Definitions:

A ***certified community health worker*** means a community health worker who has completed the certification process from the division under this chapter.

A ***Community Health Worker (CHW)*** is “an essential frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the CHW to serve as a liaison/link/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.”

Division is defined as the designated division upon which the Health and Human Services agency places certification

**Community Health Worker Certification Advisory Board.**The division shall notify the Health and Human Services Interim Committee if it determines that there is a need to create, by statute, a Community Health Worker Certification Advisory Board.

**Certification.**

1. The division shall issue to a person who qualifies under this chapter a certificate as a certified community health worker.
2. This chapter prohibits a person from representing or holding oneself out as a certified community health worker if the person does not have a certificate described in Subsection (1).

**Qualifications for Certification:**

1. An individual qualifies as a certified community health worker (CHW) if the individual:
   1. Acts as a community health worker in providing culturally competent health information, serving as a link between health, social services, and the community served, building capacity of community, addressing the social determinants of health within the community.
   2. Has completed a division-approved training:
      1. Competency-based training shall be administered by
         1. the Department of Health (or the newly formed Department of Health and Human services);
         2. or the state professional association related to the national professional workforce association,
         3. or a designated entity agreed upon by the state affiliate association.
      2. 90 hours of competency-based curriculum and 300 hours of community involvement as defined by the division.
      3. Competency-based curriculum shall include core skills
         1. advocacy, outreach, capacity building, individual and community assessment, coordination and navigation, interpersonal and relationship building, education and facilitation, communication, and professional conduct.
         2. Training shall also include a basic understanding of medical confidentiality requirements, including the confidentiality requirements of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act;
      4. The division may exempt a community health worker from competency-based curriculum if they have served 5 years or 4000 hours of experience acting as a community health worker.
      5. Completes an application with a signed statement agreeing to abide by national standards of practice and code of ethics.
      6. paid a reasonable fee established by the division.

**Certification is Voluntary**

1. The certification provided under this chapter is voluntary with the exception for those who seek Medicaid reimbursement for services.
2. This chapter does not prohibit a person from acting as a community health worker, if the person does not have a certificate described in Subsection(1).

**Term of Certification - Expiration - Renewal**

1. Notwithstanding Section \_\_, the division shall issue each certification under this chapter in accordance with a 2 year renewal cycle established by rule.
2. The division may by rule extend or shorten a renewal cycle by as much as two years to stagger the renewal cycles that the division administers.
3. Each certification automatically expires 90 days after the expiration date shown on the certification unless the certified community health worker renews the certification in accordance with Section\_\_