

## CYBHWG Behavioral Health Integration (BHI) subgroup March 14, 2023

**Leads:** Kristin Houser and Sarah Rafton

### Legislative Update

#### Highlights

- The Partnership Access Line (PAL) recommendation has forward momentum with positive conversations and good awareness amongst legislators.
- Continuation of Community Health Workers (CHWs) is looking positive but doesn't have as much legislative awareness.
- Revenue forecast will inform budget proposal decisions and is expected to be released on 3/20/2023.
- There was allocation in the governor's budget for Department of Health (DOH) to support the training of community health works in the next 2 years.
- Governor's budget allows a pediatric organization to help developers with this initiative and one idea is to support a learning collaborative for CHWs once they are on the job.
- Held a successful collaborative CHW training for new pediatric CHWs with 28 of the 39 at the training; topics included child development, mental health access and services, CHWs roles and responsibilities, and team collaboration.
- Waiting for the revenue forecast and the budget costs to determine BH rate increases for conditional grants, but hopeful the 7% increase in the governor's budget will pass.
- A separate request for conditional grants is seeing positive feedback and awareness but will be depended on the revenue forecast.

#### Q&A / Comments

- Anything we can or should be doing?  
*Not now. The day of the revenue forecast is released is a good day to advocate, which could be sending messages at the end of the release day to legislators.*
- Focus on one; PAL or CHW program?  
*CHW program has less awareness.*
- Does CHW training offer curriculum that is focused on services they will be providing?  
*DOH created targeted pediatric training for CHWs.*

### Update on BHI Start-up Grants

Becky Carroll, Health Care Authority (HCA)

#### Highlights

- Psychiatric consults are included for the new 10 start-up clinics; possibly use this information to track data to confirm the service delivery value.

- A [Behavioral Health Integration Grant webinar](#) was held on February 27, 2023, answering questions around credentials and other BH certifications the state recognizes for the BHI Grants.
- Application deadline is March 24<sup>th</sup> with grant awardees announced in April and distribution of funds anticipated to take place April/May.
- Currently seeking feedback on questions around arrangements for psychiatric consultation and supervision.
- The internal process for reviewing applications consists of leveraging subject matter experts and legal staff to create an application review panel.

## Community Health Worker (CHW) Education Update

### Highlights

- A 3-day in person training was led by 3 pediatric CHW incumbents with the co-delivery of a licensed Social Worker and the support of University of Washington (UW).
- Provided 2-hour zoom sessions on relative topics once a week for the month of March.

## Sustaining Pediatric CHWs

Christine Cole, HCA

See page 4 for slides

### Highlights

- Legislation calls out partnering with community partners, such as pediatric primary care clinics and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) to explore longer-term sustainable reimbursement options for integration.
- Important to look at CHW reimbursement more broadly in the future.
- Collaboration took place with other states to learn of what they are doing for reimbursement of CHWs.
- Important to leverage federal funds for sustainability.
- Currently we have CHWs in Washington that are part of Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC) and receive a cost-based reimbursement for Medicaid services.
- CHW's must be included as partners in creating guidance of Medicaid reimbursement options.
- Finding it a challenge to define what is Medicaid reimbursable due to the broad range of scope of practice and functions across the community for CHWs.
- The current billable codes that are available for use are not motivating therefore, they are not being utilized.

## Chat


- [Behavioral Health Integration \(BHI\) Grant | Washington State Health Care Authority](#)
- [Behavioral Health Integration \(BHI\) Grant FAQ](#)
- [Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Grant webpage](#)

## Attendees

Nikki Banks, Health Care Authority (HCA)  
Rachel Burke, HCA  
Becky Carrell, HCA  
Phyllis Cavens, Child and Adolescent Clinic  
Stella Chang, HCA  
Christine Cole, HCA  
Megan Gillis, Molina Healthcare  
Andrew Hill, Excelsior Wellness  
Libby Hein, Molina Healthcare

Bob Hilt, Seattle Children’s Hospital  
Connie Mom-Chhing, Community Health Plan of  
Washington (CHPW)  
Julia O’Connor, The Washington Council  
Liz Perez, HCA  
Wendy Pringle, HopeSparks  
Beth Tinker, HCA  
Amber Ulvenes, Advocate  
Cindi Wiek, HCA





# Community Health Worker Medicaid Reimbursement

Implementing SSB 5693 Sec 211 (103)

Community Presentation  
March 2023

# Agenda

Background and Project Timeline

Apple Health (Medicaid) 101

Learning about CHWs and Medicaid

Future State Plan Options

Community Input

Stay Involved

# SSB 5693 Sec 211 (103)


## Background & Timeline




# Community Health Workers (CHW) in Primary Care supporting children and youth [ESSB 5693, Sec. 211 (103)]

## Legislative Direction

2-year grant program  
Jan 2023 – Jan 2025


 Outreach, informal counseling, and social supports for health related social needs

 Determine if eligible for federal matching funds


 Report on impact and health outcomes

  Explore long term reimbursement options

## Policy Implementation

 Administer grant to primary care settings serving children, youth, and their families

 Collaborate with Department of Health (DOH) to align with CHW core curriculum and new health specific modules

 Include CHW services in Medicaid Transformation Project Waiver renewal as means for possible federal match funds

 Conduct a mixed methods evaluation to assess impact and support sustainability efforts

# Exploring CHW Reimbursement

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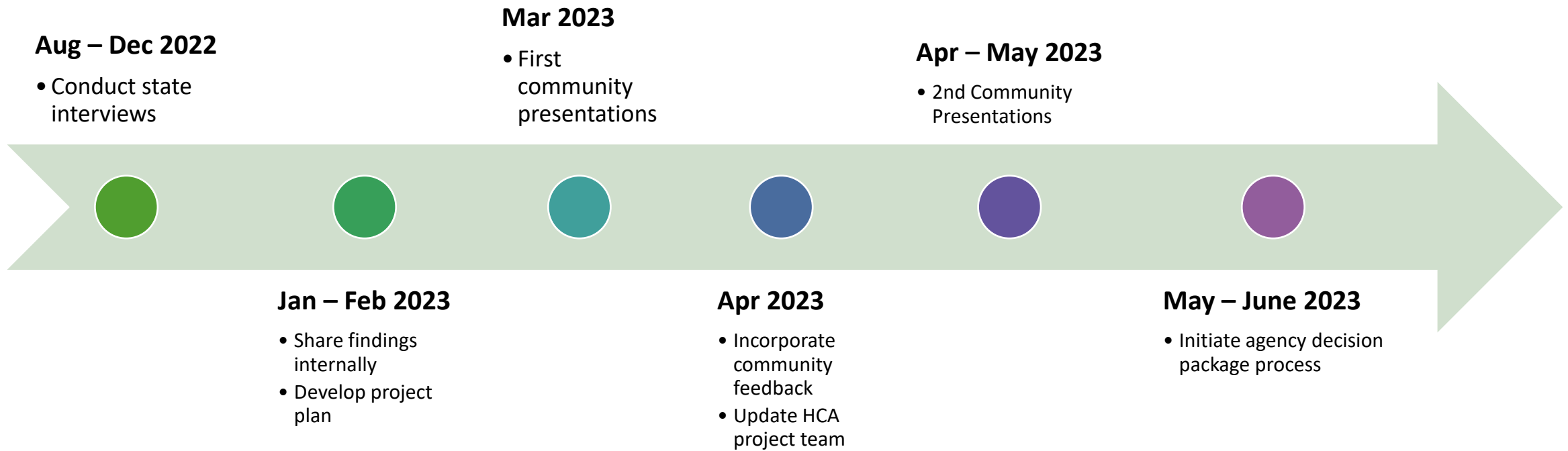
ESSB 5693, Sec. 211 (103) states:

- ▶ “In collaboration with key stakeholders including pediatric primary care clinics and Medicaid managed care organizations, the authority shall explore longer term, sustainable reimbursement options for the integration of community health workers in primary care to address the health-related social needs of families, including approaches to incorporate federal funding.”



# Project Timeline

- ▶ CHW grant development activities took place June through December 2022 with the grant launch in January 2023.



# Apple Health (Medicaid)

# Medicaid = Health Insurance

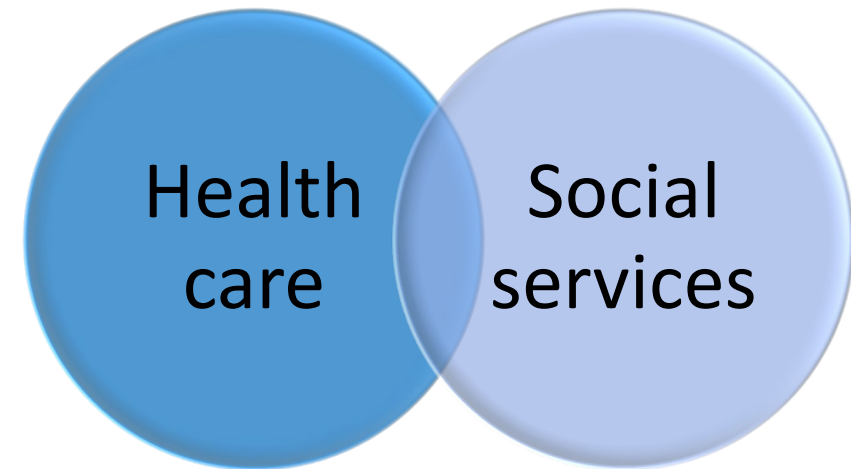
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- ▶ Provides coverage for health care and other related services
  - ▶ Medicaid is funded by both the federal and state government
  - ▶ Eligible populations include low-income children and their families, low-income seniors, and low-income people with disabilities.
- ▶ Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) = Medicaid at the federal level
  - ▶ Establish federal mandates requiring states to cover core (required) benefits
  - ▶ Each state has the option of including additional benefits beyond federally required components

# Medicaid Services

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- ▶ States may propose new services, though this is dependent on approval by CMS
  - ▶ Federal benefit rules constrain the extent to which states can use state plan benefits to address health related social needs\*
- ▶ CMS implements new standards and policies
  - ▶ Approvals for services may change over time as new initiatives and guidance is implemented



\*Source: [https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SDOH-Issue-Brief\\_May-2022.pdf](https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/SDOH-Issue-Brief_May-2022.pdf)

# What do states need to implement new Medicaid services?

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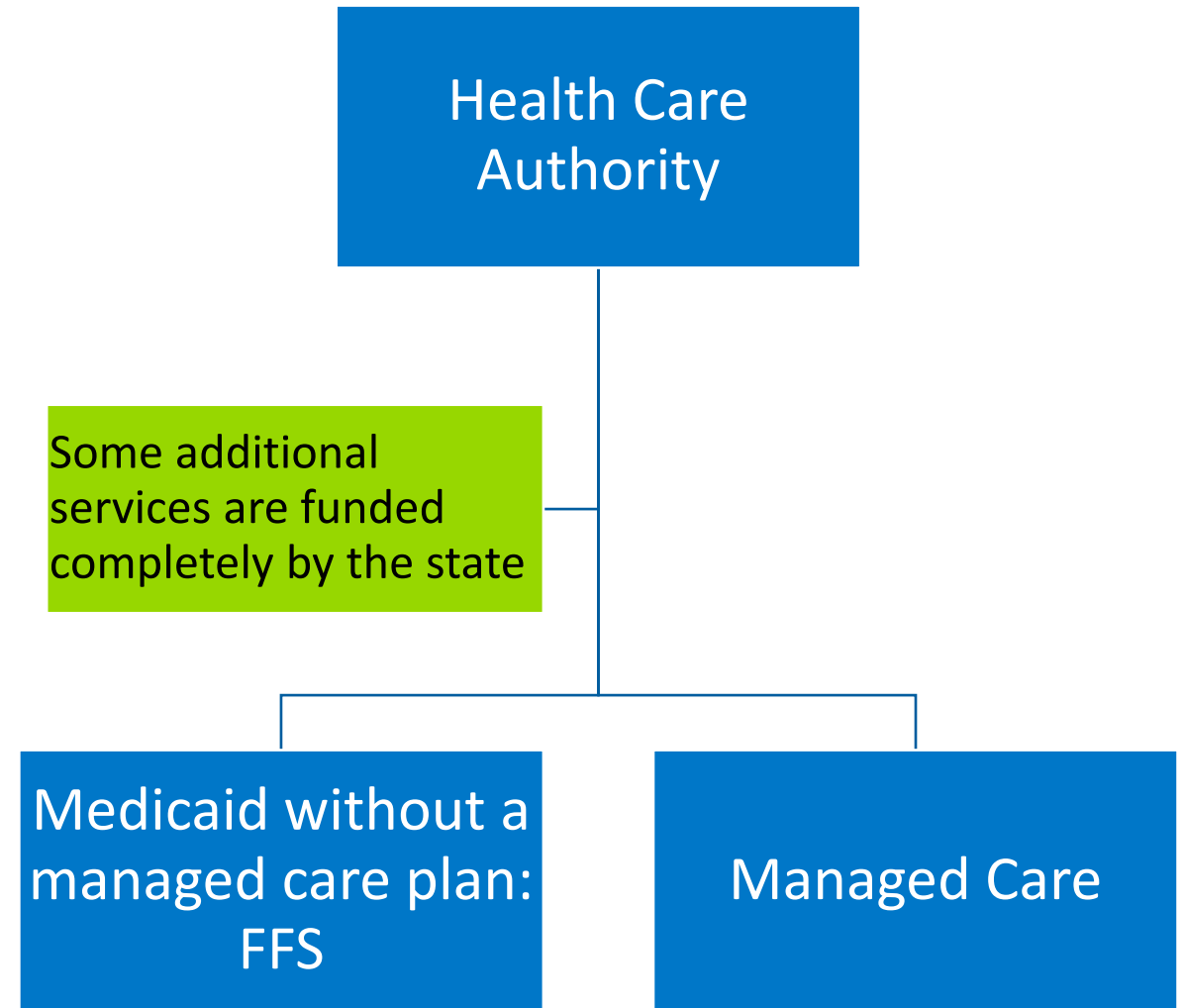


- ▶ Services under these authorities must meet CMS standards and approval

- ▶ States have three authorities
  - ▶ Medicaid state plan
    - ▶ Agreement with CMS about what services will be covered and how by Medicaid by the state
  - ▶ Medicaid wavier
    - ▶ Provides authority for states to pilot or implement demonstration projects
  - ▶ Managed care
- ▶ Funding is a combination of state and federal dollars

# Washington Apple Health

- ▶ Managed care
  - ▶ HCA contracts with a private or non-profit entity to manage cost, utilization, and quality.
- ▶ Medicaid without a managed care plan
  - ▶ Also known as fee-for-service (FFS)
  - ▶ HCA directly reimburses providers and agencies
- ▶ Most clients under 18 enrolled in Medicaid without a managed care plan are American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic.





# Community Health Workers and Medicaid

# Community Health Worker (CHW)

“A frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually\* close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.”

- CHW Task Force (2019)



# CHWs currently in Apple Health

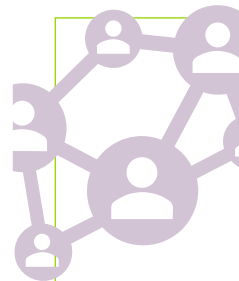
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Federally Qualified  
Health Centers



Maternity Support  
Services



Managed Care  
Organizations

# Findings in state Medicaid agencies

- ▶ Interviewed representatives for state Medicaid agencies and partners like Department of Health

## Successes

- Partnerships, including:
  - Sister state agencies
  - CHWs and CHW associations
  - Community organizations
  - Tribal partners
- Collaboration aligning services with the CHW defined role
- Partnership with CHWs in developing guidance

## Challenges

- Broad range of scope of practice, qualifications, and functions across settings and communities
- Use of various titles
- Similarities with other paraprofessional roles
- Multitude of different training and professional development agencies
- CHW services are billable through Medicaid; states report low use of available codes

# Future State Plan Options

Medicaid reimbursement for CHW services

# Phased Approach

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- ▶ Phase 1: Future State Plan Options
  - ▶ Focuses on CHW reimbursement within current Medicaid delivery settings and established payment options
- ▶ Phase 2: Medicaid Transformation Project (MTP) Waiver Renewal
  - ▶ Goal: To accelerate care delivery and payment innovation on health-related social needs, including:
    - ▶ Services to address health-related social needs
    - ▶ Health equity investments
    - ▶ Community-based workforce capacity and payment
- ▶ Future Phases:
  - ▶ Apply lessons learned from initial phases to inform updates to policy, delivery settings, and payment



# Key Considerations

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## ▶ Address gaps

- ▶ Address current limitations for who can access, where, and how
- ▶ Explore approaches to define settings and eligible populations

## ▶ CHW perspectives

- ▶ Align approach with CHW defined role and explore models that reflect CHW defined activities

## ▶ Requirements

- ▶ Understand additional resources and processes each approach would require
- ▶ Examples include administrative tasks, supervision requirements, and state credentials

## Outside the scope of this project

Comparable paraprofessional roles, such as peers and/or doulas

Payors and insurers outside of Apple Health

Does not address all community settings where CHWs work

# Preview of Options

- ▶ All of these options per Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services require a referral from a licensed practitioner

Option 1	Referral based preventative services
Option 2	Preventative services associated with licensed practitioner
Option 3	Working under the scope of a licensed practitioner
Option 4	Create a CHW state credential to become a licensed practitioner

Administrative tasks

Scope of services

State credential

Supervision

Payment

# State Credential

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- ▶ Establishes scope of practice and ethics for an individual to provide certain services
- ▶ Indicates that a certain set of criteria have been met, regarding:
  - ▶ Education and training
  - ▶ Experience
  - ▶ Other professional supports
- ▶ Types include a registry, certification, or license
  - ▶ Require background checks, immigration status, fees (initial and with renewals), etc.
  - ▶ Learn more about Washington Department of Health's requirements for credentialed health care providers by reviewing [WAC 246-12](#).

## **Does DOH's CHW training count as a state credential?**

DOH's CHW training was not developed to meet the standards of a state credential.

Individuals who complete the DOH CHW training will receive a certificate of completion for the training.

# Option 1:

## Referral based preventative services

### Administrative Tasks

- CHW will need to complete the following tasks:
  - Enroll as a Medicaid provider
  - Negotiate contracts with MCOs
  - Submit claims for services

### Scope of Services

- CHWs must receive a referral from a licensed practitioner and services must meet the following descriptions:
  - Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression
  - Prolong life
  - Promote physical and mental health and efficiency

### State Credential

- Not required

### Supervision

- Not required

### Medicaid Payment

- CHWs will be paid directly when they bill for their services

# Option 2: Preventative services associated with licensed practitioner

## Administrative Tasks

- Clinic and/or supervising licensed practitioner would do the following:
  - Support adding CHW as one of their Medicaid service providers
  - Negotiate adding CHW services to their contracts with MCOs
  - Support submitting of claims for CHW services

## Scope of Services

- CHWs would receive referral internally from clinic and/or supervising licensed practitioner. Services must meet the following:
  - Prevent disease, disability, and other health conditions or their progression
  - Prolong life
  - Promote physical and mental health and efficiency

## State Credential

- Not required

## Supervision

- CHW would practice under the supervision of a licensed practitioner

## Payment

- Payments would go to the clinic and/or supervising licensed practitioner who would establish a contract and employment with CHW

# Option 3:

## Working under the scope of a licensed practitioner

### Administrative Tasks

- Clinic and/or supervising licensed practitioner would do the following:
  - Support adding CHW as one of their Medicaid service providers
  - Negotiate adding CHW services to their contracts with MCOs
  - Support submitting of claims for CHW services

### Scope of Services

- There is not a specific list of allowable services
- Services would need to align with the scope of practice for the supervising licensed practitioner

### State Credential

- Not required

### Supervision

- CHW would practice under the supervision of a licensed practitioner

### Payment

- Payments would go to the clinic and/or supervising licensed practitioner who would establish a contract and employment with CHW



# Option 4:

## Create a CHW state credential to become a licensed practitioner

### Administrative Tasks

- CHW will need to complete the following tasks:
  - Enrollment as a Medicaid provider
  - Negotiate contracts with MCOs
  - Submit of claims for services

### Scope of Services

- There is not a specific list of allowable service
- Services would need to align with the scope of practice developed in creating the state credential for CHWs

### State Credential

- Would require the development of a state credential through DOH

### Supervision

- Not required

### Medicaid Payment

- CHWs will be paid directly when they bill for their services

# HCA Proposed Approaches

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## HCA recommends either:

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Option 2      Preventative services  
associated with licensed  
practitioner

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Option 3      Working under the scope of  
a licensed practitioner

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## Reasons for proposing these options:

- ▶ Less administrative burden on CHWs through optimizing current Apple Health billing providers
- ▶ Does not require development of a CHW state credential
- ▶ Provides additional support and collaboration through licensed practitioners
- ▶ Encourages embedding CHWs within settings already working with Apple Health enrollees

# Community Input

Questions and sharing input

- ▶ What is important to you as HCA explores state plan options for CHWs?
- ▶ What do you see as potential barriers for CHWs participating in Medicaid?
- ▶ Do you have concerns about any of the options shared?
- ▶ Would you support HCA's proposed approach?
- ▶ What would you like to learn more about?

# Stay Involved!

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2nd community  
presentations  
coming in April  
and May!

Subscribe to Pediatric  
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# Questions?

Stay informed by signing up for [Pediatric Health GovDelivery alerts](#) or visit the [Community Health Worker Grant \(CHW\) webpage](#)

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