



# Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) CHW/CHR Implementation Plan and Perspective

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# Acronyms

- AHCCCS- Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
  - Arizona Medicaid
- ALTCS- Arizona Long Term Care System
- CBO- Community-Based Organization
- CHW- Community Health Worker
- CHR- Community Health Representative
- CMS- Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
- IHS- Indian Health Services
- LTC- Long Term Care
- MCO- Managed Care Organizations
  - Medicaid health plans
- SPA- State Plan Amendment

# Background

- As of 2014, CMS changed a rule that expanded reimbursement of preventive services and helped facilitate reimbursement for CHW services through state Medicaid programs.
  - After this change, other non-licensed practitioners, such as CHWs, can provide and be reimbursed for preventive services.
  - Preventative services must be recommended by a physician or other licensed practitioners.
  - Services must involve direct patient care and must directly address the physical or mental health of the patient.
- In order to make CHWs reimbursable under Title XIX/XXI, states must submit a state plan amendment (SPA) that describes:
  - Education, training or credentialing the state will require of CHWs, and
  - Define which services CHWs will provide and how they will be reimbursed.

# CHW/CHRs in Other State Medicaid Programs

- Numerous states have moved forward with seeking SPA approval for CHW reimbursement, including:
  - Oregon's Patient Centered Primary Care Home Program covers services provided by certified CHWs.
  - Minnesota established a CHW certification; reimbursement is limited to education and symptom management codes.
  - North Dakota CHW reimbursement is limited to a LTC targeted case management program.
  - South Dakota member must have a qualifying condition or barriers and CHW services are limited to health systems navigation, health promotion and coaching and health education.

# CHWs/CHRs in Arizona

- Arizona has a long-standing CHW/CHR workforce in communities and organizations across Arizona.
- At least 5 AHCCCS contracted health plans (MCOs) currently utilize CHWs & utilize them for nearly the full range of CHW core competencies.
  - Health plans pay for CHW/CHR using administrative funds but cannot count these costs as medical services or submit encounters to AHCCCS.
- 19 of the 22 Tribes in Arizona employ CHRs.
  - CHRs have traditionally been funded through the IHS system.
  - CHRs currently make up roughly 30% of the CHW workforce in Arizona.

# Potential Impact on AHCCCS Population Health

- CHWs/CHRs can be utilized in both the adult and/or children's systems of care to decrease health disparities.
- CHWs/CHRs are well positioned to reach patients in rural settings, who often encounter additional challenges accessing care.
- CHWs/CHRs are especially valuable in vulnerable, underserved communities that struggle with multiple barriers to health and health care, such as limited english proficiency, unmet social needs, and obstacles to reliable transportation (i.e. SDOH).

# Considerations for CHWs/CHRs in Arizona

- In 2018 HB 2324 was signed into law, establishing the CHW Advisory Council and voluntary certifications of CHWs.
- April 2020 AHCCCS convened a CHW/CHR workgroup to explore a path for Medicaid reimbursement:
  - Exploring multiple reimbursement models:
    - CHW/CHR billing as a unique provider type
    - CHW/CHR billing under a medical provider
    - CHW/CHR billing under an agency, such as CBO/CHW organization

# Potential CHW/CHR Medicaid Covered Services

- The AHCCCS CHW/CHR workgroup utilized the Scope of Practice as outlined by AZCHOW & the CHR Workforce Assessment to identify potential scope of reimbursement. Potential services include:
  - Patient education and training for patient self-management by a qualified, nonphysician health care professional using a standardized curriculum, face-to-face with the patient
  - Home Care Training, Family
  - Home Care Training, Nonfamily
  - Patient education, nonphysician providers

\*Services are only under consideration and require additional financial analysis and review



# Next Steps

- AHCCCS path for CHW implementation in Medicaid
  - Finalization of ADHS Voluntary Certification Rules to determine final CHW scope.
  - Submit SPA and approval by CMS.
  - Implement a structure for CHW Medicaid registration/reimbursement.
  - Activation of billing codes (in alignment with the CHW scope established through the Voluntary Certification).
  - Training, public information, technical assistance.

# Poll Questions



Link:

<https://app.sli.do/event/bexw7W/Kw9smxy5r66wMVd4>

Questions?

Thank You.