

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 2nd Session of the 57th Legislature (2020)

4 HOUSE BILL 3449

By: McEntire of the House

5 and

6 **McCortney** of the Senate

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8
9 AS INTRODUCED

10 An Act relating to public health; creating the
11 Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; defining terms;
12 providing for powers and duties of State Department
13 of Health to establish and maintain certification of
14 community health worker training curriculum;
authorizing Department to promulgate certain rules;
directing the Department to promulgate certain rules;
providing for codification; and providing an
effective date.

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

18 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
19 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1275 of Title 59, unless there
20 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

21 This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma
22 Community Health Worker Act".
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1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1276 of Title 59, unless there
3 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

4 As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

5 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
6 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a
7 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
8 this state;

9 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline public health
10 worker who is a trusted member and has a shared understanding of the
11 community being served.

12 a. This trusted relationship enables the community health
13 worker to:

14 (1) serve as a liaison between health and social
15 services and the community to facilitate access
16 to services and improve the quality and cultural
17 competence of service delivery,

18 (2) assist in identifying and communicating gaps in
19 current community and health care resources, and

20 (3) build individual and community capacity by
21 increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency
22 through a range of activities such as outreach,
23 community education, coaching, mentoring, social
24 support, and advocacy.

1 b. At a minimum, a community health worker shall be
2 competent in the following:

- 3 (1) communication,
- 4 (2) interpersonal skills,
- 5 (3) service coordination,
- 6 (4) individual and community development,
- 7 (5) individual and community advocacy,
- 8 (6) basic teaching skills,
- 9 (7) organizational skills,
- 10 (8) general knowledge of health care, and
- 11 (9) cultural humility; and

12 3. "Department" means the State Department of Health.

13 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
14 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1277 of Title 59, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The State Department of Health in coordination with the
17 Oklahoma Public Health Association shall have the following powers
18 and duties with regard to establishing and maintaining certification
19 of community health worker training curriculum:

20 1. To evaluate and certify all community health worker
21 education, training, competency programs and curriculum in
22 accordance with specifications and procedures approved by the
23 Department;

1 2. To prescribe, by rule, the scope of practice and the core
2 competencies of certified community health workers, including skills
3 and areas of knowledge that are essential to bring about expanded
4 health and wellness in diverse communities and to reduce health
5 disparities;

6 3. To describe and define reasonable and necessary minimum
7 qualifications, including education and training requirements, for
8 certified community health workers;

9 4. To adopt standards and requirements for the approval or
10 acceptance of continuing education courses and competency programs
11 for the renewal of a certificate; and

12 5. To establish the criteria for granting, denying, suspending
13 and revoking a certificate in order to protect the health and safety
14 of the public.

15 B. The Department may promulgate rules:

16 1. That are necessary for the proper administration and
17 enforcement of the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act;

18 2. That allows for reciprocity agreements, including with the
19 Indian Health Service, Tribal Health Systems and Urban Indian
20 Clinics; and

21 3. That allow those currently serving in the capacity of a
22 community health worker to continue providing services without
23 certification.

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1 C. The Department shall prescribe fees for certification of
2 community health worker education, training and competency programs
3 curriculum.

4 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1278 of Title 59, unless there
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 A. The State Department of Health shall promulgate rules to
8 offer voluntary certification for community health workers that
9 complete a competency program and receive education and training
10 through one of the certified curriculum programs.

11 B. The Department shall establish the criteria for granting,
12 denying, suspending and revoking a certificate in order to protect
13 the health and safety of the public.

14 C. The Department shall adopt rules that prescribe fees for the
15 voluntary certification of community health workers.

16 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2020.

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18 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON RULES, dated 03/02/2020 - DO PASS,
19 As Coauthored.
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