

Community Health Worker Advisory Committee - Meeting

October 9, 2020 – 12:30 - 1:05 p.m. (Google Meet)

Maryland Department of Health

Draft Minutes

Advisory Committee Members

Fay Alexander	Lillian Amaya	Rosario Campos	Camisha Coke
LaKerry Dawson	Cheryl De Pinto	Griselda Funn	Ryan Moran
Rachal Parran	Tiffany Scott	Samantha Sailseman	

Maryland Department of Health Staff

Cheryl De Pinto Deborah Donohue Tina Backe Adrienne Taylor

Meeting Opening

The meeting was called to order by Tina Backe at 12:30 p.m.

Welcome & Roll Call/Introductions

Tina Backe and Cheryl De Pinto welcomed and greeted the State Community Health Worker (CHW) Advisory Committee members and the public. Each Committee member introduced themselves.

Opening Remarks

Cheryl De Pinto, Director, Office of Population Health Improvement, thanked everyone able to attend the previous two meetings to address the recommended accommodation during the COVID state of emergency for the practicum component of CHW training programs.

COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force- Surviving Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Committee

Deborah Donohue discussed information sent via email regarding the *COVID-19 Access to Justice Task Force- Surviving Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Committee* surveys. The Maryland Attorney General task force is seeking information regarding the impact of the virus on vulnerable individuals in the community via online surveys.

CHW Training Program Practicum – Recommended Accommodation

Tina Backe provided updates on the revisions to the proposed recommended accommodation to the practicum component of accredited CHW certification training programs to be effective only during the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Highlights from the September 24, 2020 meeting:

1. COMAR regulation and accreditation application process concerning the Practicum component of a CHW training program

2. Background information concerning the Practicum recommended accommodation
3. Draft language for the Practicum recommended accommodation

There is a concern that CHW students may have difficulty finding a practicum as a result of the changing environment in response to COVID. Under the specific circumstances outlined in the revised recommended accommodation, on the job learning could potentially serve as the practicum during the state of emergency.

The COVID-19 state of emergency Practicum recommended accommodation for an accredited CHW certification training program to accept employment as a CHW / another similar position by a currently enrolled student in place of the supervised 40-hour Practicum required by COMAR 10.68.02.03, if:

- There is a documented good-faith attempt by the student to secure an unpaid Practicum position/internship that was unsuccessful;
- The employment is supervised;
- The employment position requires proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies;
- The accredited CHW training program provides to the Department a statement ensuring the employment is in alignment with all Practicum requirements of the accredited CHW certification training program as detailed in their application;
- The employer notifies the accredited CHW certification training program that all components of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application have been completed; and
- The conditions listed above are satisfied before the student receives a document of successful completion from the accredited CHW certification training program.

Also, accredited training programs must:

1. Confirm and maintain supporting documentation that the supervised employment/ position required proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and met all Practicum components of the training program; and
2. Provide details on when the CHW would need to complete the hours of employment to meet the Practicum requirement, including any additional components, of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application.

Motions approved on September 24, 2020, Advisory Committee Meeting

1. The overarching components of the accommodation for the Practicum component of the CHW certification training programs as detailed during the meeting was approved in principle.
2. The Department will provide additional language to the accommodation including information on documentation associated with the language to this Advisory Committee before moving it forward.

Revised Draft Practicum Recommended Accommodation

- There is a documented good-faith attempt by the student to secure an unpaid Practicum position/internship that was unsuccessful;
- The accredited CHW certification training program ensures the supervised employment position will require proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and the employer will meet all components of the Practicum detailed in the CHW training program accreditation application;
- The employer provides documentation to the accredited CHW certification training program that the CHW demonstrated proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and completed the number of supervised hours, including any additional components, of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application;
- The accredited CHW certification training program maintains supporting documentation that the supervised employment position will require proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and the employer will meet all components of the Practicum detailed in the CHW training program accreditation application for a period of time described in their accreditation application for Records Maintenance;
- The accredited CHW certification training program maintains documentation from the employer that the CHW demonstrated proficiency in the nine Maryland CHW core competencies and completed the number of supervised hours, including any additional components, of the Practicum as described by the training program in their accreditation application, for the period of time described in their accreditation application for Records Maintenance;
- The conditions listed above are satisfied while the student is enrolled in the CHW certification training program and before the student receives a document of successful completion from the accredited CHW certification training program; and
- The accredited CHW certification training program reports the number of students, description of employer type, and type of employment position to the Department quarterly or within 30 days of graduating a cohort.

Comments, Considerations, and Motions from the Advisory Committee

In a good faith effort to have an unpaid internship, could there be times where a student could find a paid internship that is not employment?

Recommendation: Delete the word unpaid from the recommended accommodation language.

The motion was voted on and approved by general consensus without objection.

Would the recommended accommodation apply to students enrolled in a training program who completed the 100 instructional hours before the State of Emergency?

Yes, students who completed the instructional hours would still need to complete the practicum component of the CHW training program.

Motion by Cheryl De Pinto to close discussion and put forth a vote.

Second: Ryan Moran and Tiffany Scott

The motion is approved by general consensus without objection.

Vote: During the COVID- 19 state of emergency, is there a recommendation that an accredited Community Health Worker (CHW) certification training program may accept employment as a CHW/another similar position by a currently enrolled student in place of the supervised 40-hour practicum required by COMAR 10.68.02.03, if the revised conditions listed above are met, including the deletion of the word unpaid?

Motion: By Fay Alexander

Second: Cheryl De Pinto and LaKerry Dawson.

The motion was approved by general consensus without objection.

Upcoming Advisory Committee Meeting and Proposed Meeting Dates

The upcoming Advisory Committee meeting will be held on November 16, 2020.

Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ryan Moran and seconded by Rosario Campos, the Committee approved by general consensus without objection to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 pm.