

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1051

Introduced by Howard, 9.

Read first time January 22, 2014

Committee: Appropriations

A BILL

1 FOR AN ACT relating to community health workers; to adopt the Public
2 Health Leadership and Development Act; and to appropriate
3 funds to the Board of Regents of the University of
4 Nebraska.
5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the Public Health Leadership and Development Act.

3 Sec. 2. For purposes of this act, community health worker
4 means a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of or
5 has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This
6 trusting relationship enables the community health worker to serve as
7 a liaison, link, or intermediary between health and social services
8 workers and the community to facilitate access to services and
9 improve the quality and community capacity by increasing health
10 knowledge and self-efficiency through a range of activities such as
11 outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support,
12 and advocacy.

13 Sec. 3. (1) The University of Nebraska Medical Center
14 shall establish a Community Health Worker Certification Pilot Program
15 in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services
16 Community Health Worker Committee, Regional Public Health
17 Departments, the Federally Qualified Health Centers, the University
18 of Nebraska, the state colleges, and the community colleges.

19 (2) The pilot program shall include development of a
20 certification program that includes standardized core competencies
21 and is based upon consistent themes found in national research. Core
22 competencies shall include, but not be limited to, communication
23 skills, interpersonal skills, capacity-building skills, advocacy
24 skills, organizational skills, case management, knowledge of specific
25 health issues, and documentation. The certification shall include

1 classroom and field-based instruction.

2 (3) Of any appropriation made pursuant to section 4 of
3 this act fifty thousand dollars shall be made available for
4 scholarships to those students who meet requirements set by the
5 University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Public Health and
6 shall be administered by the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

7 (4) The community health workers hired, trained, and
8 deployed under the pilot program shall be based at Nebraska Regional
9 Public Health Department critical access hospitals and community-
10 based primary care centers that serve populations with limited access
11 to health care. The number of community health workers at each site
12 shall be determined by community need and practitioner availability.

13 (5) Community health workers shall be included as a part
14 of the integrated health care team to help reduce the cost of health
15 care and improve health outcomes. The pilot program shall also
16 include the adoption of a standardized payer system which
17 incorporates community health workers into the Center for Medicare/
18 Medicaid Services and commercial payers. In order to be identified as
19 covered providers, community health workers shall (a) receive a
20 certificate from a University of Nebraska approved curriculum or have
21 at least five years of supervised experience with a licensed
22 physician, registered nurse advanced practice nurse, public health
23 nurse, mental health professional, or dentist and (b) work under the
24 supervision of a licensed physician, registered nurse advanced
25 practice nurse, public health nurse, mental health professional, or

1 dentist.

2 (6) The pilot program shall be three years in duration.
3 The first year shall be spent on planning, developing curriculum and
4 competencies, determining tuition costs, securing faculty,
5 determining field placement requirements, and addressing other
6 programmatically conceptual and tangible infrastructure.

7 (7) The University of Nebraska Medical Center shall be
8 responsible for submitting an annual report to the Governor and the
9 Legislature for the duration of the pilot program. The report shall
10 include evidence of program impact in health outcomes, health
11 competency among patients, and savings in the health systems and
12 state health care budget. The report shall be made electronically.

13 (8) The budget for the pilot program shall be two hundred
14 fifty thousand dollars for the first year and one hundred eighty-five
15 thousand dollars each for the second and third years. Such budget is
16 to be in addition to the two hundred fifty thousand dollar
17 appropriation made under section 4 of this act.

18 Sec. 4. There is hereby appropriated \$250,000 from the
19 General Fund for FY2014-15 to the Board of Regents of the University
20 of Nebraska for Program 781, for the Office of Public Health Practice
21 in the College of Public Health at the University of Nebraska Medical
22 Center to be used to provide additional funding additional public
23 health workforce development.