

Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development

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Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing

## **Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives**

### **Annual Report**

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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**Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives  
FY 2023 Annual Report**

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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Bethel Belisle</b> Certified Direct Entry Midwife, Chair	Anchorage	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2024
<b>Rachel Pugh</b> Certified Direct Entry Midwife	Eagle River	December 15, 2020	March 1, 2024
<b>Hannah St. George</b> Public Member	Fairbanks	July 9, 2019	March 1, 2026
<b>Darcy Lucey</b> Certified Nurse-Midwife	Wasilla	June 22, 2022	March 1, 2025

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**Identification of Staff**

**Sara Chambers – DCCED Boards and Regulations Advisor**

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**Glenn Saviers – Deputy Director**

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**Lacey Derr – Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Narrative Statement**

The mission of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives (CDM) is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated Direct-Entry Midwifery services are available to Alaskan consumers. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. The board consists of two Direct Entry Midwives, one physician with an obstetric practice (this position remained unfilled throughout FY 23), one certified nurse midwife, and one public member. The board meets by teleconference at least twice per fiscal year, usually more often (quarterly) depending on circumstances, and conducts additional business through the OnBoard Passageways system.

The fiscal year (FY) is July 1st through June 30th; this report is for board business accomplished in FY 23, with proposed actions planned for FY 24. In FY 23, the board held 8 teleconferences in which Bethel Belisle, CDM presided as Chair. In these teleconferences, the board discussed and acted on apprenticeship and license applications, regulation projects, goals and objectives for the current and upcoming fiscal year, as well as sought input for various regulatory and licensing issues from the Department of Law and reviewed and voted on Consent Agreements in order to resolve ongoing investigations.

We had 1 in-person meeting that occurred over 2 days in February, in Juneau, in which Bethel Belisle, CDM presided as Chair. Board members participated in meetings with legislators during this time, to inform and educate them about the Sunset Bill and Statutory changes in a future bill. The Sunset Bill was passed allowing the board another 2 years until Sunset. The Statutory Changes were put into HB 175 with Representative Allard as sponsor but were not acted upon during this session.

For FY 23, total revenue was \$68,430 and expenses were \$39,296, leaving an annual surplus of \$89,709.

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024**

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt- supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 2024	Juneau	5	0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$ 2,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$ 875.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$ 500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): M&IE			\$ 450.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$ 3,825.00</b>

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other (Please Specify):

**Total Estimated Cost:**

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)**

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel** (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or  Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 27-30, 2023	Salt Lake City, UT	1	0

**Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

CLEAR’s 2023 Annual Educational Conference will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah - September 27-30, 2023. Content is developed by and for members of the regulatory community, with one aim: to promote regulatory excellence.

Track sessions are focused on four distinct areas of inquiry:

- Regulatory Administration and Governance
- Compliance, Discipline, and Enforcement
- Testing and Examinations
- Entry to Practice Standards and Continuing Competence

The conference will help board members strengthen their understanding and capacity to serve successfully on a regulatory board. Because we do not have a national organization to provide this training, CLEAR is a great investment for the board. The board supported Rachel Pugh as the primary attendee selected to attend.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$ 0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$ 0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 745.00			\$ 745.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$ 3,500.00			\$ 3,500.00
Describe “Other” (break out all sections): Using CBPL city pairs for estimate.				
<b>Net Total:</b>	\$ 4,245.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,245.00

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable     
  Resources     
  Examinations  
 Membership     
  Training     
  Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

**Other Items with a Fiscal Impact**

- Not Applicable     
 Cost Per Event:  
 Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

**Summary of FY 2024 Fiscal Requests:**

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$ 3,825.00
Travel for Exams:	\$ 0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$ 4,245.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$ 0.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	\$ 0.00
Other:	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$ 8,070.00</b>



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**Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

The board currently has a bill (HB 175) that is being sponsored by Representative Allard. We recommend continued support of this bill as it moves through the committees and House and will seek a Senate sponsor for this bill as well.

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=hb%20175>

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**Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

The board is in the midst of regulation updates to preceptor qualifications. If statutory changes are successful in FY24, conforming regulations will be implemented.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

**FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:**

**Objective #1:** Conduct two meetings per year. Continue to primarily meet via teleconference.

Used Passageways OnBoard and Zoom to facilitate board business and communication.

Met in person in Juneau to speak with legislative leaders on potential statutory changes the board is looking at accomplishing.

**Objective #2:** Complete regulation projects. Work with division to streamline the regulation process.

Made regulatory changes to make CPM national certification the licensure standard for Alaska's CDMs. However, this cannot be fully implemented until the statutory changes are approved, so there is currently a hybrid path to licensure as things stand. We did present this information to legislators while in Juneau to encourage the passage of the statutory changes bill.

The board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the board has continued to pursue a statutory change that will bring Alaska in line with the national certification standard for CDMs, which will ensure the highest standards for competency are met and maintained by Alaskan midwives. This change will enable the board to approve new licenses more efficiently for midwives and allow the board to continue regulating practice for the midwifery profession.

**Objective #3:** Review investigative reports and monitor disciplinary actions.

The board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the board has continued to monitor investigations and disciplinary actions and advocate for expeditious processing and completion of these cases

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II**

**FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

**Objective #1:** Conduct at least two meetings in the fiscal year, continue to meet primarily via teleconference.

Use Passageways OnBoard and Zoom to facilitate board business and communication. If the need arises and finances allow, consider another in-person meeting at some point in the next year.

**Objective #2:** Continue to work on statutory change bill to facilitate meeting the requirements of the Legislative Audit.

Continue to speak with legislators regarding HB 175 as it moves through the committees and into House vote.

**Objective #3:** Review investigative reports and monitor disciplinary actions.

The board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the board will continue to monitor investigations and disciplinary actions and advocate for expeditious processing and completion of these cases.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit:** 10/14/2022

**Board Sunset Date:** 6/30/2025

**Audit Recommendation:**

DCCED's commissioner should work with the governor's office and policy makers to improve the recruitment and retention of investigators.

**Action Taken:**

This is a recommendation over which the board has no control.

**Next Steps:**

N/A

**Complete :**    **No**         **Yes**                    **If yes, date completed:**

**Audit Recommendation:**

DCCED's commissioner should work with the governor's office and policy makers to improve the recruitment and retention of licensing staff, and board members should adequately review applications prior to approval.

**Action Taken:**

The first half of this recommendation is something over which the board has no control. The board has been cautious in reviewing and approving applications for licensing. The board also had an expert available to discuss certification standards through the national certifying organization and how to apply those when looking at potential licensees.

**Next Steps:**

Consider education and/or additional expert assistance to facilitate better understanding of the complexities of education, credentialing, and licensing of midwives.

**Complete :**    **No**         **Yes**                    **If yes, date completed:**

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)**

**Audit Recommendation:**

DCBPL's director should work with the board to ensure the online licensing application is sufficient to monitor compliance with continuing education hours and accurate regulatory references are included in the application.

**Action Taken:**

Regulatory references were fixed on the application. With regulation changes, the monitoring of continuing education hours will be shifted to the national certifying body.

**Next Steps:**

N/A

**Complete :**    No         Yes                    **If yes, date completed:** 02/01/2023

**Audit Recommendation:**

The Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions director should work with the board to identify potential applicants to fill board vacancies in a timely manner.

**Action Taken:**

The board has maintained all positions other than the physician for the entirety of the year. They have been actively searching for a physician to fill this role but have been unable to find anyone who is interested at this time. Statutory changes requested in HB 175 are asking to remove the physician and CNM positions and replace them with midwives who are currently licensed under this board.

**Next Steps:**

Continue to work on finding a physician to fill this spot until/unless the statute changes. Continue to work on advocating for statute changes as outlined in HB 175.

**Complete :**    No         Yes                    **If yes, date completed:**