

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES
6

7 Videoconference
8 February 20, 2020
9

10 By the authority of AS 08.065.020 and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a
11 scheduled videoconference meeting of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives was held
12 February 20, 2020; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor Commissioners Conference Room, Juneau, AK.
13

14 **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call**
15

16 Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM AKDT.

17 Members present: Dana Brown, Deborah Schneider, Dianna Kristeller, Dr. Dana Espindola,
18 Hannah St. George

19 Staff Present: Lacey Derr, Andy Khmelev

20 **Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda/Review Minutes**

21 **A motion was made to amend the agenda to include the Alaska Perinatal Quality
22 Collaborative Update by Dianna Kristeller; seconded by Dana Brown, the motion passed
23 unanimously.**
24

25 **A motion was made to approve the draft minutes as written for the October 10, 2019
26 meeting by D. Kristeller, seconded by D. Brown; and agreed unanimously.**
27

28 **Agenda Item 3 – Ethics Report**
29

30 No ethics to report.
31

32 **Agenda Item 4 – New Member Introduction**
33

34 New members of the Board introduced themselves, beginning with Hannah St. George. She
35 stated she was located out of Fairbanks and was currently carrying her 10th child. One of the
36 other board members actually attended one of her births so she's very familiar with the
37 midwifery services available in Alaska. Hannah considered herself an 'unofficial doula' by
38 attending births whenever possible. She really loved the birthing process and was grateful to

39 be serving on the Board.

40

41 There was also a newly appointed upcoming board member present, Amanda 'Manga' Penwell,
42 who briefly introduced herself. OLE Derr requested seasoned board members to inform newly
43 appointed members of the board's current work, goals/objectives, and any additional
44 information they felt would be useful for new members to know. Chair Schneider briefly
45 reviewed bringing the statutes and regulations in line with national CPM process to streamline
46 licensing and hopefully decrease costs. Also, to bring standards in line with national standards
47 which would assist midwives in obtaining licenses in other jurisdictions with similar
48 requirements.

49

50 **Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence**

51

52 The Midwife Association of Alaska (MAA) sent in a letter respectfully requesting whomever the
53 new elected board chair will be, that they hold a Certified Direct-Entry Midwife license as
54 opposed to the other midwifery license types or the public member. Historically the board has
55 always worked to maintain a CDM as board chair and the newly appointed CDM Manga Penwell
56 was interested in taking on the board chair position. After a brief discussion, it was agreed at
57 the next meeting once newly appointed members being their terms, a formal vote would be
58 made.

59

60 **Agenda Item 6 – Perinatal Conference**

61

62 Certified Nurse Midwife Diana Kristeller informed the board of the Perinatal Conference she
63 attended as the Alaska representative for the Perinatal Quality Collaborative. It's a state-wide
64 collaborative of professions focused on improving care for mothers and children. One of the
65 major projects of the group is the "Community Birth Transfer Initiative". The intention is to
66 advance the professional relationships by continuing to improve the transfer process from a
67 community birth setting to a hospital birth setting. Membership to the collaborative is
68 encouraged so all areas of Alaska and their birth needs are represented.

69

70 CNM Kristeller went on to request additional board support in addressing additional access to
71 medications for hypertensive transport. The board had a discussion on the medications
72 involved, how they would/could be administered, and what implementing those changes into
73 the statutes and regulations would look like. After identifying areas such as 12 AAC 14.560,
74 14.570, 14.600 it was agreed there should be a recommendation from MAA on the subject.
75 There needs to be more research put into continuing education for the administration of
76 additional medications, in line with national standards, and accessible for midwives in Alaska.

77 CNM Kristeller will go back to the collaborative and work with MAA to further the discussion on
78 medical assistance for hypertensive transports.

79

80 **Agenda Item 7 – Board Admin Business**

81

82 OLE Derr worked with the board to identify the best date for the next board meeting. Because
83 new members were available to discuss the best dates, it was agreed to hold the next meeting
84 October 8, 2020.

85 **Off Record: 10:12am**

86 **On Record: 10:24am**

87

88 **Agenda Item 8 – Right Touch Regulation Review**

89

90 Chair Schneider began introducing the Right Touch Regulation Project and her ideas on where
91 the board might try to focus efforts. The board overall has been making changes to licensing
92 requirements and becoming more in line with national standards. Through the approved
93 increase to requiring MEAC accredited education and implementing more NARM standards into
94 the licensing process, the midwives in Alaska would be on par with national requirements. This
95 would in turn help reduce costs to the board and increase midwifery license mobility.

96

97 Because there would be a newly seated board in a few weeks, it was decided a subcommittee
98 should be formed of 2 new members to address regulatory changes more specifically for a May
99 meeting.

100

101 **A motion was made to approve the formation of a subcommittee for the regulations project**
102 **comprised of a current and new board member by D. Brown, seconded by D. Kristeller; and**
103 **agreed unanimously.**

104

105 **Off Record: 11:24am**

106 **On Record: 11:30am**

107

108 **Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment**

109

110 MAA Representative Maddie Grimes provided public comment requesting additional
111 information on the meeting link for attendance to be accessible. It was difficult to locate and
112 others may have missed the meeting. Meeting minutes have also been delayed online and
113 having those available sooner is very helpful to license holders and MAA. On behalf of the
114 association, it was requested any information on changes that are made to statute or

115 regulation be made available to license holders as soon as possible. Additionally, Ms. Grimes
116 requested to please keep MAA informed of changes so they can aid and improve
117 implementation of those changes in the most positive way possible. Last, she recommended
118 any fee reductions be implemented as best as possible to all midwives because license fees are
119 incredibly high but births overall in Alaska are down. Any reductions in license cost would be
120 greatly appreciated by midwives.

121

122 **Public Comment Closed at 11:43am.**

123

124 **Recess for Lunch 11:45am – 1:02pm**

125

126 **Agenda Item 10 – Investigations**

127

128 Investigators Christina Bond joined to present the most recent Investigative Report. At the time
129 the report was completed, September 26, 2019 – February 5, 2020 there were Three Opened
130 Cases and Zero Closed Cases. The board chair asked questions regarding the older cases and
131 why they're still open. Investigator Bond explained cases which are being actively investigated,
132 they cannot be discussed with the board. Senior Investigator Sonia Lipker joined to reinforce
133 Investigator Bond's statement regarding open investigations and the duties to protect the
134 board from bias if the case comes before them for review. Chair Schneider continued to
135 question the investigators on specific questions when Chief Investigator Greg Francois joined to
136 support both Senior Investigator Lipker and Investigator Bond's explanations of investigations.

137

138 MAA Action Accountability Committee Peer Review Chair Bethel Belisle was present to discuss
139 how MAA facilitates their side of the Peer Review contract process. There had been some
140 questions on how the Peer Review process was completed and the Board was hoping to clarify
141 some of those questions. Peer Review Chair Belisle explained the committee receives full
142 charts for births which fall into 12 AAC 14.900(C)(3)(A-D). The sensitive information is redacted
143 and reviewed by the committee for errors, violations, patterns, or other identifiable issues.
144 From there, AAC will send out a letter to the licensee advising them if they've met the standard
145 of care or not. They will also send out guidance on areas where midwives could do better,
146 recommend additional continuing education, or require supervision from another midwife.
147 They would send a letter to the investigators if there was a regulation break but AAC has been
148 told they don't have any "teeth" to require additional education or supervision on their own.

149

150 Director Sara Chambers joined to discuss additional matters with the board.

151

152 **I, Dianna Kristeller, move that the Alaska State Board of Direct-Entry Midwives enter into**

153 executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to
154 Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters the immediate knowledge of
155 which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finance of the public entity; subjects
156 that tend to prejudice the reputation of character of any person provided the person may
157 request a public discussion; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are
158 required to be confidential. Seconded by D. Brown, the motion passed unanimously.

159
160 Executive Session:
161 End Executive Session: 2:30pm

162
163 **Agenda Item 11 – Division Update**

164
165 Director Chambers presented the FY19 4th Quarter report and boards current financials. It was
166 explained the board was in a position to be able to reduce licensing fees for the upcoming
167 renewal year. The board discussed dividing the reduction between both CDM and Apprentice
168 license fees, all to CDM or all to the Apprentice fees. It was agreed that helping midwifery
169 students obtain full licensure is what keeps the board sustainable. With birth rates down
170 nationally, supporting student midwives should remain a priority.

171
172 **A motion was made to apply the full fee reduction to the apprentice midwife license fees by**
173 **D. Brown, seconded by D. Espindola; and agreed unanimously.**

174
175 **A motion was made to hold a regulations meeting to address Peer Review on March 9, 2020**
176 **by D. Kristeller, seconded by D. Brown; and agreed unanimously.**

177
178 **Item 12 – Adjourn**

179
180 **A motion was made to Adjourn the Meeting by Dr. Espindola; seconded by D. Brown, the**
181 **motion passed unanimously.**

182
183 **Meeting Adjourned 3:27pm**

184
185
186
187
188
189
190
191

Respectfully Submitted:

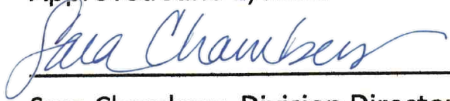
192
193
194
195
196
197
198
199

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

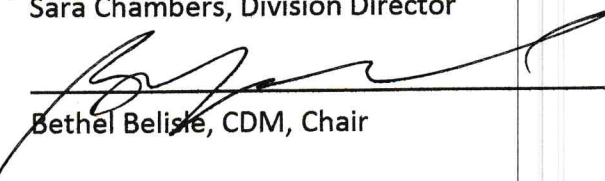
Deborah Schneider, CDM Chair

Date

200 Approved June 1, 2022

201 

202 Sara Chambers, Division Director

203 

204 Bethel Belisle, CDM, Chair