IDPH
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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# Illinois Community Health Workers Review Board Annual Report: September 22, 2025

## I. Legislative Mandate for Community Health Workers Review Board

The Illinois Community Health Workers Review Board was established to advise the Illinois Department of Public Health when developing the Illinois Community Health Worker (CHW) Certification Program. The board is responsible for: 1) developing rules for certifying individuals, including those using the work experience pathway and completing academic and community-based training programs; 2) recommending standards and reviewing proposed regulations; and 3) providing feedback about training programs and reimbursement schedules.

The board shall submit an annual report about the program's progress to the Office of the Governor and the General Assembly. The first annual report shall be submitted one year after the board's first meeting, and every year after that, for each year the board remains active.

## II. Membership

The board shall be co-chaired by a representative from a statewide association of community health workers (*Wandy Hernandez, co-executive director, Illinois Community Health Worker Association)* and an Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) representative (*Dr. Janice Phillips, IDPH assistant director*). Other board members include:

- Director of Illinois Department of Public Health or their designee:
  - *Lubia Nunez-Montelongo, manager of Community Public Health Outreach*
- Director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) or their designee:
  - *Kristin Hartsaw, HFS special assistant to the director, Medical Policy*
- Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) or their designee:
  - *Dr. Ricardo Anderson, DHS mental health recovery specialist, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery*
- Secretary of the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (DFPR) or their designee:
  - *Dr. Shami Goyal, DFPR chief medical coordinator*
- A member from the Office of the Governor appointed by the governor:
  - *Ryan Croke, first assistant deputy governor for Health and Human Services*

- Three members appointed by the Senate president:
  - *Monica Cuevas Nava, health center supervisor of Community Health Workers and Community Outreach, Pillars Community Health*
  - *Angela Ellison, senior director, Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships (OCEAN-HP)*
  - *There is one vacancy*
- A member appointed by the Senate minority leader:
  - *Ketkesy Herena, manager of Community Outreach, Chinese Mutual Aid Association*
- Three members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives:
  - *Representative Latoya Greenwood*
  - *Representative Maura Hirschauer*
  - *Representative Camille Lilly*
- A member appointed by the House of Representatives minority leader:
  - *There is one vacancy*
- A member from a Statewide Association of Community Health Workers appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives:
  - *Leticia Boughton Price, president, Illinois Community Health Workers Association*
- A member from a statewide association of community health workers appointed by the Senate president:
  - *Noelle Moore, vice president, Strategy and Implementation, The HAP Foundation*
- As appointed by the IDPH director, in addition to the members specified in this subsection, the board has balanced representation from the:
  - CHW workforce:
    - *Emma Villareal, community health worker*
    - *Ofelia Figueroa, manager of Community Health Impact, Esperanza Health Centers*
  - CHW employer:
    - *Tracey Smith, director of Community Health, Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA)*
    - *Ashley Colwell, vice president of Clinical Services + Workforce Development, Illinois Primary Health Care Association (IPHCA)*
  - CHW training and educational institutions:
    - *David Sanders, president, Malcolm X College*
    - *Esther Sciammarella, executive director, Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition*
  - Community members who are recipients of services:
    - *Kevin Wood, board member, Community Health Partnership*

## III. CHW Review Board Meetings

In its third year, the CHW Review Board held full meetings on the following dates:

- October 25, 2024
- November 15, 2024
- December 13, 2024
- January 24, 2025
- February 21, 2025

- March 21, 2025
- April 25, 2025
- May 30, 2025
- June 27, 2025
- August 22, 2025

## IV. Activities

Activities undertaken from September 23, 2024, through August 22, 2025, include the following:

CHW Review Board

IDPH conducted 10 CHW Review Board meetings. The meetings focused on:

- Review, feedback, and approval of CHW Certification Program administrative rules:
    - Subpart A: Definitions
    - Subpart B: Role of the Board
    - Subpart C: Community Health Worker Certification
    - Subpart D: Training Program Requirements
    - Subpart E: Registry
    - Subpart F: Training Program Curricula and Instructor Requirements
    - Subpart G: Continuing Education

- The Ad-hoc Training Committee, comprised of volunteers from the CHW Review Board, was formed to review the processes and procedures of the CHW Training Program and provide feedback. The committee met on November 12, 2024, and December 9, 2024

- The Ad-hoc Materials Review Committee, comprised of volunteers from the CHW Review Board, was formed to review and make recommendations regarding the web content. The committee met on April 14, 2025.

IDPH's CHW Certification Program Development

Key elements of program development:

- Continued collaboration with Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) with representation on the HFS informal workgroup for input on the Medicaid State Plan Amendment (SPA) development.
- Continued collaboration with the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois State Board of Education to secure guidance regarding the development of CHW academic training program requirements.
- Continued collaboration with the Department of Finance and Professional Regulation (DFPR) regarding certification renewal, continuing education documentation, and provider registry.

- Presented program updates at CHW summits, conferences, and meetings, including:
    - Illinois Community Health Workers Association Community Health Worker Summit (Oakbrook and Champaign)
    - Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) Community Health Worker Lunch and Learn
    - IPHA CHW Advisory Board
    - Illinois Minority Health Conference
    - IDPH Office of Women's Health Conference
    - Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program Community Navigator Annual Training
- Implemented and completed a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – Campaign to Advance the Community Health Worker Workforce in Illinois - that awarded $25,000 to the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) to develop a multi-year plan to promote and advance the CHW workforce in the state.
- Extended work orders under intergovernmental agreements with two state university partners:
    - Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) to:
        - Extend subcontract with Breakthrough Technologies to continue developing the IT platform for the CHW Certification Program.
        - Assist in developing and managing CHW applications.
    - UIC Cancer Center to:
        - Extend subcontract with Sinai Urban Health Institute (SUHI) to finalize curriculum including CHW refresher training, CHW instructor training, CHW core competency model curriculum, and CHW supervisor training.
        - Assist in developing and managing CHW Training Program applications.
- Began developing internal Standard Operating Procedures Manual for the CHW Certification Program.

## V. Next Steps

For October 2025 through September 2026:

<u>CHW Review Board</u>

- Continue advising program staff on certification program development.

<u>IDPH's CHW Certification Program Development</u>

- Obtain State Board of Health Rules Committee approval.
- Submit to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for review; respond to public comments.
- Work with SIUC and IT subcontractor to complete foundational IT platform and develop CHW application processes.

- Work with UIC and the curriculum subcontractor to complete curriculum deliverables, including developing a new CHW supervisor training, and develop training program application processes.
- Execute 3-year continuation grant with the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA) to implement a campaign to promote and advance the CHW workforce and integrate CHWs into health care teams.