Republic of the Philippines
QUEZON CITY COUNCIL
Quezon City
19th City Council

PO19CC-476

71st Regular Session

ORDINANCE NO. SP-2445, S-2015

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING THE GUIDELINES FOR REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION OF QUEZON CITY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (QC-BHWs) PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS' BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995", AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES FOR QUALIFIED QC-BHWS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS NECESSARY THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Councilors EUFEMIO C. LAGUMBAY, BAYANI B. HIPOL, RICARDO B. CORPUZ, JESUS MANUEL C. SUNTAY and GODOFREDO T. LIBAN II.

Co-Introduced by Councilors Anthony Peter D. Crisologo, Dorothy A. Delarmente, Lena Marie P. Juico, Victor V. Ferrer, Jr., Alexis R. Herrera, Precious Hipolito Castelo, Roderick M. Paulate, Ranulfo Z. Ludovica, Ramon P. Medalla, Estrella C. Valmocina, Allan Benedict S. Reyes, Gian Carlo G. Sotto, Franz S. Pumaren, Jose Mario Don S. De Leon, Jaime F. Borres, Vincent DG. Belmonte, Raquel S. Malañgen, Jessica Castelo Daza, Jose A. Visaya, Julienne Alyson Rae V. Medalla, Allan Butch T. Francisco, Karl Edgar C. Castelo, Candy A. Medina, Diorella Maria Sotto, Rogelio "Roger" P. Juan, Melencio "Bobby" T. Castelo and Donato C. Matias.

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers have been part of the Philippine Health Care System since the 1980's as part of our country's adherence to the 1978 Alma-Ata Declaration on Primary Health Care which considers the important role played by community health workers;

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers are health human resources that play a central role in the development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of health and development programs within their respective Barangays and within Quezon City;

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers are covered by R.A. No. 7883, otherwise known as Barangay Health Workers' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, and its IRR states that their three (3) main responsibilities are: (1) community organizers, (2) health educators, and (3) primary care providers;

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers have undergone training programs under various government and non-government institutions in order to enable them to perform their various tasks within the Barangay and within Quezon City;

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers are considered volunteer health human resources and receive various monetary and non-monetary benefits depending on their respective local government unit's available resources;

WHEREAS, Barangay Health Workers are exposed to hazards that are integral to the performance of their aforementioned tasks which endanger their lives and/or increase the risk of producing adverse effects on their person;

WHEREAS, the Barangay Health Workers in Quezon City are classified as either City-Paid BHWs (or more popularly known as CHWs) or Barangay-Paid BHWs (or more popularly known as BHWs);

WHEREAS, a series of Barangay-Paid BHW (BHWs) Consultation Workshops and a City-Paid BHW (CHWs) Summit were conducted by the Office of the Quezon City Vice Mayor and the University of the Philippines Manila College of Medicine through the University of the Philippines Medical Alumni Fund and which enabled the Quezon City Government to determine the following: (a) Problems facing the BHWs and CHWs from the point of view of BHWs & CHWs themselves, b) Analysis by the BHWs & CHWs of the roots of these problems, and (c) Strategies and activities to address the aforementioned problems that are based on the analysis of the problems;

WHEREAS, in recognition of the services being rendered by the Barangay Health Workers who are actively and regularly performing their duties, the Quezon City Government is initiating efforts that will clarify their status and responsibilities as well as strengthen and institutionalize their benefits and incentives, consistent with policies of the national government;

WHEREAS, by addressing the various issues facing BHWs, the performance of their tasks are strengthened resulting in the improvement of the health system and the health indicators in the City, in the Health Department including health centers, and in the Barangays.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF QUEZON CITY IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE – This Ordinance shall be known as the "Quezon City Barangay Health Workers Ordinance of 2015 (QC-BHW)."

SECTION 2. DECLARATION OF POLICY – The Government of Quezon City recognizes the vital role of Barangay Health Workers in the promotion of health in the city. To this end, the City shall strengthen and recognize the rights of Barangay Health Workers to organize themselves, to strengthen and systematize their services to the community, and to make a venue for sharing their experiences and for recommending policies and guidelines for the promotion, maintenance and advancement of their activities and services.

Further, Quezon City BHWs volunteer their services into an existing national or city-based program and as such are subject to expectations of satisfactorily performing the three (3) tasks of a BHW as stated in the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7883 as well as other assigned tasks deemed relevant by their program managers and supervisors after due consultation with the affected BHWs. Quezon City BHWs therefore do not function as a separate entity that is devoid of any accountability to the community and as such, cannot claim to have the authority to work as they please, nor claim to work within a schedule that is independent of the activities of certain programs and projects.

SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS

(a) QUEZON CITY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER – (BHW) refers to a person from Quezon City who has undergone training programs under any accredited government or non-government organization, and who voluntarily renders promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative services to Quezon City residents and communities after having been accredited to function as such by the Quezon City Barangay Health Worker-Registration and Accreditation Committee in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Ordinance;

(b) QUEZON CITY "CITY-PAID BHWS" – refer to BHWs that work under the management and supervision of the Quezon City Health Department and the funds for their compensation, subsidies, benefits and incentives are sourced from their respective Barangay;

(c) QUEZON CITY "BARANGAY-PAID BHWS" – refer to BHWs that work under the management and supervision and the funds for their compensation, subsidies, benefits, and incentives and sourced from their respective Barangays;

(d) QUALIFIED BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS – refer to Quezon City Barangay Health Workers who are duly registered and accredited by the City through the Quezon City Barangay Health Worker-Registration and Accreditation Committee.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the term "Quezon City Barangay Health Workers (QC-BHWs)" shall cover both City-Paid and Barangay-Paid BHWs.

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SECTION 4. QUEZON CITY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKER-REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE.

In order for Barangay Health Workers to be entitled to the benefits and incentives provided under this Ordinance, they must be registered to, and accredited by the Local Health Board.

To facilitate registration and accreditation of BHWs, the City Health Board may create a BHW Registration and Accreditation Committee (BHW-RAC) in accordance with the Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 7883, which is composed of the following:

a. The City Health Officer as Chairperson;

b. A representative of Non-Governmental Organization / People's Organization implementing community-based health or health related programs in the city;

c. The president of City Barangay Health Workers Federation; and

d. The Department of Health representative to the City Health Board.

The Local Health Board may, however, expand the membership of BHW-RAC depending on its need for a more efficient system of registration and accreditation.

SECTION 5. QUALIFICATION STANDARDS FOR QUEZON CITY BHWS – the Quezon City Barangay Health Worker must possess the following qualifications:

1. At least eighteen (18) years of age

2. At least high school graduate

3. Bonafide resident of the Barangay for at least four (4) years and can speak the dialect well

4. *Mentally and physically fit*
5. *Must be of good moral character*
6. *Rendered voluntary service at the health center for at least one (1) year*
7. *Must be willing to work for an expanded period of time especially during disasters, calamities and other extreme events*
8. *Completed the basic training for BHWs as required by the Quezon City Health Department and/or Department of Health.*

SECTION 6. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF QUEZON CITY BHWS – Quezon City BHWs are required to perform the following tasks, with specific examples as stated in RA No. 7883, but not limited to the examples stated: (a) Community Organizer, (b) Health Educator, and (c) Healthcare Provider. Quezon City BHWs are expected to provide services that are effective, empowering, appropriate, acceptable, available, accessible and efficient. These services must be part of activities that are carried out in order to accomplish pre-determined program objectives that provide benefits to Quezon City residents and communities.

There shall be a BHW focal person in every Barangay who shall serve as coordinator of the City Health Department to recommend policies, plans and programs to achieve the highest standard of health service in their respective Barangays.

SECTION 7. BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES OF QUEZON CITY-PAID BHWS – The benefits and incentives granted under this Ordinance shall be treated as local benefits and incentives granted under Republic Act No. 7883. These local benefits and incentives include, but are not limited to the following:

(a) *Identification Cards, duly signed by the Quezon City mayor and Head of the Quezon City Health Department. The same shall be given to the BHWs without cost;*

(b) *Uniforms composed of, but not limited to, T-shirts, blazers (chaleco), head visor, raincoat, boots, umbrella;*

(c) *BHW Kit composed of, but not limited to, stethoscope, sphygmomanometer, penlight, tape measure, thermometer;*

(d) *Sponsored PhilHealth membership every fiscal year;*

(e) *Educational Assistance to the BHW or to his/her children;*

(f) *Accident insurance for injuries incurred while in the performance of official or assigned tasks;*

(g) *Funeral and burial assistance;*

(h) *A retirement benefit amounting to Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000.00) for BHWs who rendered continuous service for at least ten (10) years;*

(i) *Livelihood assistance in case of separation from service as BHWs.*

The Barangays are hereby encouraged to grant the same benefits and objectives for the Barangay-Paid Health Workers assigned to their respective jurisdiction.

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SECTION 8. APPROPRIATION FOR THE ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES FOR QUALIFIED BHWS – The funds necessary for the grant of additional benefits and incentives for qualified BHWs or the City-Paid BHWs shall be included in the annual budget of the Quezon City Health Department.

On the other hand, the Barangays are hereby authorized to allocate necessary funds to grant the same benefits and incentives for their Barangay-Paid Health Workers.

SECTION 9. BHW: HOUSEHOLD RATIO – The total number of Quezon City BHWs assigned to a Barangay from the roster of City-Paid and Barangay-Paid BHWs will be determined by the number of households in a Barangay. The BHW-to-Household ratio shall not exceed one percent (1%) of the barangay's population. This will ensure that the BHW is able to perform his/her task of being a community organizer which is primarily to organize and manage various programs and projects using participatory methods with the assigned households.

SECTON 10. IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS – Within ninety (90) days after the passage of this Ordinance, the City Health Department shall craft the necessary Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Ordinance subject to the confirmation of the City Council.

SECTION 11. REPEALING CLAUSE – All ordinances, resolutions, executive orders, memorandum circulars and all other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any provision of this Ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – The provisions of this Ordinance aré separable, and in any event that any more of such provisions are declared invalid, the validity of all; other provisions shall not be affected thereby.

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SECTION 13. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

ENACTED: September 7, 2015.

MA. JOSEFINA G. BELMONTE
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

APPROVED: 23 OCT 2015

HERBERT M. BAUTISTA
City Mayor

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this Ordinance was APPROVED by the City Council on Second Reading on September 7, 2015 and was PASSED on Third/Final Reading on September 14, 2015.

Atty. JOHN THOMAS S. ALFEROS III
City Gov't. Asst. Dept. Head III

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