



TEXAS
Health and Human
Services

**Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker Training
and Certification Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 17, 2019
10:00 a.m.**

**John H. Winters Human Services Complex
Public Hearing Room
701 West 51st St., Austin, TX 78751**

Table 1: Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee member attendance at the May 17, 2019 meeting.

MEMBER NAME	YES	NO	MEMBER NAME	YES	NO
Kim Bush	X		Costa Ndayisabye	P	
Merida Escobar	X		Ibeth Parra	X	
Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker		X	Alma G. Swisher	X	
Julie St. John	P		Tasha Whitaker	P	
Linda McMurry	P				

P: Indicates participated by phone

Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Ms. Merida Escobar, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. Ms. Escobar requested members introduce themselves. Ms. Escobar turned the floor over to Mr. Anthony Gonzales, HHSC, Advisory Committee Coordination Office. Mr. Gonzales provided meeting logistics, called roll, and determined a quorum.

Agenda Item 2: Approval of January 31, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gonzales requested a motion to approve the January 31, 2019 meeting minutes.

MOTION: Ms. Merida Escobar made a motion to approve the January 31, 2019 meeting minutes. Ms. Kim Bush seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken for members over the phone. A voice vote was taken for members in the room. The motion carried by unanimous vote with no objections nor abstentions.

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

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. Brett Spencer, DSHS, Manager, Community Health and Wellness Branch. Mr. Spencer informed members the state has been working with the Office of Border Public Health to develop the first statewide CHW training and certification conference on August 23, 2019. Topics include:

- Human Trafficking
- Opioid epidemic
- Trauma Informed Care
- Domestic Violence
- Children with special healthcare needs
- Social determinants of health

Mr. Spencer also informed members of two Texas CHWs that were recognized at the Unity Conference for honorable mention:

- Tonya Bradly from Houston
- Otila Garcia from Laredo

Ms. Adriana Flores, DSHS, Program Coordinator, attended the Unity Conference this year.

All chapters of the Alzheimer's Association in Texas will provide continuing education to CHWs. This organization has submitted an application to be certified as a training program.

House Bill (HB) 2091 makes CHW services a quality improvement service within Medicaid and allows for expanded reimbursement.

A new Information Specialist was hired, Sara Gutierrez.

Agenda Item 4: Legal Overview

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. Mack Harrison, DSHS, Assistant General Counsel. Mr. Harrison referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *New Member Legal Overview*. Mr. Harrison gave a legal overview of the committee, member duties, open government, and standards of code of conduct.

Agenda Item 5: Subcommittee Updates

a. Workforce Solutions and Employment Opportunities

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Kim Bush, committee member. Ms. Bush stated the subcommittee is waiting for feedback from the program office regarding the letter the subcommittee submitted. There is no future meeting scheduled.

b. *Program Rules*

Ms. Escobar stated the subcommittee did not meet.

c. *Training and Certification*

Ms. Escobar stated the subcommittee did not meet.

d. *Communication and Outreach*

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Tasha Whitaker, committee member. Ms. Whitaker stated the subcommittee worked on the newsletter. The CHW award nomination form has been approved and will be posted on the website.

Agenda Item 6: CHW Rules Update

Ms. Escobar turned the floor over to Ms. Flores. Ms. Flores stated the process for the rules started in Fall 2018. In October of 2018 draft rules were posted for informal comment. The comments were incorporated, and the rules were edited to reflect the feedback. After an internal review process the rules were presented at the Health and Human Service Executive Council in February 2019 at which no comments were made regarding the draft. During the formal comment period between March and April 2019 there were few comments and now the draft is in the adoption process. The draft needs to be re-reviewed by DSHS and HHSC before formal adoption. The new rules will be implemented in July or August 2019, approximately. An email will be sent notifying the public when the rules are formally adopted.

Agenda Item 7: Review and recommend to DSHS applications for certification of training institutions: Alzheimer's Association Houston and Southeast Texas

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. Pablo Panta, Latino Outreach Coordinator, Alzheimer's Association Houston and Southeast Texas and Ann Marie McDonald, Chief Program Officer of Alzheimer's Association Houston and Southeast Texas. Mr. Panta and Ms. McDonald referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *Alzheimer's Association Houston and Southeast Texas*.

Members discussed:

The Alzheimer's Association working with refugees in the country through ministries.

Mr. Gonzales requested a motion.

MOTION: Ms. Ibeth Parra made a motion to recommend the approval of the Alzheimer's Association Houston and Southeast Texas as a certified training center. Ms. Merida Escobar seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken for members over the phone. A voice vote was taken for members in the room. The motion carried by unanimous vote with no objections nor abstentions.

Agenda Item 8: CHW Advisory Committee Subcommittee Chairs

Ms. Escobar read the statute that gives the chair authority to designate chairs for the subcommittees. Ms. Escobar assigned Dr. Julie St. John as the chair for a subcommittee however due to audio difficulties, the agenda item was tabled.

Agenda Item 9: CHWs in Managed Care Organizations (MCOs): Superior Health Plan

Ms. Escobar stated this agenda item will be postponed.

Agenda Item 10: Program Update

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Monica Maldonado, DSHS, Promotor(a)/CHW Training and Certification Program. Ms. Maldonado referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *Promotor(a)/Community Health Worker Training and Certification Program Update May 17, 2019*.

Agenda Item 11: Committee Member Sharing

Ms. Escobar opened the floor to members for sharing information from their region.

- Ms. Bush notified members the Northeast Texas CHW Coalition is having the Fifth annual CHW conference offering CHW and CHW instructors CEUs on July 19, 2019 in Tyler, Texas at Tyler Junior College West Campus. Early registration is open through June 7, 2019. Ms. Bush also stated community-based education is being offered with a focus on chronic illness such as hypertension, pre-diabetes, and cholesterol.
- Ms. Escobar stated there will be an October conference at the island and details are on the website.

Agenda Item 8 Continued: CHW Advisory Committee Subcommittee Chairs

Ms. Escobar circled back to agenda item eight to request Ms. Alma Swisher join a subcommittee. Ms. Swisher agreed to join a subcommittee.

Agenda Item 12: Public Comment

No public comment was made.

Agenda Item 13: Agenda items for next meeting

Ms. Escobar opened the floor to discuss meeting topics for the July 26, 2019 meeting. No members gave topics for discussion.

Agenda Item 14: Adjournment

Ms. Escobar adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Webcast Archive of the meeting: <https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/05172019-580>