

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Informational Notice 01-04

To: Local Workforce Development Board Executive Directors
Commission Executive Staff
Integrated Service Area Managers
Commission Local Offices

From: Luis M. Macias, Director, Workforce Development Division

Date: March 25, 2004

Subject: Certification for Instructors of Community Health Workers
[Promotores(as)]

PURPOSE:

To inform Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) about the Texas Department of Health (TDHS), Office of Public Health Practice (OPHP) rollout of applications for certification of the following entities:

- Instructors of community health workers or promotores(as)
[CHWs/promotores(as)]
- Sponsoring institutions and training providers

BACKGROUND:

Texas is the first state to certify CHWs/promotores(as). OPHP seeks to integrate CHWs/promotores(as) into the community to ensure essential public health services are provided to low-income Texas residents with cultural or language barriers. This includes Colonias residents.

HB 1864, as passed by the 76th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, defines a CHW/promotora as a person who, with or without compensation, promotes health within his or her community by engaging in the following activities:

- Providing health education
- Making referrals to health and social services providers
- Coaching families on effective ways to access health services
- Conducting needs assessments
- Identifying barriers to health care delivery
- Making home visits
- Providing language services
- Collecting information regarding the outcome of health services provided to families
- Acting as a liaison between families and health care providers

SB 1051, as passed by the 77th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, requires mandatory training and certification of CHWs/promotores(as) who are compensated for providing a variety of community services.

SB 751, as passed by the 77th Texas Legislature, Regular Session, directs the Health and Human Services Commission to require health and human services agencies to utilize trained and certified CHWs/promotores(as) to the extent possible.

Certified instructors must be affiliated with TDHS-certified sponsoring institutions or training programs.

In order to address the need for certified instructors in this occupation, Boards are encouraged to coordinate with OPHP on this public health and workforce initiative.

For additional information or an instructor application, contact:

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INQUIRIES:

Direct inquiries to Catherine Gorham at (512) 475-0216 or
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