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de Oro

Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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ORDINANCE NO. 14031-2021

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR THE REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION OF CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS (BHWs) AND BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS (BNSS); GRANTING THEM ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

Whereas, BHWs are health human resources that play a central role in the development, implementation, monitoring and assessment of health and development programs in the barangays, in particular, and Cagayan de Oro City, in general;

Whereas, BHWs are covered by the provisions of R.A. No. 7883, otherwise known as BHWs' Benefits and Incentives Act of 1995, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), which specifies their three (3) main responsibilities: (1) community organizers, (2) health educators, and (3) primary care provider;

Whereas, the establishment of the Barangay Nutrition Scholars ("BNSs") is covered by Presidential Decree No. 1569, otherwise known as "Strengthening the Barangay Nutrition Program by Providing a Barangay Nutrition Scholar in Every Barangay, Providing Funds Therefor and for Other Purposes", which seeks to provide additional human resources for the implementation of programs, projects and activities aimed at addressing malnutrition by requiring at least one BNS per barangay. It also aims to increase the involvement and participation of the people on nutrition concerns at the grassroots level;

Whereas, BNSs are considered barangay-based volunteers, who are tasked to deliver nutrition services and other related activities such as community health, backyard food production, environmental sanitation, culture, mental feeding, and family planning to the barangay. As a volunteer, a BNS delivers nutrition and related services to the community without salary. As a scholar, he or she has to continuously upgrade his/her knowledge and skills in order to perform community nutrition work;

Whereas, BHWs and BNSs have undergone relevant training programs under various government and non-government institutions, enabling them to perform their various tasks within their respective barangays;

Whereas, BHWs and BNSs are considered volunteer health human resources receiving monetary and non-monetary benefits depending on their respective local government unit's available resources;

Whereas, BHWs and BNSs are exposed to hazards that are integral to the performance of their aforementioned tasks which place their health and lives at risk;

Whereas, BHWs and BNSs in Cagayan de Oro City are classified as City-aid volunteers;

Whereas, in recognition of the services being rendered by BHWs and BNSs who are actively and regularly performing their duties, the Cagayan de Oro City Government is initiating efforts which 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 and BNSs, their performance of their respective duties and responsibilities are strengthened, resulting in the improvement of the



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health system and the health indicators in the City, in the Health Department including health center, and in the barangay;

NOW, THEREFORE:

BE IT ORDAINED by the 19th City Council (*Sangguniang Panlungsod*) of Cagayan de Oro City in session assembled:

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Ordinance shall be otherwise known as "**The Cagayan de Oro City Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Nutrition Scholars Ordinance of 2020.**"

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - The City Government of Cagayan de Oro recognizes the vital role of BHWs and BNSs in the promotion of health in the local government unit and to this end, the City shall strengthen and recognize the rights of BHWs and BNSs 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, the City acknowledges that 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.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms:

- a) **BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS - (BHWs)** refers to volunteer health workers in the barangays of Cagayan de Oro City who have undergone training programs in any accredited government or non-government organization, and who voluntarily render promotive, preventive, curative, and rehabilitative services to Cagayan de Oro City residents and communities after having been accredited to function as such by the Cagayan de Oro City Barangay Health Workers-Registration and Accreditation Committee in accordance with the guidelines provided in this Ordinance;
- b) **CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY-PAID BHWs** - refer to BHWs performing volunteer health services in the barangays of the City, and are under the management and supervision of the City Health Office (CHO), with funds for their compensation, subsidies, benefits and incentives sourced from the City Mayor's Office.
- c) **BARANGAY NUTRITION SCHOLARS (BNSs)** - refers to volunteers who have undergone training programs in any accredited government or non-government organizations, and voluntarily render nutrition services and other related activities such as community health, backyard food production, environmental sanitation, culture, mental feeding, and family planning barangay residents of Cagayan de Oro City have been accredited to function as such by the Cagayan de Oro City Barangay Nutrition Scholars-Registration and Accreditation Committee in accordance with the guidelines provided in the Ordinance;
- d) **CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY-PAID BNSs** - refer to BNSs performing volunteer works in nutrition in the barangays of Cagayan de Oro City under the management and supervision of the CHO and which funds for their compensation subsidies, benefits and incentives are sourced from the budget of the City Mayor's Office;

SECTION 4. BHW Registration and Accreditation Committee - BHWs shall be entitled to the benefits and incentives provided under this Ordinance; *Provided*, That they shall be registered and accredited by the Local Health Board (LBH).



To facilitate registration and accreditation of BHWs, the LHB shall create a BHW Registration and Accreditation Committee (BHW-RAC) in accordance with the implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 7883, which shall be composed of the following:

- a. The City Health Officer as Chairperson
- b. A representative of non-government organization/people's organization implementing community-based health or health related programs in the city;
- c. The president of the City Barangay Health Workers Federation; and
- d. The Department of Health representative to the Local Health Board.

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

SECTION 5. BHW Qualifications – In order to become a City-paid BHW, the applicant should have the following qualifications:

- a. at least 18 years old but not more than 50 years old;
- b. at least high school graduate;
- c. of good moral character;
- d. bona fide resident of the barangay for at least one (1) year prior to the application;
- e. undergone BHW basic training course conducted by the City Health Office or any accredited agency; and
- f. at least one year experience as BHW.

SECTION 6. BHW Duties and Functions - The BHW shall perform the following tasks, with specific examples as stated in R.A. 7883, but not limited to the following:

- a. Community Organizer;
- b. Health Educator; and
- c. Healthcare Provider.

SECTION 7. Barangay Nutrition Scholar Registration and Accreditation Committee (BNS-RAC) – There shall be constituted in every barangay of Cagayan de Oro City the Barangay Nutrition Scholar Registration and Accreditation Committee (BNS-RAC) to be composed of the barangay chairperson, head teacher or teacher coordinator, and the president of any community organization organized by the City Nutrition Action Officer (CNAO).

The BNS-RAC shall submit the list of qualified applicants to the CNAO. The city screening committee composed of the CNAO and two other members of the City Nutrition Committee (CNC) shall convene to choose the most qualified from among the applicants using the prescribed National Nutrition Council form. The CNAO shall then submit the final list to the CNC Co-chair before submitting the same to the Mayor for his approval.

SECTION 8. BNSs Qualifications - In order to become a City-paid BNS, the applicant should have the following qualifications, pursuant to Section 4 of P.D. 1569, to wit:

- a. At least 18 years old but not more than 50 years old at the time of application;
- b. Physically and mentally fit;
- c. At least high school graduate;
- d. bona fide resident of the barangay for at least four (4) years prior to application;
- e. Can speak the local dialect;
- f. with good moral character;



- g. with leadership potentials, initiative and willing to serve the barangay for at least one (1) year;
- h. willing to learn, and to teach what he/she has learned to the barangay residents;
- i. have undergone the basic training course for BNS conducted by the Nutrition Council 10 and City Nutrition Office or any accredited agency; and
- j. at least one year experience as BNS.

SECTION 9. BNS Roles and Functions:

- a. Planning – assist the barangay chairperson in organizing or reactivating the Barangay Nutrition Committee (BNC);
- b. Coordination – coordinate meeting of the BNC and submit minutes of the meeting;
- c. Advocacy and Promotion – promote and advocate nutrition programs;
- d. Implementation – act as focal person in the implementation of planned nutrition-related activities;
- e. Monitoring and Evaluation – monitor and implement the Revised Rules and Regulations of nutrition-related national laws and policies; *i.e.*, ASIN Law, Food Fortification Law, Milk Code and RA 10028, and provide feedback/updates to the BNC, CNAO and CNPC through meetings;
- f. Resource Mobilization/Generation – mobilize and generate human and financial resources in coordination with the BNC;
- g. Documentation and Record Keeping – prepare minutes or highlights of meetings dutifully and promptly, prepare brief write-ups and diaries (*i.e.*, BNS diary), and document (e.g., takes photos) of important activities.

BHWs and BNSs are expected to provide services that are effective, empowering, appropriate, acceptable, available, and accessible and efficient. These services must be part of the activities that are carried out in order to accomplish pre-determined program objectives that provide benefits to Cagayan de Oro City communities.

There shall be respective BHW and BNS focal person in every barangay who shall serve as coordinator of the City Health Office and shall recommend policies, plans, and program to achieve the highest standard of health service in their respective Barangays.

SECTION 10. Benefits and Incentives of City-Paid BHWs and BNSs – City-paid BHWs and BNSs shall be granted local benefits and incentives, which shall include, but not limited to the following:

- a. Identification cards, duly signed by the City Mayor and City Health Officer;
- b. Uniforms composed of, but not limited to, T-Shirts, blazers (chaleco), head visor, raincoat, boots, umbrella;
- c. BHW kit consisting of, but not limited to, stethoscope, blood pressure apparatus, penlight, tape measure, thermometer;
- d. Annual PhilHealth membership;
- e. Opportunity to attend fora, seminars, conferences and trainings in other places/areas;
- f. Funeral and burial assistance;

SECTION 11. Financial Assistance to "Retiring" BHWs and BNSs - In recognition of their invaluable voluntary service to the City, BHWs and BNSs shall be granted financial assistance upon separation from public service, as follows:

- (a) ₱500.00 per year of service to qualified BHWs and BNSs aged 65 years or above; or
- (b) ₱500.00 per year of service to qualified BHWs and BNSs having rendered at least ten (10) years of continuous service regardless of their age.



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SECTION 12. Appropriation for the Additional Benefits and Incentives for Qualified BHWs and BNSs – There shall be allocated in the annual budget of the City Mayor's Office funds necessary for the grant of additional benefits and incentives to BHWs and BNSs.

SECTION 13. Implementing Rules and Regulations - Within ninety (90) days after the passage of this Ordinance, the City Health Office shall prepare the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Ordinance for approval through an Executive Order by the City Mayor.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause - All ordinances and local Orders which are inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause - If any part(s) of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, such declaration shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 16. Effectivity. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Author: Councilor Maria Lourdes S. Gaane, author;
Co-authors: Councilors Edna M. Dahino
Reuben R. Daba
Teodulfo E. Lao, Jr.

Present: 1st District: - Councilor Edna M. Dahino - Councilor Roger G. Abaday
- Councilor Jay R. Pascual - Councilor Lordan G. Suan
- Councilor Reuben R. Daba - Councilor Romeo V. Calizo
- Councilor George S. Goking
2nd District: - Councilor Joyleen Mercedes L. Balaba - Councilor Maria Lourdes S. Gaane
- Councilor Ian Mark O. Nacaya - Councilor Edgar S. Cabanlas
- Councilor Suzette G. Magtajas-Daba - Councilor Jocelyn B. Rodriguez
- Councilor Enrico D. Salcedo
Ex-Officio: - Councilor Yan Lam S. Lim - Councilor John Michael L. Seno
- Councilor Zaldy O. Ocon (On Sick Leave) - Councilor Teodulfo E. Lao, Jr. (Indisposed)

Absent:

ENACTED this 22nd day of February 2021 in the City of Cagayan de Oro.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing Ordinance.

Attested as duly enacted:

RAINER JOAQUIN V. UY
CITY VICE-MAYOR
PRESIDING OFFICER

Attested:

TEODORO A. SABUGA-A, JR.
ACTING CITY ADMINISTRATOR

ARTURO S. DE SAN MIGUEL
CITY COUNCIL SECRETARY

Approved:

OSCAR S. MORENO
CITY MAYOR