
SENATE BILL 6498

State of Washington 65th Legislature 2018 Regular Session

By Senators Becker, Fain, Rivers, Brown, Bailey, and Warnick

1 AN ACT Relating to training and certification for community
2 health workers; adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW; and
3 creating new sections.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** Community health workers are valuable
6 members of health and social service delivery systems. The
7 legislature finds that training and certification for community
8 health workers must be established in order to most effectively
9 utilize community health workers, and ensure they receive excellent
10 training and support in their efforts to provide the best possible
11 patient and client care.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.70
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 (1) The collaborative for the advancement of community health
15 workers is created to enhance the understanding and use of community
16 health workers. The collaborative shall be hosted and lead by the
17 University of Washington and shall be comprised of one member from
18 each of the two largest caucuses of the senate and the house of
19 representatives, representatives from the department, one
20 representative from the health care authority, one representative

1 from the department of social and health services, three invited
2 representatives from health and social service settings that may
3 utilize community health workers, and three invited community health
4 workers.

5 (2) The collaborative shall be convened by July 1, 2018.

6 (3) By December 31, 2018, the collaborative shall design the
7 training and qualification requirements for community health workers
8 which shall include:

9 (a) Training curriculum;

10 (b) Number of training hours;

11 (c) Methods for training including, but not limited to, online,
12 in-person, and utilization of project ECHO (extension for community
13 healthcare outcomes);

14 (d) Minimum education;

15 (e) Experience;

16 (f) Process for certification or endorsement for new community
17 health workers and grandfathering existing community health workers;
18 and

19 (g) Any other provisions the collaborative deems necessary to
20 achieve a standardized training for community health workers in
21 Washington state.

22 (4) When designing the training and qualification requirements,
23 the collaborative must review and identify best practices from
24 existing Washington state and Washington counties' certification and
25 training programs which shall include, but not be limited to, King
26 county's peer bridgers, the department of social and health services'
27 peer counselors, and the department's community health workers.

28 (5) By July 1, 2019, the department shall adopt and implement the
29 community health worker training and qualification requirements as
30 part of a certification or endorsement program as determined in
31 subsection (3) of this section.

32 (6) For purposes of this section, "community health worker" means
33 a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and has
34 an unusually close understanding of the community served. This
35 trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison, link,
36 or intermediary between health and social services and the community
37 to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural
38 competence of service delivery.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The department of health shall conduct a
2 sunrise review under chapter 18.120 RCW to evaluate the creation of a
3 community health worker credential and the scope of practice of the
4 profession.

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