

**From:** [Valencia, Kaitland](#)  
**To:** [Lopez, Stephanie, DOH](#)  
**Cc:** [Westgate, Liam](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Submitting comments  
**Date:** Friday, April 25, 2025 9:57:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Stephanie,

I am sending these written comments in hopes that they will be published as the sunshine portal website alludes to comments being taken until 5PM today.

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Proposed Rule Name:

Certification of Community Health Workers

Agency:

Department of Health

Purpose:

The purpose of the proposed repeal and replacement of 7.29.5 NMAC is to implement the Community Health Workers Act, sections 24-30-1 through -7, which requires the Department of Health to adopt and promulgate rules concerning the Community Health Workers Program.

Summary:

The New Mexico Department of Health will hold a public hearing on the proposed repeal and replacement of rule 7.29.5 NMAC, Certification of Community Health Workers. The hearing will be conducted to receive public comments regarding the proposed repeal and replacement of rule 7.29.5 NMAC.

The Department proposes to repeal and replace the entirety of rule 7.29.5 NMAC, to incorporate various new and modified provisions, including but not limited to provisions concerning:

- Definitions (section 7);
- The Board of Certification of Community Health Workers, including standards for Board membership, meetings, and duties and responsibilities of the Board (section 8);
- The NM Registry of Community Health Workers (section 9);
- Certification and recertification requirements for Community Health Workers, including but not limited to the application process and application requirements, certification levels, requirements for reinstatement after lapse, suspension, or revocation; grounds for disapproval, fees; and prohibitions against unauthorized training and unauthorized practice (section 10);
- Criminal history screening requirements (section 11);
- Requirements for Department endorsement of persons who wish to conduct CHW trainings (section 12);
- Requirements for Department approval of CHW continuing education programs (section 13);
- Standards for the CHW Certification Review Committee, including but not limited to grounds for denial, suspension, revocation, or other adverse action against a certificate, and standards concerning Committee review of criminal history screening results (section 14);
- Hearing process for appeals of decisions, including but not limited to standards concerning the right to appeal, notice of hearing, admissible evidence, burden of proof, legal representation, hearing officer duties, and the decision of the Department (section 15).

How to submit Comments:

All written comments will be published on the agency website at <https://nmhealth.org/publication/regulation/> within 3 days of receipt, and will be available at the New Mexico Department of Health Office of General Counsel for public inspection.

Comments will be taken through the day of the hearing until 5:00 p.m.

**When are comments due:**  
4/25/2025 5:00 PM

Hearing Date:  
4/25/2025 9:00 AM

Public Hearing Location:  
Virtual Hearing via telephone or Microsoft Teams 4/25/25 (9:00 AM -- Approximately 12:00 PM) 4/25/2025 (9:00 AM -12:00 PM )

How to participate:  
To access the hearing by telephone: please call 505-312-4300, phone conference i.d. code 223372442 #. To access the hearing via internet: please go to <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>, enter the following meeting i.d. code and passcode where indicated on screen--- meeting i.d. code 268 152 498 095, passcode 91T269Eb, then click the "Join a meeting" button.

- Adjacent to the certification requirements, our organization has also recognized that these barriers - especially for peers in recovery and individuals with a past history of interaction with carceral systems - face compounding barriers with both the certification process and then the additional scrutiny that CHWs may go through with the credentialing process with insurance. In general, we would hope to remove barriers to promote access to opportunities for CHWs and related workforce development.
- Put together, we - like many organizations - would hope that there would not be unintended disincentives and barriers created for individuals to pursue CHW opportunities.
- We worry that an additional \$85 dollar cost to application fees will be detrimental in the volume of recertifications you will receive for our CHW workforce, especially because these roles do not get paid nearly enough as they should. This also puts pressure on organization who may not be able to afford reimbursing these fees due to budget cuts and restraints with these higher costs.

Kindly,

*Kaitland Valencia*, MS, CCHW  
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**Community Health**  
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Pronouns: She/ella

*Please Note: I do not expect a response from you outside of your normal working hours, while you're on PTO, evenings, or weekends.*

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