**March 9, 2017**

**Conference Call between Pennsylvania Certification Board, Jewish Healthcare Foundation, and PA Department of Health**

**Attendees**: Robert Ferguson (Jewish Healthcare Foundation); Becky Kishbaugh, Siri Reddy and Ashley Parsons (PA Dept. of Health); Mary Jo Mather and Alissa Bradley (PA Certification Board).

Pennsylvania Certification Board: <https://www.pacertboard.org/>

Conference call was held to find out more information about the PA Certification Board (PBC). **Highlights from this call**:

1. PCB has existed for 38 years and Mary Jo Mather has been the executive director for 32 years. It is a private, non-profit that offers voluntary credentialing to substance use and other behavioral health professionals.
2. PCB has worked with the PA Department of Human Services – Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to develop certification for Peer Recovery Specialists.
3. PCB works with Rhode Island, Delaware, and Virginia in addition to a number of international entities.
4. Rhode Island’s Department of Health’s CHW program reached out to PCB for assistance on their CHW certification. PCB established a strategic plan, completed a CHW job analysis, spent days with CHW subject matter experts in Rhode Island, and received input from CHWs. Rhode Island’s timeline is to have CHW certification in place by end of this year (November/December). Rhode Island does not have current legislation regarding CHWs, and plans to move forward with Medicaid reimbursement for CHWs.
5. Virginia also reached out to PCB for assistance with CHW certification. VA also does not have regulations around CHWs.
6. All of PA’s information from the CHW workgroups (employer, training, and policy) has been provided to PCB. All workgroups had CHWs present and CHWs were able to provide input. The information provided includes core competencies.
7. PCB has the infrastructure and capacity to build, develop and maintain a CHW registry. They do collect data on any certifications issues.
8. PCB also has a built in ethics review on each individual. Each individual is held accountable for their actions and if there are any disciplinary actions taken, then PCB will note this in their registry.
9. The registry can be accessed by employers across PA. So, if an individual notes that they are CHW certified, then an employer can look this information up with ease.
10. PCB does build in the ability to grandfather individuals into the certification process.
11. PCB only takes certification fees as their source of payment. They did share that some other states provide scholarships for individuals to receive their certification. They have worked with states on developing a re-certification process as well.

**Next Steps:**

**Pennsylvania already has the core competencies developed, along with the curriculum and education requirements so we may only need 1 or 2 days with subject matter experts, including CHWS, to finalize the process.**

1. Robert will set up a follow-up conference call with all co-chairs of PA-CHW workgroups to discuss the possibility of moving forward working with PCB to develop and finalize the certification process for CHWs.
2. If co-chairs are on board, then PCB will be contacted again to begin next steps.

S:\CANCER PREVENTION & CONTROL\Community Health Worker (CHW)\Certification Process\March 9 PCB CHW notes.docx