

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 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Community Health Worker Advisory Board Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. In this Act:

7 "Board" means the Community Health Worker Advisory Board.

8 "Community health worker" means a frontline public health
9 worker who is a trusted member or has an unusually close
10 understanding of the community served. This trusting
11 relationship enables the community health worker to serve as a
12 liaison, link, and intermediary between health and social
13 services and the community to facilitate access to services and
14 improve the quality and cultural competence of service
15 delivery. A community health worker also builds individual and
16 community capacity by increasing health knowledge and
17 self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including
18 outreach, community education, informal counseling, social
19 support, and advocacy. Nothing in this definition shall be
20 construed to authorize a community health worker to provide
21 direct care or treatment to any person or to perform any act or
22 service for which a license issued by a professional licensing
23 board is required.

1 "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

2 Section 10. Advisory Board.

3 (a) There is created the Advisory Board on Community Health
4 Workers. The Board shall consist of 15 members appointed by the
5 Director of Public Health. The Director shall make the
6 appointments to the Board within 90 days after the effective
7 date of this Act. The members of the Board shall represent
8 different racial and ethnic backgrounds and have the
9 qualifications as follows:

10 (1) four members who currently serve as community
11 health workers in Cook County, one of whom shall have
12 served as a health insurance marketplace navigator;

13 (2) two members who currently serve as community health
14 workers in DuPage, Kane, Lake, or Will County;

15 (3) one member who currently serves as a community
16 health worker in Bond, Calhoun, Clinton, Jersey, Macoupin,
17 Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, Randolph, St. Clair, or
18 Washington County;

19 (4) one member who currently serves as a community
20 health worker in any other county in the State;

21 (5) one member who is a physician licensed to practice
22 medicine in Illinois;

23 (6) one member who is a licensed nurse or advanced
24 practice nurse;

25 (7) one member who is a licensed social worker,

1 counselor, or psychologist;

2 (8) one member who currently employs community health
3 workers;

4 (9) one member who is a health policy advisor with
5 experience in health workforce policy;

6 (10) one member who is a public health professional
7 with experience with community health policy; and

8 (11) one representative of a community college,
9 university, or educational institution that provides
10 training to community health workers.

11 (b) In addition, the following persons or their designees
12 shall serve as ex officio, non-voting members of the Board: the
13 Executive Director of the Illinois Community College Board, the
14 Director of Children and Family Services, the Director of
15 Aging, the Director of Public Health, the Director of
16 Employment Security, the Director of Commerce and Economic
17 Opportunity, the Secretary of Financial and Professional
18 Regulation, the Director of Healthcare and Family Services, and
19 the Secretary of Human Services.

20 (c) The voting members of the Board shall select a
21 chairperson from the voting members of the Board. The Board
22 shall consult with additional experts as needed. Members of the
23 Board shall serve without compensation. The Department shall
24 provide administrative and staff support to the Board. The
25 meetings of the Board are subject to the provisions of the Open
26 Meetings Act.

1 (d) The Board shall consider the core competencies of a
2 community health worker, including skills and areas of
3 knowledge that are essential to bringing about expanded health
4 and wellness in diverse communities and reducing health
5 disparities. As relating to members of communities and health
6 teams, the core competencies for effective community health
7 workers may include, but are not limited to:

8 (1) outreach methods and strategies;

9 (2) client and community assessment;

10 (3) effective community-based and participatory
11 methods, including research;

12 (4) culturally competent communication and care;

13 (5) health education for behavior change;

14 (6) support, advocacy, and health system navigation
15 for clients;

16 (7) application of public health concepts and
17 approaches;

18 (8) individual and community capacity building and
19 mobilization; and

20 (9) writing, oral, technical, and communication
21 skills.

22 Section 15. Report.

23 (a) The Board shall develop a report with its
24 recommendations regarding the certification process of
25 community health workers. The report shall be completed no

1 later than 12 months after the first meeting of the Board. The
2 report shall be submitted to all members and ex officio members
3 of the Board, the Governor, the President of the Senate, the
4 Minority Leader of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives, and the Minority Leader of the House of
6 Representatives. The Department shall publish the report on its
7 Internet website.

8 (b) The report shall at a minimum include the following:

9 (1) a summary of research regarding the best practices,
10 curriculum, and training programs for designing a
11 certification program in this State for community health
12 workers, including a consideration of a multi-tiered
13 education or training system, statewide certification,
14 non-certification degree-based levels of certification,
15 and the requirements for experience-based certification;

16 (2) recommendations regarding certification and a
17 renewal process for community health workers, and a system
18 of approval and accreditation for curriculum and training;

19 (3) recommendations for a proposed curriculum for
20 community health workers that ensures the content,
21 methodology, development, and delivery of any proposed
22 program is appropriately based on cultural, geographic,
23 and other specialty needs and also reflects relevant
24 responsibilities for community health workers; and

25 (4) recommendations for best practices for
26 reimbursement options and pathways through which secure

1 funding for community health workers may be obtained.

2 (c) The Board shall advise the Department, the Governor,
3 and the General Assembly on all matters that impact the
4 effective work of community health workers.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
6 becoming law.