Dr. Janice Phillips expressed concerns about not having a minimum standard.
 - c) Kevin Wood suggested at least a GED as a standard.
 - d) Lori Weiselberg suggested a straw poll be taken to determine if the education requirement should be high school/GED, 8th grade, or to be silent in the Rules.
 - e) Straw Poll Result: high school/GED: 6, 8th grade: 4, silent: 2.

○ **Subpart A: Definitions – Review New Definitions**

Will be discussed at the next meeting.

- **Time Permitting: New Qs related to Subpart D**
Will be discussed at the next meeting.

7. Establish Board Committee for Materials Review

- **Introduction to Committee and Expectations**
 - Sarahjini Nunn outlined the purpose of the Materials Review Committee that will meet on Monday, April 14th from 3-4:30pm to review content for the website.
- **Identify Volunteers for Ongoing Materials Review Committee:**
 - Wandy Hernandez appointed Noel Moore, Tracy Smith, Emma Villareal, Leticia Boughton-Price, Monica Cuevas. Wandy Hernandez will chair the committee.
- **Identify Volunteers for One-Time User Acceptance Testing:** availability is flexible in April or May.
 - Sarahjini Nunn requested volunteers to test the CHW and Training Program applications.
Volunteers for the testing: ILCHWA will identify CHWs to serve, Lizette Martinez (Alivio Medical) will identify CHWs to serve, Lubia Nunez-Montelongo, Monica Cuevas and Emma Villarreal.

8. Second Public Comment Period

- Adam Scheffler, advocated for reconsideration of the January 1, 2023 cutoff date for CHW training program equivalency to January 1, 2022 citing that he completed the Malcolm X Certificate Program in December 2022 through federal funding. He asked the Board to consider moving the date back to January 2022.

9. Schedule of Board Meetings and Announcements

- **Schedule of Board Meetings**
 - Friday, April 25, 2-4pm
 - Friday, May 30, 2-4pm
 - Friday, June 27, 2-4pm
 - Every other month schedule during remainder of planning phase
- **Announcements**
 - Meeting invitations for the **Materials Review Committee** will be forwarded.

10. Adjournment

- Emma Villarreal moved to adjourn the meeting.
- Leticia Boughton-Price seconded the motion. *Motion passed.*