



**Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker
 Training and Certification Advisory Committee
 APPROVED Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, January 28, 2021
 10:00 a.m.**

Teams Live Events Virtual Meeting

Table 1: Promotor(a) or Community Health Worker (CHW) Training and Certification Advisory Committee January 28, 2021 meeting attendance.

MEMBER NAME	IN ATTENDANCE
Kim Bush	Yes
Minerva Garcia	Yes
Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker	Yes
Linda McMurry	Yes
Costa Ndayisabye	No
Ibeth Parra	No
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 10:00 a.m. and welcomed members and attendees. Ms. Garcia, announced that the public agenda was not posted in the required time frame, therefore no action can be taken on any of the agenda items.

Mr. John Chacón, 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. Chacon took roll and asked each member to briefly introduce themselves. At the opening of the meeting a quorum was not present but was later confirmed prior to agenda item 4 of the meeting.

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

Agenda Item 2: Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section Update

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

- An introduction of the two new administrative assistants working in the office. Ms. Shannon Ellington will be supporting the application process and Ms. Erin Strauss will be assisting with travel reimbursement.
- Update on the new member appointment process with 3 new member recommendations being routed for consideration by the commissioner.
- Developing the 2020 Annual Report to be finalized and posted to the website by April 30th, 2021. Committee member will be notified when the report is released.
- 87th Legislative Session is currently under way. DSHS prepared all the briefing documents and the office is currently responding to inquires or bills assigned to the Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section.

Agenda Item 3: Texas Education Agency (TEA), CHW Career Path for High School Students

Ms. Garcia, chair, introduced Ms. Debbie Wieland, Assistant Director, Career and Technical Education, TEA, to provided members and attendees a presentation titled "Career and Technology Education: Programs of Study". Highlights of the presentation included:

- Introduction to programs of study which are sequences of course that prepare students with the knowledge and skills necessary for success in their chosen career. These sequences embed relevant, real world experiences and culminate in a postsecondary credential.
- The Human Services Career Cluster focuses on preparing individuals for employment in career pathways that relate to families and human needs such as counseling and mental health services, family and community services, personal care services, and consumer services.
- Labor market data was analyzed to support a statewide program of study that could provide students with opportunities in careers that maintain a living wage and within an industry of continued growth.
- Two programs of study align with preparation for CHW certification.
- The Family and Community Services program of study introduces students to knowledge and skills related to social services, including child and human development and consumer sciences. Learners may learn about or practice managing social and community services or teaching family and consumer sciences.
- The Health and Wellness program of study introduces students to knowledge and skills related to promoting physical, emotional, social, and mental health and wellness. Learners may learn how to assist patients in planning for their health and wellness, respond to crises, and advise, provide education or counseling, or make referrals.
- A question regarding labor data led to the clarification that industry growth presented was projected out to 2026.
- Member question regarding the qualification of the instructors led to clarification that teachers have a Family and Consumer Science education with a broad background. Additional work experience or study maybe required for CHW certification instruction.
- Ms. Kim Bush reported current collaborative effort with Tyler ISD that has enrolled 10 seniors in a CHW certification.

Agenda Item 4: South Texas Promotor(a) Association Incorporated – Carolina Gonzalez, Community Health Worker

Ms. Garcia, chair, introduced Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker, Community Health Worker provided a presentation titled "Promotores First: Discovering the Ethics of the Heart". Highlights of the presentation included:

- Introduction of the training gaps which exist in the CHW instructions and efforts to recommend and provide additional courses to address this gap.
- The objectives of this effort include:
 - To theoretically and methodologically address the tension between the original promotor(a) sense of purpose and the CHW role as it has evolved through the lens of academia, corporate healthcare, and other employers.
 - To make this tension a source of creativity and discovery to better integrate efforts to bring about healthy communities.
 - To develop an ethical platform for critical thinking and dialogue between communities and institutions.
 - To strengthen STPA's promotores & instructors training, conduct an evaluation, and if found valuable, make a recommendation to this Advisory Committee to make the instruction a requirement for all promotores/CHWs in Texas.
- An 8-hour bi-lingual training was conducted on December 8, 2020 at the South Texas Promotor(a) Association Boarder conference. The training contained 6 units which was suggested as a week-long interactive workshop, rather than all in one day training.
- An overview of the 6-unit workshop was provided that described the moral qualities of the Promotor(a)
 - Unit 1: Weaved Within A Socio-Historical Context
 - Unit 2: Health Under an Insufficient Ethical Framework
 - Unit 3: Information in Trust and Distrust
 - Unit 4: Life's Principle and Spiritual Health
 - Unit 5: Repairs and Transformational Learning
 - Unit 6: Visions of Community and Sustainability
- The training was well received at the conference and attendees requested the full curriculum.
- Next steps include getting feedback from the committee and evaluating the curriculum for consideration.

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 update on CHW workforce and employment opportunities. Ms. Bush announced that CHW training course are currently underway and students are in various stages of being CHW certified. Students will be looking for employment and highlight the need for identifying more CHW jobs and possible creation of a job bank. The sub-committee did not meet in December but looks to reschedule soon.

b. Communication and Outreach

Ms. Tasha Whitaker, Sub-committee Chair, provided the update on the communication and outreach sub-committee. Ms. Whitaker informed members that the last newsletter contained resources for CHWs regarding COVID and cultural competence. The next sub-committee meeting will focus on developing the spring newsletter. Members were asked to send resources and recommendation for consideration in the upcoming newsletter.

c. Training and Certification

Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker, Sub-committee Chair, provided the update on the training and certification sub-committee. Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker stated the sub-committee last met on October 16, 2020. The meeting primarily addressed the gaps in the Promotor(a)/CHW training to protect and promote foundational moral qualities and its inclusion in CHW training. Discussion included the approval process from the state to include as an introductory course and the possible inclusion as a training requirement.

Agenda Item 6: Committee Member Sharing

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

- Dr. Carolina Gonzalez Schlenker shared that a colleague held a CHW training for mental health during COVID that included a quick reference booklet. Contact Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker if interested in the information.
- Ms. Tasha Whittaker shared that the DFW CHW Association held virtual conference in October 2020 that was well received. The association has also been conducting COVID related outreach and released a free online course on COVID-19 contact tracing for anyone interested.
- Ms. Garcia announced the 15th Anniversary of "Get it Done", which will be celebrated with a Quiñceañera Conference. Also announced ongoing effort to address COVID in the community and will be working with Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker in addressing CHW training needs.
- Ms. Alma Swisher shared that the University of Houston courses will be starting in February with conferences to follow. Ms. Swisher shared [Welnity.com](#), [Take Time Texas](#), and [The Hogg Foundation](#) as helpful online resources and announced a number of job availabilities in the Houston area.
- Ms. Kim Bush shared that the North-East Texas CHW Coalition is working on the potential of a conference and have surveyed members to gather options. They are also working with the Texas Association of Promotores/CHWs in the planning of their conference which is being planned as a virtual event.

Agenda Item 7: Public Comment

Ms. Minerva Garcia, Chair, opened the floor for public comment. Mr. John Chacón 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, April 30, 2021 meeting.

Agenda Items Requested:

- Presentation on bereavement and grief with a recommendation from Dr. Gonzalez Schlenker on a presenter.
- CHW presentation on current COVID efforts/impact with an update on the vaccine for CHW workers.

Agenda Item 12: Adjournment

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

Below is the link to the archived video of the January 28, 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](#)