

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature (2010)

3 SENATE BILL 2136

By: Johnson (Constance)

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6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to public health and safety; stating  
8 legislative findings; creating the Community Health  
9 Worker Program Development Committee; stating purpose  
10 of certain committee; specifying duties of certain  
11 committee; providing for membership; directing the  
12 members of certain committee to serve at the pleasure  
13 of the appointing authority; providing for the  
14 selection of a chair and vice-chair; requiring quorum  
15 for final action; providing for travel reimbursement;  
16 directing staff support; providing for  
17 noncodification; providing for codification; and  
18 providing an effective date.

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

20 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law not to be  
21 codified in the Oklahoma Statutes reads as follows:

22 The Legislature finds that:

23 1. Increased attention is being given across the nation to the  
24 role of community health workers as effective components of a health  
care team and workforce;

2. A March 2007 Community Health Workers National Workforce  
Study reported that, during the past decade, private insurers,  
business enterprises and the federal government have proposed and

1 implemented changes in health care delivery and financing due to the  
2 high cost of providing adequate health care to the population at-  
3 large;

4 3. Based on this study, the use of community health workers can  
5 be a cost-effective strategy and addition to the health care  
6 workforce in addressing the health care needs of communities that  
7 are disproportionately at risk of poor health outcomes; and

8 4. There is a need to create a statewide training and  
9 certification program for community health worker alliances,  
10 community leaders, health professionals, and others interested in  
11 the public health workforce.

12 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified  
13 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2061 of Title 63, unless there  
14 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

15 A. There is hereby created the Community Health Worker Program  
16 Development Committee to study issues involved in developing a  
17 statewide training and certification program for community health  
18 worker alliances, community leaders, health professionals, and  
19 others interested in the public health workforce.

20 B. The purpose of the Committee shall be to study ways to bring  
21 community health workers into the public health mainstream and to  
22 establish a community health safety net as a natural extension of  
23 health and human services agencies in order to improve health  
24 outcomes at the neighborhood level.

1 C. The Committee shall:

2 1. Review and assess community health worker programs currently  
3 in operation around the nation;

4 2. Study the feasibility of establishing a standardized  
5 curriculum for community health workers;

6 3. Study the options for certification of community health  
7 workers and the settings in which certification may be appropriate;

8 4. Assess available methods to evaluate the success of  
9 community health worker programs;

10 5. Create, oversee, and advise local pilot projects established  
11 under this section, subject to the availability of appropriations;  
12 and

13 6. Evaluate the feasibility of seeking a federal waiver to  
14 provide for the inclusion of community health worker services as a  
15 Medicaid reimbursable service.

16 D. The Committee shall consist of nine (9) members. Members of  
17 the Committee shall be appointed as follows:

18 1. The Governor shall appoint three members representing the  
19 Oklahoma Task Force to Eliminate Health Disparities;

20 2. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall appoint three  
21 members representing health advocacy groups; and

22 3. The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint  
23 three members representing health professionals.

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1 E. The members of the Committee shall serve at the pleasure of  
2 the appointing authority.

3 F. The Committee shall select a chair and vice-chair from among  
4 the members.

5 G. A quorum of the Committee shall be required for any final  
6 action by the committee.

7 H. Members of the Committee shall receive no compensation for  
8 their service, but shall be reimbursed for necessary travel expenses  
9 incurred in the performance of their duties in accordance with the  
10 State Travel Reimbursement Act.

11 I. Staff support for the Committee shall be provided by the  
12 State Department of Health.

13 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2010.

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