

1 **SENATE FLOOR VERSION**

2 February 9, 2023

3 SENATE BILL NO. 535

By: Rosino

4
5 An Act relating to community health workers; creating
6 the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act; providing
7 short title; defining terms; directing establishment
8 of certificate; making certification voluntary;
9 listing powers of community health worker; requiring
10 and authorizing promulgation of certain rules;
11 directing establishment of certain fees; providing
12 for codification; and providing an effective date.

13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

14 SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
15 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.1 of Title 59, unless there
16 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

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

19 SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
20 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.2 of Title 59, unless there
21 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

22 As used in the Oklahoma Community Health Worker Act:

23 1. "Certified community health worker" means a community health
24 worker to whom the State Department of Health has issued a
certificate to practice as a certified community health worker in
this state;

1 2. "Community health worker" means a frontline public health
2 worker who has a shared understanding of and is a trusted member in
3 the community being served; and

4 3. "Department" means the State Department of Health.

5 SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
6 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.3 of Title 59, unless there
7 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

8 A. The State Department of Health shall establish a certificate
9 for community health workers. This certification shall be
10 voluntary.

11 B. A certified community health worker may:

12 1. Serve as a liaison between health and social services and
13 the community to facilitate access to services and improve the
14 quality and cultural competence of service delivery;

15 2. Assist in identifying and communicating gaps in current
16 community and health care resources; and

17 3. Build individual and community capacity by increasing health
18 knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as
19 outreach, community education, coaching, mentoring, social support,
20 and advocacy.

21 SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified
22 in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1280.4 of Title 59, unless there
23 is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

24 A. The State Commissioner of Health shall promulgate rules to:

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

3 2. Establish examination administration requirements for the
4 Department or one or more designees;

5 3. Define minimum qualifications for applicants to be
6 certified; and

7 4. Establish the criteria for granting, denying, suspending,
8 and revoking a certificate to protect public health and safety.

9 B. The Commissioner may also promulgate rules necessary for the
10 proper administration and enforcement of the Oklahoma Community
11 Health Worker Act and which allow for reciprocity agreements
12 including, but not limited to, with the Indian Health Service,
13 Tribal Contract or Compact Health Centers, Urban Indian Health
14 Centers, and tribal health systems.

15 C. The Commissioner shall prescribe fees for the certified
16 community health worker examination, initial certification, and
17 certification renewal.

18 SECTION 5. This act shall become effective November 1, 2023.

19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
20 February 9, 2023 - DO PASS