

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 59th Legislature (2024)

HOUSE BILL 3798

By: Hefner, McEntire, and Roe
of the House

and

Young of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to community health workers; creating the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; defining terms; directing establishment of certificate; making certification voluntary; listing powers of community health worker; requiring and authorizing promulgation of certain rules; directing establishment of certain fees; providing for codification; and providing an effective date.

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

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.1 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.2 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

1 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
2 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a
3 certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
4 this state;

5 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline public health
6 worker who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member in
7 the community being served; and

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

9 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
10 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.3 of Title 59, unless there
11 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

12 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate
13 for community health workers. This certification shall be
14 voluntary.

15 B. A certified community health worker may:

16 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and
17 the community to facilitate access to services and improve the
18 quality and cultural competence of service delivery;

19 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
20 community and health care resources; and

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

SECTION 4. NEW LAW

A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.4 of Title 59, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules to:

1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;
2. Establish examination administration requirements for the Department or one or more designees;
3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be certified; and

4. Establish the criteria for granting, denying, suspending, and revoking a certificate to protect public health and safety.

B. The Commissioner may also promulgate rules necessary for the proper administration and enforcement of the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act and which allow for reciprocity agreements including, but not limited to, with the Indian Health Service, Tribal Contract or Compact Health Centers, Urban Indian Health Centers, and tribal health systems.

C. The Commissioner shall prescribe fees for the certified community health worker examination, initial certification, and certification renewal.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2024.

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