



Nnamdi O. Chukwocha
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
1st District

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
411 LEGISLATIVE AVENUE
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES
Health & Human Development, Chair
Veterans Affairs, Chair
Education,
Gaming & Parimutuels,
Appropriations,
Corrections
Delaware Legislative Black Caucus, Chair

House Health & Human Development Committee Minutes

4.9.25

House Committee Recording

Chair Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Members present:

Rep. Chukwuocha, Chair

Rep. Neal

Rep. Burns

Rep. Johnson

Rep. Morrison

Rep. Ross Levin

Rep. Kamela Smith

Rep. Snyder-Hall

Rep. Michael Smith

Rep. Jones Giltner

Rep. Hilovsky

Rep. Postles

Rep. Hensley

Sen. Pinkney was also in attendance

Chair Chukwuocha introduced Agenda Item No. 1: **SB 38 W/ SA 1 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 16 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO RETIRED LAW-ENFORCEMENT ANIMALS.** *Time Stamp: 11:32*

SB 38 w/ SA 1, sponsored by Rep. Carson, would provide financial support to owners who adopt a horse that retired from serving with the Department of Correction, State or Capitol police, the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, or the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The owners of these retired-law enforcement horses may be reimbursed up to \$5,000 annually for veterinary care expenses and farrier services paid by the owner for the care of the retired law-enforcement horse. The Department that the retired law-enforcement horse assisted shall issue veterinary care and farrier services reimbursements and promulgate regulations to create a reimbursement process for retired law-enforcement horses. This Act does not apply to law-enforcement horses that retire before the implementation date of this Act. This

Act also makes technical corrections to conform existing law to the standards of the Delaware Legislative Drafting Manual.

Chair Chukwuocha opened the floor for public comment. *Time Stamp: 11:35*

A motion was made by Rep. Michael Smith and seconded by Rep. Hensley to release HB 54 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 12 (Chukwuocha, Neal, Burns, Johnson, Morrison, Kamela Smith, Snyder-Hall, Jones Giltner, Hensley, Hilovsky, Postles, Micheal Smith); No = 0; Absent = 4 (Harris, Heffernan, Ross Levin, Shupe). The bill was released from committee with a F=7, M=4, U=0 vote.

Chair Chukwuocha introduced Agenda Item No. 2: **SJR 2 REQUIRING THE DIVISION OF MEDICAID AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO PRESENT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH A REPORT AND PLAN TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER SERVICES.** *Time Stamp: 11:37*

SJR 2, sponsored by Rep. K. Smith, would require the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance to present a report to the Delaware General Assembly, by January 1, 2026, for the provision of insurance coverage for Community Health Worker (CHW) services by Medicaid providers, which must include a draft State plan amendment or waiver, as appropriate, to the Governor and all members of the General Assembly, with copies to the Director and the Librarian of the Division of Research of Legislative Council, and the Delaware Public Archives. Community Health Workers are a valued part of healthcare teams, serving as front-line liaisons to guide individuals and families through the health, social, and community service systems to foster health and well-being. CHWs provide culturally and linguistically competent and appropriate services. CHW programs are largely funded through time-limited grant-based financial support, which creates challenges due to inconsistent funding. This resolution would recognize sustainable funding for these services as a priority.

Rep. Jones Giltner raised concerns regarding the report deadline of January 2026 as in order to use Medicaid dollars, Delaware would have to apply for a Section 1115 tax waiver, an application process with a typical timeframe of five months to two years. Rep. K. Smith clarifies that this resolution would require a report from the Division, not action. Rep. Jones Giltner pointed out the delineation between the use of the word “plan” rather than “report” in the resolution and inquired if Rep. K. Smith would be willing to strike the word “plan”. Rep. K. Smith stated that a plan would not need to be executed by the January deadline. Rep. Jones Giltner raised concerns regarding the creation of a plan without waiver approval. Sen. Pinkney reiterated that the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance would not be required to implement the plan by the January 2026 deadline, simply **clarify** the plan, and she would work with the Division at the time of implementation to create legislation, including implementation deadlines. Rep. Jones Giltner further questioned the viability of the plan without a response from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Rep. Jones Giltner asked the sponsor to expand on how the plan would become budget neutral, which it must be in order to apply for the waiver, get approved, and use the federal dollars. Rep. K. Smith clarified that this resolution would only require a report.

Rep. Jones Giltner inquired on the response from professional regulation, as Community Health Workers are required to function under the responsibility and reporting framework of a licensed practitioner. Expert witness Krishna Upadhyia from the Delaware Division of Medicaid and Medical Service (DMMA) answered that she cannot comment on the professional regulation specifically, but DMMA would be looking to identify government oversight requirements for CHWs to be enrolled as Medicaid providers under this resolution. Rep. Jones Giltner suggested the addition of verbiage to require the Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance to work with professional regulation in the development of the report.

Rep. Neal noted the benefit of this legislation to community support programs to ensure that these programs are able to continue assisting the most vulnerable populations in Delaware.

Rep. Postles sought clarification on which groups are identified as CHWs. Rep. K. Smith clarified that CHWs may work for non-profit organizations or private businesses. Rep. Postles followed up for clarification on whether CHWs are typically state employees. Rep. K. Smith answered that CHWs may work for non-profit organizations, health systems, and federally qualified health centers, although she is unsure if they may work for the state as well. Sen. Pinkey clarified that she is unaware of state agencies that utilize Community Health Workers, as they typically work at or with non-profit organizations that are funded through grants.

Rep. Johnson reiterated the benefit of this resolution as CHWs are vital to assisting individuals in navigating social service systems.

Rep. Hilovsky asked if CHWs are full-time employees. Rep. K. Smith replied that CHWs may be full-time, part-time, or on-call workers.

Chair Chukwuocha opened the floor for public comment. *Time Stamp: 11:50*

Members of the public, Erin Ridout (Community Health Worker Association of Delaware), Christine O'Brien (Delaware Healthcare Association), Tisha Jackson (CHILD Inc. Advocacy Organization), Ama Amponsah (Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence), Adriana Viveros-sosa (Community Health Worker Association of Delaware), Brianna Bae (Community Health Worker Association of Delaware), Simone Silver (Christiana Care Government Affairs), Nanny Vega Morales (Co-Chair of the Community Health Worker Association of Delaware) voiced their support for this legislation.

A motion was made by Rep. Johnson and seconded by Rep. Neal to release SJR 2 from committee; motion carried. Yes = 13 (Chukwuocha, Neal, Burns, Johnson, Morrison, Ross Levin, K. Smith, Snyder-Hall, Jones Giltner, Hensley, Hilovsky, Postles, Michael Smith); No = 0; Absent = 3 (Harris, Heffernan, Shupe). The bill was released from committee with a F=7, M=3, U=0 vote.

Chair Chukwuocha adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Katherine Bowman

Attendance List

- Erin Ridout, Community Health Worker Association of Delaware
- Christine O'Brien, Delaware Healthcare Association
- Tisha Jackson, CHILD Inc. Advocacy Organization
- Ama Amponsah, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Adriana Viveros-sosa, Community Health Worker Association of Delaware
- Brianna Bae, Community Health Worker Association of Delaware
- Simone Silver, Christiana Care Government Affairs
- Nanny Vega Morales, Co-Chair of the Community Health Worker Association of Delaware



House Committee
SJR 2

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee. My name is Ama Amponsah, and I am the Domestic Violence & Community Health Program Manager at the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence. I am here to speak in support of Senate Joint Resolution 2. In February 2019, the coalition helped launch the Domestic Violence-Community Health Worker (DV-CHW) Program, now a statewide program that supports the complex safety, health, and social needs of domestic violence survivors.

Through a partnership with CHILD, Inc. and People's Place, the team of DV-CHWs has served over 700 survivors who have engaged with their DV-CHW for an average of 10 months. And of those 700 survivors, 83% of them have at least one child in their care. This shows that CHWs are not only helping individuals but entire families.

Community Health Workers are, at their core, mobile advocates who meet individuals in the community and provide health and safety resources. They connect individuals to medical resources, such as healthcare providers and counselors, and they assist with safety needs as well. Our data indicates that the frequency of poor mental health and physical health days that survivors



experience decreases over time with the involvement of our Community Health Worker team.

I urge you all to vote YES and support the passage of Senate Joint Resolution 2, which will support community health workers throughout the State and the clients they serve.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ama Amponsah

Community Health Coordinator and Trainer



The Honorable Nnamdi O. Chukwuocha, Chair
The Honorable DeShanna U Neal, Vice Chair
House Health & Human Development Committee
Delaware General Assembly
411 Legislative Avenue
Dover, DE 19901

April 9, 2025

Re: Letter of Support on Behalf of Christiana Care Health System for Senate Joint Resolution 2

Dear Representative Chukwuocha and Representative Neal,

On behalf of ChristianaCare, I write to express support for Senate Joint Resolution 2, An Act requiring the division of Medicaid and medical assistance to present the general assembly with a report and plan to provide insurance coverage for community health workers services.

ChristianaCare greatly appreciates your leadership in sponsoring this important legislation. Community Health Workers attend to the full spectrum of needs patients face because of the social determinants of health they face. They are key members of the caregiver team for a patient and a trusted member of the community that they serve. They play a crucial role in bridging the gap between healthcare providers and the communities they serve, particularly in underserved and vulnerable populations. Their efforts in health education, disease prevention, and patient advocacy significantly improve health outcomes and reduce healthcare costs.

Thank you for your commitment to a more inclusive, effective, and equitable healthcare system.

Sincerely,

Cimone Sylver

Cimone Sylver, PhD, MPA.
Manager, Policy and Advocacy