

## RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 182 (HB 587)

2023 Regular Session

Moore

New law establishes the Louisiana Community Health Worker Workforce board within the La. Dept. of Health (LDH).

New law provides for definitions, which includes defining "community health worker" as an individual who serves as a liaison for community members to facilitate access to health and social services and to improve quality and cultural competence of service delivery through outreach, education, support, and advocacy. New law further provides that the term "community health worker" as used in new law does not include an individual who provides clinical services.

New law requires the board to consist of 11 members as follows:

- (1) The director of the Community Health Worker Institute at La. State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans or his designee.
- (2) A member of the board of directors of the La. Public Health Institute or his designee.
- (3) The secretary of LDH or his designee.
- (4) The Medicaid executive director in this state or his designee.
- (5) The chair of the La. Community Health Outreach Network or his designee.
- (6) Six community health workers representing community-based organizations.

New law requires such members to be appointed by the governor from a list of community health workers recommended by the 10 human services districts and authorities provided in existing law and developed in consultation with the Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network. New law further requires such community health workers to represent all areas of the state, including rural areas.

New law requires the board to meet twice a year and further requires members of the board to serve without compensation.

New law requires the La. State University Health Science Center, Center for Healthcare Value and Equity, to provide staffing for the board.

New law further requires the board to develop all of the following:

- (1) A recommended program to enhance employer readiness in hiring community health workers.
- (2) Recommendations for core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers in Louisiana.
- (3) Recommended standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs, including recommended standards for community health worker educators.
- (4) Recommendations for sustainable methods of financing for community health worker services.

New law provides that the board may do all of the following:

- (1) Review community health worker training programs.
- (2) Make recommendations to community health worker training programs.

- (3) Track employment of community health workers in La. from information provided voluntarily to the board by entities such as employers or community-based organizations.

New law authorizes LDH, in consultation with the board, to adopt rules pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act to implement core skills, roles, and competencies for community health workers; to implement standards and requirements for community health worker education and training programs; and to implement standards for community health worker education.

New law provides that the board shall terminate operations on Dec. 31, 2028.

New law requires the board to elect a chair at its first meeting.

Effective August 1, 2023.

(Adds R.S. 36:259(B)(19) and R.S. 37:3721-3726)