

Community Health Workers Review Board Meeting

October 10, 2025

2:00 – 4:00pm

Meeting can be viewed [HERE](#)

1. Call to Order

- Wandy Hernandez called the meeting to order. Meeting recorded for documentation.
- **CHW Review Board Members Present:** Dr. Janice Phillips, Wandy Hernandez, Leticia Boughton Price, Rep. Camille Lilly, Tracey Smith, Noelle Moore, David Sanders, Ricardo Anderson, Angela Ellison, Ashley Colwell, Ryan Croke, Emma Villarreal, Shami Goyal, Kristin Hartsaw, Monica Cuevas Nava
- **CHW Review Board Members Absent:** Ofelia Figueroa, Lubia Suterwala, Latoya Greenwood, Rep. Maura Hirschauer, Esther Sciammarella
- **IDPH Staff Present:** Sarahjini Nunn, Melissa Stalets, Lori Weiselberg, Pat Montalvo, Allison Nickrent, Marcella Kincaid
- **Other Guest Present:** Sarah Dougan, Interprenet; Adam Scheffler; Addie Collins, Gregory Scott, Carle Health; Cealisa Johnson, UChicago Medicine; Charisse Montgomery, Chestnut Health; Monica Dunn, IDPH; Karen Phelan, State Board of Health; Katie Cerda, Dion's Chicago Dream; Leslie McKnight, Peoria City County Health Dept; Misty Drake, Kelsey Boyle, Sherlanda Brooks, Wellness West; Molly Martinez, Sonia Orozco, Will-Grundy Medical Clinic; Cari Almanza, Nicole Milano, Temeka Watson, Medical Home Network; Brenda Soto, Paula Allen-Meares, UIC; Makeda Coutee, HMPRG; Sharika House, Southside Healthy Community; Stephanie Standish, IPHA; Susan Swider, Rush University.

2. Vote to Approve Meeting Minutes

- August 22, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes - Janice Phillip moved to approve the minutes. Ricardo Anderson seconded the motion. *Motion approved.*
- August 19, 2025 Materials Review Committee Meeting Minutes – Noelle Moore moved to approve the minutes. Leticia Boughton Price seconded the motion. Angela Ellison abstained. *Motion approved*

3. Board Process Decisions and Reminders

- Wandy Hernandez 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.
- Wandy Hernandez reviewed webinar format procedures.

4. Public Comment Period

- No public comment

5. Revisit Bylaws

- Sarahjini Nunn gave an overview of the approved CHW Review Board Bylaws focusing on Section 3-6. Striking the word “unexcused” from the section was proposed.
 - David Sanders moved to amend the section to read as follows:
- *If members have absences of 50% or more Board meetings in a 12-month period, the member may be replaced and will not be eligible to serve another term. Extenuating circumstances will be considered.*
 - Tracey Smith seconded.
 - Roll call vote was taken – 12 Yes, 0 No

6. Administrative Rule Status Update

- Next steps in rule review. Lori Weiselberg explained IDPH’s restriction on discussing the rules during the public comment period. She indicated that questions may be sent to DPH.Rules@Illinois.gov.

7. Illinois Medicaid: Background on Rate Setting for CHW Services

Kristin Hartsaw, Special Assistant to the Director, Medical Policy
Illinois Department of Health and Family Services

- Kristin Hartsaw provided an update on ongoing planning activities related to Medicaid reimbursement for Community Health Worker (CHW) services. She also shared a slide deck titled “Medicaid Coverage: Community Health Worker Services” which provided a Health and Family Services (HFS) planning update and next steps. The following are highlights from the presentation.
 - **Planning Activities to Date:**
 - a. Review of policies from other states and provider types.
 - b. Analysis of national and state policies and best practices for CHW reimbursement.
 - c. Development of a draft service component for inclusion in the State Plan Amendment (SPA).
 - **Timeline:**
 - a. The draft SPA is on track for submission in 2026.
 - b. Will provide additional updates as the process advances.
 - **Framework and Context:**
 - a. The **Public Act for CHWs** serves as a foundation for how the HFS will develop reimbursable CHW services.
 - b. CHWs will need to work under or in coordination with certified medical providers as specified by the Department.
 - c. The plan defines allowable CHW services, aligning with federal CMS guidance.
 - **Service Categories (“Three Buckets”):**
 - a. **Health Promotion and Education**

- b. **Health System Navigation and Coordination** (including provision of information and linkage to care)
 - c. **Screening and Assessment** for Health-Related Social Needs (HRSNs) and barriers to care
- **Non-Covered Services:**
 - a. Examples were provided to distinguish CHW roles from other covered provider services.
- **Allowable Settings and Provider Eligibility:**
 - a. Examples of allowable settings including telehealth were outlined.
- **Next Steps:**
 - a. Establishment of reimbursement rates.
 - b. Completion of draft State Plan Amendment and submission to Federal CMS.
 - c. Development of training and implementation schedules once approval is received.
- Kristin will plan to present CHW service rates/fee schedule to the Review Board at the December meeting and share the final PPT deck at that time.

8. User Acceptance Testing Update

- Lori Weiselberg provided a brief update on the approach to User Acceptance Testing (UAT) of the CHW application currently under way. She will update on UAT results at the December Board meeting.

9. Second Public Comment Period

- Misty Drake, Executive Director of Wellness West and Vice President of Client Services and Growth for Medical Home Network
 - FQHC billing is unique.. It would be helpful to receive clarification on whether Community Health Worker (CHW) services are considered outside of the PPS rate - similar to how Medicare care management services are handled outside of the PPS rate.
- Molly Martinez, Will Grundy Medical Clinic.
 - Asked for clarification regarding the curriculum required to become a certified Community Health Worker (CHW) in Illinois. She is considering completing a CHW training program in Colorado and would like guidance on whether that training would meet Illinois' certification requirements.

10. Schedule of Board Meetings and Announcements

Materials Review Committee Meetings

- Thursday, October 16, 2:00 – 3:30pm
- Friday, November 7, 3:00 -4:30pm
- Tuesday, December 16, 10:00-11:30am

Full Board Meetings

- Friday, December 12, 2:00-4:00pm

11. Announcements

- Sarahjini Nunn announced the upcoming CHW Review Board and Materials Review Committee meeting dates.

12. Other Business

- No other business

13. Adjournment

- Angela Ellison moved for adjournment.
- Leticia Boughton Price seconded. *Motion passed.*