



**Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker
Training and Certification Advisory Committee
FINAL DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 30, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Teams Live Events Virtual Meeting

Table 1: Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee April 30, 2021 meeting attendance.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Kim Bush	Yes
Minerva Garcia	Yes
Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker	Yes
Linda McMurry	No
Marlen Ramirez	Yes
Ashley Rodriguez	Yes
Alma G. Swisher	Yes
Dr. Elizabeth M. Vaughan-Cardenas	Yes
Tasha Whitaker	Yes

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Minerva Garcia, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. and welcomed members and attendees. Ms. Garcia, announced that two new members, Ms. Marlen Ramirez and Ms. Ashley Rodriguez, have joined the committee and will provide a brief introduction to themselves during roll call.

Mr. Gilbert Chavez Advisory Committee Coordination Office, Facilitator, provided meeting logistics and announced the meeting was being conducted in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act in a Teams Live Events virtual platform. Mr. Chavez called roll and asked each member to briefly introduce themselves with new members providing a longer introduction. A quorum of members was established with only one member not in attendance.

Ms. Garcia, Chair, offered opening remarks to members and asked the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) staff to introduce themselves. Mr. Frank Luera and Mr. Brett Spencer introduced themselves to the committee with a brief overview of their duties.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of the October 30, 2020 and January 28, 2021 minutes

Mr. Gilbert Chavez asked members to review the October 30, 2020 and the January 28th, 2021 minutes and provide any needed edits. Mr. Chavez then requested a motion to approve both sets of minutes as provided to members.

MOTION: Ms. Kim Bush made a motion to approve the October 30, 2020 and the January 28, 2021 meeting minutes as provided. Ms. Minerva Garcia seconded the motion. The Committee members unanimously approved the January 28, 2021 minutes by roll call vote with eight approves, no disapproves, and no abstentions. The October 30, 2020 minutes were approved with seven approves, no disapproves, and one abstention.

Agenda Item 3: Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section Update

Ms. Garcia, chair, introduced Mr. Brett Spencer, DSHS, Manager, Community Health and Wellness Branch to provide an update to the committee. Highlights of update included:

- Announced new members and changes in committee roles.
- Announced that that Texas Association of Promotores and CHW are now approved for Continued Education Units (CEU).
- Reported that he 2020 annual CHW training report is being finalized and will be posted on the website.

Agenda Item 4: Bereavement and Grief during COVID-19

Ms. Garcia, chair, introduced Palliative Care Chaplain, Cynthia Livar with the University Health System to provide a presentation on bereavement and grief during COVID-19.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Provided an introduction and her experience as Chaplain during COVID.
- Described the power of grief and its impact on daily functions.
- Grief during COVID has touched everyone and dealing with that grief is difficult because of the traumatic stress involved.
- There was an increase in fear and anxiety during COVID due to the isolation of quarantine.
- As caregivers we must be aware of our own grief and self-care is important in order to help others.
- For those grieving, there is a power in stories and listening is a way to help them heal.

Agenda Item 5: Advisory Committee Sub-Committee Updates – Sub-Committee Leads

Ms. Minerva Garcia, Chair, called for advisory committee sub-committee updates from members. Highlights of the updates from sub-committees included:

a. Workforce Solutions and Employment Opportunities

Ms. Kim Bush, Sub-committee Chair, provided the workforce and employment update. Ms. Bush announced that the last sub-committee had to be rescheduled, however also provided there are openings in the sub-committee for those interested in joining.

b. Communication and Outreach

Ms. Tasha Whitaker, Sub-committee Chair, provided the update on the communication and outreach sub-committee. Ms. Whitaker announced that the last sub-committee had to be rescheduled, but members will be working on a Summer Newsletter at the next meeting.

c. Training and Certification

Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker, Sub-committee Chair, provided the update on the training and certification sub-committee. Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker announced that there has not been an official sub-committee meeting, but members have had ongoing discussion regarding a new training component that incorporates an ethical framework for promotores. The sub-committee continues to pursue and develop an "Ethics of the Heart" training for CHW, with more information on the curriculum and progress to be provided at the next committee meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Committee Member Sharing

Ms. Minerva Garcia, Chair, opened the floor to members for sharing information from their region.

- Ms. Ashley Rodriguez shared that the Texas Association of Promoters and CHW statewide virtual conference will be held on September 27-28 and announced that HealthLiteracyTX.org will hold an all-day virtual conference on June 24th. Also recognized that Texas CHW day was held on April 17th, 2021.
- Ms. Minerva Garcia shared that the 2021 Border Conference will be held on October 3-4 and all are welcomed to attend.
- Ms. Tasha Whitaker announced that the DFW CHW association is working with the city of Dallas in celebrating CHW week to raise awareness and recognize community health workers. DFW CHW is currently planning a virtual conference for July 23.
- Ms. Alma Swisher shared that there are several employment opportunities in Region 5/6 area for anyone seeking employment.
- Ms. Kim Bush announced that it was the last day of the first High School Senior Community Health Worker vocation course, with 8 students completing the course. Also, the Northeast Texas CHW Association is currently planning an August 6th conference with more details to come.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

Ms. Minerva Garcia, Chair, opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Gilbert Chavez announced that there was no written comment submitted for the meeting and that there were no requests for oral public comment.

Agenda Item 8: Agenda items for next meeting

Ms. Minerva Garcia, chair, opened the floor to discuss agenda items and meeting topics for the Friday, July 30, 2021 meeting.

Agenda Items Requested:

- A presentation on the efforts and updates from Texas Association of Promotores and CHW to be provided by a board member.
- Dr. Schlenker to provide an executive summary of the "Ethics of the Heart" curriculum being developed for committee consideration.

Agenda Item 9: Adjournment

Ms. Minerva Garcia, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

Below is the link to the archived video of the April 30, 2021 Community Health Worker Advisory Committee meeting to view and listen for approx., two years from date meeting is posted and in accordance to the DSHS records retention schedule.
(To view and listen to the entirety of the meeting click on the link below)

[Community Health Workers Advisory Committee](#)