

1 AN ACT concerning public health.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Public Health Powers and
5 Duties Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 2310-685 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 2310/2310-685 new)

8 Sec. 2310-685. Integrated team-based health care;
9 community health workers; creation of board.

10 (a) In this Section:

11 "Community health worker" or "CHW" means a frontline public
12 health worker who is a trusted member or has an unusually close
13 understanding of the community served. This trusting
14 relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison, link, and
15 intermediary between health and social services and the
16 community to facilitate access to services and improve the
17 quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also
18 builds individual and community capacity by increasing health
19 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities,
20 including outreach, community education, informal counseling,
21 social support, and advocacy.

22 "Community health worker practice" includes education,
23 training, and experience on the core competencies in order to

1 effectively provide services to the communities and
2 populations served through a variety of distinct roles that are
3 indicative of community health worker best practices.

4 (b) The core competencies of a community health worker
5 include skills and areas of knowledge that are essential to
6 bringing about expanded health and wellness in diverse
7 communities and to reduce health disparities. As members of
8 communities and health teams, the core competencies for
9 effective community health workers may include, but are not
10 limited to:

11 (1) outreach methods and strategies;

12 (2) client and community assessment;

13 (3) effective community-based and participatory
14 methods, including research;

15 (4) culturally competent communication and care;

16 (5) health education for behavior change;

17 (6) support, advocacy, and health system navigation
18 for clients;

19 (7) application of public health concepts and
20 approaches;

21 (8) individual and community capacity building and
22 mobilization; and

23 (9) writing, oral, and technical communication skills.

24 (c) Nothing in this Section shall permit a certified or
25 non-certified community health worker to engage in or perform
26 any act or service for which a license issued by a professional

1 licensing board is required.

2 (d) Within 90 days after the effective date of this
3 amendatory Act of the 98th General Assembly, the Director shall
4 establish and appoint the Illinois Community Health Worker
5 Advisory Board (Board). The Board shall propose to the
6 Department leadership the training and certification processes
7 for community health workers. The Board shall also advise the
8 Department, the Governor, and the General Assembly on all
9 matters that impact the effective work of community health
10 workers.

11 (e) The Board shall be comprised of 11 voting members. At
12 least 6 members of the Board shall be community health workers,
13 representing different racial and ethnic backgrounds and
14 geographic areas, one of whom shall have served as a health
15 insurance marketplace navigator. One member shall be a
16 representative of the community colleges, universities, and
17 educational institutions that may provide CHW training. The
18 remaining positions shall be filled with 4 individual
19 representatives appointed from the following categories, with
20 no fewer than 3 categories being represented:

21 (1) health care or public health professionals, who are
22 not community health workers, with community health and
23 supervision experience, such as nurses and physicians; and

24 (2) training or curriculum specialists; and

25 (3) social service or social science professionals,
26 such as social workers, counselors, anthropologists, and

1 community psychologists; and

2 (4) agency administrators and CHW employer
3 representatives or program administrators, excluding upper
4 management; and

5 (5) health policy advisors, with experience in health
6 care workforce policy.

7 (f) The Board shall also include non-voting, ex-officio
8 members from the following State agencies:

9 (1) the Illinois Community College Board;

10 (2) the Department on Aging;

11 (3) the Department of Children and Family Services;

12 (4) the Department of Commerce and Economic
13 Opportunity;

14 (5) the Department of Employment Security;

15 (6) the Department of Financial and Professional
16 Regulation;

17 (7) the Department of Healthcare and Family Services;

18 (8) the Department of Human Services; and

19 (9) the Department of Public Health.

20 (g) The Director shall designate a chairperson from the 11
21 voting members of the Board. The Board shall consult with
22 additional experts as needed.

23 (h) The Board shall develop and submit a proposed plan by
24 December 31, 2014 for the certification process of community
25 health workers to the Director of Public Health, the Governor,
26 and the General Assembly within 9 months after their first

1 meeting that shall include:

2 (1) researching best practices and proposing
3 curriculum and training programs as models for designing an
4 Illinois certification process, including the
5 consideration of a multi-tiered educational or training
6 system, which may include statewide certification,
7 non-certification, and degree-based levels, and the
8 requirements for experience-based certification;

9 (2) recommending certification and renewal processes
10 and a system of approval and accreditation for curriculum
11 and training;

12 (3) ensuring that the content, methodology,
13 development, and delivery of any proposed programs is
14 appropriate based on cultural, geographic, and other
15 specialty needs and reflective of relevant CHW scope of
16 practice; and

17 (4) investigating and identifying best practices for
18 reimbursement options and pathways through which secure
19 funding for community health workers may be obtained.

20 (i) Members of the Board shall serve without compensation,
21 but may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred as a
22 result of their duties as members of the Board from funds
23 appropriated by the General Assembly for that purpose.

24 (j) The Department shall provide administrative and staff
25 support to the Board.

26 (k) The Board shall be dissolved on January 1, 2015.