

Meeting Minutes

Community Health Worker Task Force Meeting

Monday, Oct. 23, 2023
1:00-2:30 p.m., CST

Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: 1:03pm

Members in Attendance

Mandy Dendy - Medical Services Division

Chris Price - Public Health Division

Tasha Peltier - Tribal Nations Representative

Amanda Tuura - NDSU School of Public Health

Rebecca Quinn - UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences Center for Rural Health

Wendy Schmidt - Hospital Representative

Shannon Bacon - Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)

Tyler Kientopf - EMS Representative

Brian Barrett - APT, Inc

There were many members of the public in attendance with expertise in community health work and community health representative work.

Discussion Items:

HB 1028

- Task Force reviewed Subsection 3 of Section 4 of HB 1028 and discussed the bill's requirements.

Develop a data driven plan for Community Health Workers (CHWs):

- Members of the Task Force agreed that a timeline would be beneficial along with prioritizing the tasks. Once prioritized, there is potential for the tasks to be divided among the members, utilizing the expertise of each member was emphasized. The Task Force can look at using workgroups and bringing in non-Task Force members with expertise to assist in carrying out Task Force action items and objectives.

- The Task Force also recognized the importance of data collection, different roles of Community Health Workers (CHW) and Medicaid reimbursement.
- The Task Force agreed that defining the Community Health Worker scope of work should be the top priority as this can guide the development of certification and education programs.
- Not only did the Task force explore the need to define Scope of Work, but also the need to determine CHW services, target population, and core competencies. Making sure the standards, education and certification are tailored to the needs of North Dakota is of great importance.
- Discussions around the scope of service and target population lead to questions about reimbursement. The Task Force questioned not only the role of Medicaid, but also the role of Medicaid Expansion, private insurers, and Medicare. Mandy Dendy will review Medicaid Expansion and see what she can bring to the next meeting. Shannon Bacon mentioned new Medicare Community Health Worker coverage starting in January. She will explore further and bring information to the Task Force.
- Concerns were raised about potential resistance or conflict from entities and/or associations, leading to a proposal to proactively engage with these groups. The Task Force also emphasized the need for open communication and transparency. The Team decided to list their names and email addresses publicly on the Task Force webpage for stakeholder engagement.
- The Task Force agreed on the importance of an all-encompassing plan that reaches those in need. From experience, plans that frequently change tend to produce problems.
- Circling back, each member of the Task Force will bring their perspective on the Scope of Work to the next meeting. The team agreed that some kind of working platform is needed so ideas and information can be shared. Mandy Dendy will explore the option of a team shared space. The Task Force agreed that it is important to be transparent and that the platform is for information sharing only.
- Recognizing the assignments in HB 1028, the Task Force decided to meet monthly. More specifically, meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of every month.

The meeting ended with the following tasks and agenda items for 11/20/2023:

- Create a timeline.
- Task Force members to bring their perspective on the Scope of Practice to the next meeting.
- APT, Inc will send out a recurring calendar invite for the meetings and the list of meeting dates and times will be posted on the CHW Task Force website at <https://www.hhs.nd.gov/health/regulation-licensure-and-certification/chw-task-force>.
- Task Force member information will be listed on the CHW website.
- Medicaid coverage information will be shared by Mandy Dendy
- Team shared Space will be explored by Mandy Dendy

Next meeting date:

- November 20th 2023 @ 1pm CST via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Adjourned: 2:25pm CST