

January 6, 2014

Senator Heath Mello, Chairperson
Appropriations Committee
P. O. Box 94604
Lincoln, NE 68509

Re: LB 1051

Dear Senator Mello and members of the Appropriations Committee:

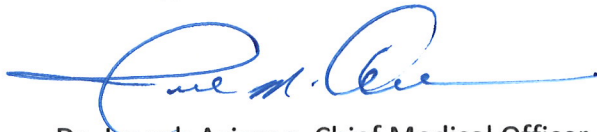
LB 1051 introduced by Senator Howard appropriates funds to the University of Nebraska Medical Center to develop a community health worker certification pilot program.

The Department of Health and Human Services is initiating similar activities with UNMC to those proposed in LB 1051. DHHS is providing a facilitator to the statewide Community Health Worker Coalition to develop a definition for community health workers, identify roles and develop core competencies. Statewide Community Health Worker Coalition membership includes representatives from local health departments, the Public Health Association of Nebraska, community groups, health centers, UNMC College of Public Health, Lutheran Family Services and one of the behavioral health regions.

DHHS also provides training opportunities for those interested in becoming community health workers.

Please let us know if you would like additional information.

Sincerely,



Dr. Joseph Acierno, Chief Medical Officer
Division of Public Health
Department of Health and Human Services

Cc: Senator Sara Howard