



# Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Minutes of the meeting held November 8, 2023, at 10:00 AM AKST

*These minutes were approved at a meeting held November 22, 2023.*

**Members Present:** Bethel Belisle, CDM; Hannah St. George; Darcy Lucey, APRN; Rachel Pugh, CDM

**Staff Present:** Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor; Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist

## Call To Order

Chair Belisle called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. All members were present, and each declared that they had no conflicts of interest to report.

The board reviewed the minutes of the June 7, 2023, meeting.

**Motion by Ms. Pugh to approve the minutes of the June 7 meeting. Seconded by Ms. Lucey. Approved by unanimous consent.**

## Investigative Report

Investigator Christina Bond presented a report of the investigative activity covering May 2, 2023, through October 26, 2023. The board asked when the pending matters might be wrapped up, and Ms. Bond responded that she believed they would be completed within the next couple of weeks.

## Discussion of Midwifery Regulations and Preceptor Form

Regulations Specialist Stefanie Davis stated that the board's proposed regulations requiring NARM preceptor certification had been publicly noticed and no comments were received. Ms. Chambers asked the board to clarify that they indeed intended for physicians and nurses serving as preceptors to hold a NARM certification. The board agreed that was their intention because all midwives must hold NARM certification; in order to meet that requirement, all preceptors for births counted toward licensure must be NARM-certified.

**Motion by Ms. Pugh to adopt the proposed regulations as publicly noticed. Seconded by Ms. Lucey. Approved by unanimous consent.**

## Legislative Strategy Discussion

The board reviewed the current bill (HB 175) that updates and streamlines their statutes. They agreed that they were pleased with the proposed legislation and didn't wish to request amendments. They reaffirmed Ms. Pugh as their legislative liaison. Ms. Pugh stated that she would check in with Rep. Allard, the bill sponsor, to see if she needed anything further and to establish a window of time during which the board could visit her office and meet with other

legislators. Ms. Pugh will let Ms. Chambers know those times so board travel could be arranged with the division.

**Motion by Ms. Pugh to approve board travel for a meeting in Juneau near the start of legislative session, pending legislator availability. Seconded by Ms. Lucey. Approved by unanimous consent.**

The board also discussed the timeline of the sunset audit, due to occur in 2024. Despite the Legislative Auditor's recommendation that the board be extended until June 30, 2027, the legislature only extended the board until June 30, 2025. The board discussed the desire for physicians to engage with their board's business throughout the year, including attending meetings and commenting on regulations, instead of circumventing the public process and sending letters to legislators. The board again expressed a desire for the physician seat to be filled. Ms. Chambers said she would pass that request along to the governor's office.

*The board recessed for a short break at 11:08 a.m. They went back on the record at 11:19 a.m. Ms. St. George was not present upon return but sent her regrets to Ms. Chambers via email.*

### **Discussion of Death Reporting Responsibilities**

The board reviewed AS 08.65.140(3) and discussed how they are compelling licensees to comply with state laws. They inspected AS 18.50.230 and could not identify how midwives could comply with it since midwives are not authorized to file death certificates under this section of law. Ms. Chambers offered to ask Ms. Davis to contact the Revisor to see if there might have been a revision oversight during legislative changes. Ms. Chambers said she would also research and identify whether the Department of Health had adopted regulations pertaining to pregnancy of less than 20 weeks and mentioned in AS 18.50.240(a).

The board agreed to review the requirements of AS 08.65.140 and related Department of Health statutes and regulations, once this research had been performed, with the intent to adopt conforming regulations.

The board also reviewed the requirement in 12 AAC 14.540 for licensees to report within 14 days if a client had died. Chair Belisle discussed the history of peer review and how the board disassociated peer review from the investigative process via regulations several years ago. The board discussed that the current process is adequate: The report to the board should not trigger its own action, but it is available in the license file if the investigator needs it. Ms. Chambers said she would ensure Investigator Bond was aware of this process.

### **Fourth Quarter FY23 Fiscal Report**

Ms. Chambers reviewed the year-end schedule of revenues and expenditures with the board. She pointed out that they had lower revenue this renewal but also had higher legal costs due to a large regulations project and a high level of investigative activity. The program is also not being charged for a licensing examiner since she and Deputy Director Saviers are the program's current licensing/board staff, so that is a "new" personnel expense that could come up in the future. She explained the indirect process to the board. Chair Belisle pointed out the program

had a year-end surplus that will help as they enter a non-renewal year. Ms. Chambers discussed the delicate balance of keeping licensing costs reasonable while covering costs yet not setting barriers to entry.

#### **Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present, and none had indicated prior to the meeting that they wished to offer comment at the meeting. Because the meeting was incredibly efficient and there was no further business to be done, all members and staff agreed to forward any correspondence or concern raised by the public so it could be addressed appropriately.

#### **Adjourn**

**At 12:02 p.m., Ms. Pugh moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lucey and met with unanimous consent.**