

Community Health Workers Review Board Meeting

May 30, 2025

2:00 – 4:00pm

Meeting can be viewed [HERE](#)

1. Call to Order

- Dr. Janice Phillips called the meeting to order and introduced Co-Chair, Wandy Hernandez.
- **CHW Review Board Members Present:** Dr. Janice Phillips, Wandy Hernandez, Lubia Nunez-Montelongo, Ricardo Anderson, Leticia Boughton Price, Tracey Smith, David Sanders, Emma Villarreal, Angela Ellison, Ket Herena, Ryan Croke, Rep. Camille Lilly, Ashley Colwell, and Monica Cuevas
- **CHW Review Board Members Absent:** Kristin Hartsaw, Shami Goyal, LaToya Greenwood, Rep. Maura Hirschauer, Noelle Moore, Ofelia Figueroa, Esther Sciammarella and Kevin Wood.
- **IDPH Staff Present:** Sarahjini Nunn, Marcella Kincaid, Lori Weiselberg, Melissa Stalets, Monica Dunn, Allison Nickrent, Louis Lee, Patricia Montalvo, Eugenia Olson
- **Other Guests Present:** Chris Azpilcueta, Interprenet; Karen Phelan, State Board of Health; Charisse Montgomery, Chestnut Health Systems; Michelle Sanders, Illinois Primary Health Association; Kristan Creek, Illinois Central College; EB York, Cealisa Johnson, and Laura Markin, University of Chicago Medicine; Marcia Burgess and Makeda Coutee, HMPRG; Racheal Telleen, Eva Haubrich, and Maureen Burns, HAP Foundation; Caitlin Burke, OSF; Emma Watters Reardon, HFS; Leslie Carnahan and Brenda Soto, UIC Cancer Center; Marina Zhang, SGA Youth and Family Services; Fatema Mirza, Worry Free Community; Jennifer Schindle, Shawnee Health; Kathryn Barnes, SIU School of Medicine; Claire Hughes, The Little Resource Center; Britt Cain, Carle at the Riverfront; Tamy James, Friend Health; and Gregory Scott, Carle Health

2. Vote to Approve April Board Meeting Minutes

- Ryan Croke moved to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2025 meeting.
- David Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed.

3. Board Process Decisions and Reminders

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

4. Public Comment Period

- Kristin Creek, Illinois Community College, spoke in favor of flexible CHW training models that include online and in-person learning. She indicated that this is a great way to be inclusive and provide resilient strategies for the CHW workforce. Asynchronous content supports

nontraditional learners with complex schedules and improves retention and completion rates while reducing the dropout rate caused by personal conflicts or rigid class time.

- Claire Hughes, The Little Resource Center, expressed concern about the proposed curriculum requirements that limit asynchronous instruction to 25% of training. She stated that live instruction seems best because the community health worker profession centers on people. However, it is actually a barrier. Students had a hard time balancing training with caregiving, shift work, life responsibilities, and employers were hesitant to send their staff in-person training that took them off the clock for long stretches of time. Training should meet CHWs where they are. The 25% cap is too limiting.
- Michelle Sanders, an experienced CHW, expressed concern regarding the proposal to require 75% of CHW training to be delivered synchronously. This model will unintentionally create barriers. The cost implications of this requirement are significant. In-person training requires a robust infrastructure, scheduling coordination, and technical support. These costs will likely be passed to training providers and ultimately to students.

5. Revisit Review Board Timeline for Administrative Rule Review

- Lori Weiselberg presented an update on timeline and the targeted dates for submitting the final administrative rules package for approval. She indicated that if we have an affirmative majority vote for subpart C, the Department expects to stay on schedule with a mid-2026 launch.

6. HFS Medicaid Update

- Emma Watters Reardon, HFS Policy Director, shared information about the Medicaid Program, federal policies that are being tracked, and potential impacts to the CHW workforce. The latest in DC includes the House passing a budget bill that would make significant cuts to Medicaid and would establish mandatory work requirements for Medicaid enrollees, and reduce the federal match on state Medicaid funding. These are all still tentative as the bill needs to go through the Senate. None of these changes directly influences the State Plan Amendment process for including CHW reimbursement in the Illinois Medicaid Program.

7. Administrative Rules Review

- SubPart A and B: Brief Revisit
 - Lori Weiselberg revisited SubPart A and B highlighting revisions suggested by the Board during its April meeting.
- SubPart C: Remaining Changes and Call for Vote
 - Lori Weiselberg revisited SubPart C highlighting revisions suggested by the Board during its April Board meeting.
 - Leticia Boughton Price also expressed concern with the high school diploma/GED requirement for certification stating that employers should determine educational qualifications. Allison Nickrent reminded the Board that it had taken two straw polls on this issue. The most recent straw poll was tied so the first poll will stand as the Board's recommendation.

- Tracey Smith moved to approve Subpart C. David Sanders seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Results: Yes – 11, No – 2, Abstention – 1. The roll call vote passed.
- Other Policy Questions: Background Checks
 - Dr. Phillips shared that the issue of public safety has been raised at the state level as it relates to new certified provider types in Illinois, including CHWs. IDPH Director, Dr. Vohra, recommended a compromise approach modeled after IDPH's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Program, where only applicants who self-report a felony conviction on their application undergo a background check. Felony convictions do not automatically bar licensure. Only certain classes are reviewed, with many waivers granted. IDPH is now drafting rule language to implement this requirement and will present it at the June Board meeting.

8. Second Public Comment Period

- Rachael Tellen, HAP Foundation, addressed synchronous versus asynchronous curriculum. The HAP Foundation has a registered apprenticeship program with the Department of Labor and there is no requirement for synchronous or asynchronous training. The apprenticeship program began with a lot more synchronous training. Because employers and their staff were struggling to attend synchronized training, adjustments had to be made. The need for flexibility had to be learned and adjustments to meet the need of individuals and employers had to be made. She encouraged the Board to revisit the topic.

9. Schedule of Board Meetings and Announcements

- Schedule of Board Meetings
 - Friday, June 27, 2-4pm
 - Friday, August 22, 2-4pm
 - Friday, October 10, 2-4pm
 - Friday, December 12, 2-4pm
- Announcements
 - Sarahjini Nunn reminded the Board of the upcoming Board meetings and reported that the Materials Review Committee meeting will be scheduled in July after the Co-Chairs have been consulted on meeting dates.

10. Other Business

None

11. Adjournment

- Tracey Smith moved to adjourn.
- Ricardo Anderson seconded the motion. Motion passed.