

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 53rd Legislature (2011)

3 SENATE BILL 882

By: Johnson (Constance)

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5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to community health worker
8 certification; creating the Community Health Worker
9 Certification Act; providing short title; directing
10 the Oklahoma Board of Nursing to establish and
11 maintain certain pilot program; specifying minimum
12 duties of the Board in implementing the pilot
13 program; specifying certain core competencies;
14 specifying scope of community health worker; creating
15 the Community Health Worker Advisory Committee;
16 providing for membership; requiring certain report;
17 authorizing the Board to promulgate certain rules;
18 defining term; clarifying acts permitted by certified
19 persons; providing for codification; and providing an
20 effective date.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

22 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
23 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 578 of Title 59, unless there is
24 created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. This law shall be known and may be cited as the "Community
Health Worker Certification Act".

B. On or before July 1, 2012, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing
shall establish and maintain a pilot program to continue until

1 December 31, 2014 in a county with a population of over seven
2 hundred thousand people to certify community health workers.

3 C. In implementing the pilot program, the Board, at a minimum,
4 shall:

5 1. Develop criteria for certification and certification
6 renewal, including, but not limited to minimum age, education, and
7 training requirements;

8 2. Develop standards governing the performance of activities
9 which may be performed by a certified community health worker,
10 including specifications regarding supervision of such workers by a
11 licensed health care provider;

12 3. Determine appropriate disciplinary actions for certified
13 community health workers;

14 4. Encourage the development of training programs for community
15 health workers; and

16 5. Develop a process to evaluate the effectiveness of the pilot
17 program.

18 D. The core competencies of a community health worker, also
19 known as a community health navigator, shall focus on the
20 individual's knowledge of the community and ability to prioritize
21 and organize his or her work with an emphasis on the use and
22 critical analysis of resources, motivational interviewing and
23 information problem solving. The community health worker shall also
24 function as a liaison between the individual and providers in order

1 to connect those at risk to health care services. At a minimum, a
2 community health worker or community health navigator shall be
3 competent in the following areas:

- 4 1. Communication;
- 5 2. Interpersonal skills;
- 6 3. Service coordination;
- 7 4. Capacity-building;
- 8 5. Cultural competence;
- 9 6. Individual and community advocacy;
- 10 7. Basic teaching skills;
- 11 8. Organizational skills; and
- 12 9. General knowledge of health care.

13 E. The services provided by a community health worker or
14 community health navigator may be targeted toward an individual,
15 family or entire community.

16 F. There is hereby created a Community Health Worker Advisory
17 Committee to advise the Board on all matters related to community
18 health worker certification. The Advisory Committee shall consist
19 of the following members who shall serve at the pleasure of their
20 appointing authority:

21 1. Two members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the
22 Senate as follows:

- 23 a. a representative of the local health department from
24 the county in which the pilot program takes place, and

1 b. a representative from a clinic that serves individuals
2 in a predominantly Hispanic or African American
3 community;

4 2. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of
5 Representatives as follows:

6 a. a representative of the State Department of Health,
7 and

8 b. a community health worker who is from a Native
9 American Tribe; and

10 3. Three members appointed by the Governor as follows:

11 a. a representative of a network of not-for-profit
12 community-based primary care providers,

13 b. a physician licensed to practice in this state who
14 specializes in the treatment of chronic illness in the
15 Medicaid population, and

16 c. a dentist licensed to practice in this state who is
17 affiliated with a rural health initiative at a major
18 university in this state.

19 G. On or before December 31, 2014, the Board shall submit a
20 written report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the
21 Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor on the
22 status of the pilot program.

23 H. The Board may promulgate rules as necessary to implement the
24 provisions of this act.

1 I. As used in this section, "community health worker" or
2 "community health navigator" means an individual who:

3 1. Has direct knowledge of the local community;
4 2. Functions as a guide and advocates for individuals and
5 groups in the community by assisting them in accessing community-
6 based health care resources;

7 3. Offers assistance to community members in navigating the
8 health care system;

9 4. Assists individuals in locating patient-centered medical
10 home services;

11 5. Assists individuals in obtaining supportive resources
12 through the provision of health education on healthy lifestyle
13 choices, risk factor reduction, age appropriate basic prevention and
14 wellness topics, relationship building and outreach; and

15 6. Makes referrals to community services.

16 J. Certification as a community health worker or community
17 health navigator shall not authorize an individual to administer
18 medications or perform any other activity that requires judgment
19 based on nursing knowledge or expertise.

20 SECTION 2. This act shall become effective November 1, 2011.

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