



**TEXAS**  
Health and Human  
Services

**Promotor(a) or Community Health  
Worker Training and Certification  
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
July 26, 2019  
10:00 a.m.**

**Department of State Health Services – DSHS Central  
Office 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX 78756  
Conference Room M-100**

Table 1: Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee member attendance at the July 26, 2019 meeting.

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

P: Indicates participated by phone

**Agenda Item 1: Welcome and Introductions**

Ms. Merida Escobar, chair, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Ms. Escobar requested members introduce themselves. Ms. Escobar turned the floor over to Mr. John Chacon, HHSC, Advisory Committee Coordination Office. Mr. Chacon provided meeting logistics, called roll, and determined there was not a quorum.

**Agenda Item 2: 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 Promotor(a) Community Health Worker (CHW) conference is on August 3, 2019. The conference name is *CHWs: Bridges to Health*. Dr. Hellerstedt will be conducting the opening welcome and debuting a video highlighting CHWs and their role in Texas. Mr. Spencer informed members of the CHW rules. The rules are going into effect August 2019. No changes have been made to the rules based on comments. The remaining steps are internal review then posting to the Texas Register for 20 days. Another document to share with members is one that takes previous rules and turned them into agency policy.

Members discussed:

- Information regarding accommodations for the conference.
- Attendees are responsible for travel expenses outside of the hotel.
- Registration for the conference is free.
- Translation services will be available.
- Work is being done to translate slides into Spanish.

### **Agenda Item 3: Approval of May 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Chacon noted a quorum.

Mr. Chacon requested a motion to approve the May 17, 2019 meeting minutes.

**MOTION:** Ms. Alma G. Swisher made a motion to approve the May 17, 2019 meeting minutes. 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 4: CHWs in Managed Care Organizations (MCOs)**

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Sonia Boyd and Guadalupe Yanes, Superior Health Plan. Ms. Boyd and Ms. Yanes referenced the handout and PowerPoint, *CHWs in Managed Care Organizations*.

Members discussed:

- CHWs in MCOs located throughout Texas.
- Members, case managers, and member advocates can initiate referrals for assistance.
- There are 10 community ambassadors that are CHWs, 19 are community health service representatives, two in member connections, 17 in foster care member connections, 10-member advocates, and 17 service coordinators. Approximately 70 CHWs.
- Behavioral health trainers are working on how to provide training for CHW certification.
- The corporate office in Texas is trying to become a training site.

### **Agenda Item 5: CHW Advisory Committee Subcommittee Chairs**

Ms. Escobar read Texas Administrative Code which grants the chair of the full committee the authority to appoint members to a subcommittee as well as appoint a chair for the subcommittee.

Ms. Escobar appointed:

- Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker to be a member and the chair of the Training and Certification Subcommittee.
- Ms. Kim Bush to be a member of the Workforce Solutions and Employment Opportunities Subcommittee.
- Ms. Tasha Whitaker to be a member of the Communication and Outreach Subcommittee.

### **Agenda Item 6: Review and recommend to DSHS applications for certification of training institutions**

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Mr. Daniel Price and Ms. Donaji Stelzig, DSHS certified CHW Instructor University of Houston Honors College CHW Program.

Members showed appreciation to Mr. Price and congratulated him on his hard work.

**MOTION:** Ms. Tasha Whitaker made a motion to approve the University of Houston Honors College program to provide continuing education for CHW Instructors. Ms. Alma G. Swisher 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.

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Teresa Wagner, Assistant Professor, University of North Texas Health Science Center. Ms. Wagner referenced the PowerPoint and handout, *UNT Health Science Center*.

Members discussed:

- Training for critical thinking for CHWs
- Training CHWs in participatory research

**MOTION:** Ms. Merida Escobar made a motion to approve the University of North Texas Health Science Center to provide continuing education for CHWs and CHW instructors.

Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker 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.

Ms. Escobar stated for the record that both training institutes will need to be approved by DSHS and after approval both institutions will receive a certification packet in the mail.

### **Agenda Item 7: Advisory Committee Subcommittee Updates**

a. *Workforce Solutions and Employment Opportunities*

Ms. Escobar stated the subcommittee has not met and does not have anything to report to the full committee.

b. *Program Rules*

Ms. Escobar stated the subcommittee did not meet, however, the rules are under a review process.

c. *Communication and Outreach*

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Ms. Tasha Whitaker, subcommittee chair. Ms. Whitaker stated the subcommittee completed the draft for the statewide newsletter. The newsletter is to educate CHWs across Texas as well as to highlight the different programs in each Health Service Region(HSR) region. The newsletter will be posted online.

Members discussed:

- Expanding the newsletter binationally
- The newsletter will be released twice a year
- Translating the newsletter into Spanish

d. *Training and Certification*

Ms. Escobar introduced and turned the floor over to Dr. Julie St. John, subcommittee chair. Dr. St. John stated the subcommittee discussed the need for additional online and distance learning continuing education (CE) for both instructors and CHWs.

### **Agenda Item 8: 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 July 26, 2019*.

### **Agenda Item 9: Committee Member Sharing**

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

- Ms. Swisher stated she attended the University of Houston CHW Initiative's inaugural conference, *Trust in Health* the conference at the University of Houston. Ms. Swisher informed members of the Gulf Coast conference taking place in Houston on July 26, 2019.
- Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker stated San Antonio is working with Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES) an organization trying to orient immigrants seeking asylum.
- Ms. Whitaker shared the DFW CHW conference is on August 29 and 30, 2019. Registration online is open.
- Ms. Kim Bush stated the conference held in Tyler on July 19, 2019 for the North East Texas CHW Coalition brought in CHWs from around Texas. The Chair and Vice Chair are working on the next conference that will take place in July 2020.
- Ms. Escobar stated she is working on a grass roots conference at the Island on November 6 and 7, 2019.

### **Agenda Item 10: Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

### **Agenda Item 11: Agenda items for next meeting & 2020 Meeting Dates**

Ms. Escobar opened the floor to discuss meeting topics for the October 24, 2019 meeting. Members discussed:

- The role of the CHW within the healthcare system and what it represents
- Other employers that hire CHWs and their employment practices
- Texas Education Agency (TEA) update
- Mental health and Behavioral health training for CHWs

Ms. Escobar announced the first two 2020 meeting dates located in M-100:

- January 30, 2020
- April 17, 2020

### **Agenda Item 12: Adjournment**

Ms. Escobar adjourned the meeting at 11:28 a.m.

Webcast Archive of the meeting: <https://texashhsc.swagit.com/play/07262019-711>