

1 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES - FLOOR VERSION**

2 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

3 1st Session of the 60th Legislature (2025)

4 ENGROSSED SENATE
5 BILL NO. 424

 By: Gillespie and Nice of the
 Senate

6 and

7 Hefner of the House

8
9
10 An Act relating to community health workers; creating
11 the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; providing
12 short title; defining terms; directing establishment
13 of certificate; making certification voluntary;
14 listing functions of community health worker;
15 requiring and prohibiting certain acts by community
16 health worker; providing eligibility criteria;
17 directing promulgation of certain rules; providing
18 for codification; and 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 to be codified
21 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063a of Title 63, unless there
22 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

1 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
2 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063b of Title 63, 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 health worker
10 who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member of the
11 community being served; 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 2063c of Title 63, unless there
15 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

16 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate
17 for community health workers. This certification shall be
18 voluntary.

19 B. A certified community health worker may:

20 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and
21 the community to facilitate access to services, to improve the
22 quality of service delivery, and to maximize the efficiency of
23 service delivery by coordinating available resources and leveraging
24 partnerships with private, nonprofit, or faith-based organizations;

1 2. Assist individuals in attaining employment, education,
2 occupational training, or other means of supporting employment and
3 promoting self-sufficiency;

4 3. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
5 community and health care resources; and

6 4. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health
7 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as
8 outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support,
9 and advocacy, including efforts within faith-based settings.

10 C. In carrying out the functions described in paragraph 1 of
11 subsection B of this section, community health workers shall
12 emphasize available resources of private, nonprofit, or faith-based
13 organizations, and shall not rely solely on public assistance
14 programs for delivery of services.

15 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
16 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063d of Title 63, unless there
17 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

18 To be eligible for voluntary community health worker
19 certification, an individual shall:

- 20 1. Be a United States citizen or lawful permanent resident;
21 2. Be a resident of this state;
22 3. Be at least eighteen (18) years of age; and
23
24

1 4. Meet the minimum qualifications for certification
2 promulgated by the State Commissioner of Health under Section 5 of
3 this act.

4 SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
5 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 2063e of Title 63, unless there
6 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

7 The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules
8 necessary to implement this act including, but not limited to, rules
9 that:

10 1. Adopt a set of standards for the approval of certified
11 community health worker initial coursework or curriculum;

12 2. Establish examination administration requirements for the
13 State Department of Health or one or more designees;

14 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
15 certified; provided, however, the applicant shall be exempt from any
16 educational, training, or examination requirements if the applicant
17 has provided evidence to the State Department of Health of work
18 experience as a community health worker demonstrating a minimum of
19 one thousand (1,000) practical hours and a recommendation from a
20 supervising provider;

21 4. Establish the criteria for granting, renewing, denying,
22 suspending, and revoking a certificate to uphold health standards
23 and safety;
24

1 5. Prescribe fees for the certified community health worker
2 examination, initial certification, and certification renewal; and

3 6. Implement oversight procedures to ensure compliance with the
4 provisions of this act, including a complaint and disciplinary
5 process for violations.

6 SECTION 6. This act shall become effective November 1, 2025.

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8 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
9 OVERSIGHT, dated 04/16/2025 - DO PASS.

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