

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 70

BY SENATOR BARROW

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee to study and provide recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health relative to supporting and expanding the community health worker workforce in Louisiana.

WHEREAS, community health workers (CHW) are an emerging group of healthcare professionals who, according to the American Public Health Association (APHA), serve as frontline public health workers who are trusted members of their community with a unique understanding of the needs of the community they serve. This trusting relationship enables these workers to serve as a liaison, link, or intermediary between health, social services, and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery. A CHW also builds individual and community capacity by increasing health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, it has been demonstrated that CHWs can improve health outcomes, reduce costs of healthcare, and address social determinants of health by collaborating with healthcare, public health, and social services systems; and

WHEREAS, policies and practices related to CHW workforce development are made at the state level, and Louisiana has not previously examined the CHW workforce; and

WHEREAS, national recommendations for CHW workforce development include convening stakeholder groups comprised of a majority of CHWs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby create the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce Study Committee to study and provide recommendations to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health relative to supporting and expanding the community health worker workforce in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall be initially established with twenty-three members, twelve of which shall be CHWs. Additional members may be added at the discretion of the cochairman, but in accordance with APHA policy, CHWs shall always comprise the majority of the members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the initial composition of the study committee shall be as follows:

(1) The director of CHW programs at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center of New Orleans, or his designee, who shall serve as the cochairman of the study committee.

(2) The dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, or his designee.

(3) The secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, or his designee, who shall have expertise in community partnerships and health equity.

(4) The Louisiana Medicaid director, or his designee, who shall have expertise in clinical innovation.

(5) The assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of public health, or his designee.

(6) The executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association, or his designee.

(7) A representative of the governor's workforce initiative, appointed by the governor.

(8) The executive director of Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana, or his designee.

(9) The chairman of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network, or his designee, who shall represent non-CHWs and shall serve as cochairman of the study committee.

(10) A representative who practices as a doula who shall represent non-CHWs and who shall be appointed by the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health.

(11) Ten CHWs representing the Louisiana Department of Health's ten geographical local governing entity regions who shall be appointed by the cochairmen.

(12) A representative of the Louisiana Medicaid MCO Association.

(13) The President of the Senate, or his designee.

(14) The Speaker of the House of Representatives, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the study committee shall serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority and shall serve without compensation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall submit a written report to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health on or before March 1, 2020, with findings and recommendations on the following:

(1) The definition of CHW to be used in Louisiana.

(2) Core skills, roles, scope of practice, and competencies for CHWs.

(3) Expanding CHW training infrastructure.

(4) Strategies for enhancing employer readiness for hiring CHWs.

(5) Tracking CHW employment in Louisiana.

(6) Sustainable methods for financing reimbursement for CHW services.

(7) Whether certification of CHWs is necessary in Louisiana, based on input from a study of Louisiana CHWs, and if certification is necessary, recommendations for a process to develop certification standards, eligibility requirements, and plans for financing and administering certification.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health shall provide staff support for the study committee and shall call the first meeting of the study committee no later than July 1, 2019.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study committee shall meet no less than six times prior to issuing its report to the secretary. All meetings shall occur in person and shall be public meetings; however, committee members shall have the option to participate in meetings via teleconference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, the director of CHW programs at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center of New Orleans, the dean of the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, the deputy director of the Louisiana Department of Health community partnerships - health equity program, the Medicaid clinical innovation officer, the assistant secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health, office of

public health, the executive director of the Louisiana Primary Care Association, the governor, the executive director of Taking Aim at Cancer in Louisiana, the chairman of the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network, and the president of the Louisiana Medicaid MCO Association.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES