

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 November 10, 2020  
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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 November 10, 2020; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor Commissioners Conference Room, Juneau,  
13 AK.  
14

15 **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call**  
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17 Bethel Belisle called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM AKDT.

18 Members present: Acting Chair Bethel Belisle, Dr. Dana Espindola, Hannah St. George

19 Staff Present: Records & Licensing Supervisor Lacey Derr  
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21 **Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda**

22 **A motion was made to approve the Agenda as written by D. Espindola, seconded by H. St.  
23 George; and agreed unanimously.**  
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25 **Agenda Item 3 – Vote New Board Chair**  
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27 RLS Lacey Derr informed the board Manga Penwell has stepped down from the board and there  
28 needs to be a new Board Chair elected. Bethel is currently the only seated midwife and it has  
29 been previously the wish of the Board to have the chair be a licensed CDM.  
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31 **A motion was made to elect Bethel Belisle as board chair by D. Espindola, seconded by H. St.  
32 George; and agreed unanimously.**  
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34 **Agenda Item 4 – Ethics Report**  
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36 There were no ethics to report.

37 **Agenda Item 5 – MEAC Accreditation**  
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39 Board Chair Belisle presented the recently approved regulation change in regard to education.  
40 She explained this regulations change has become a barrier to the license program as MEAC  
41 only accredited schools are very expensive, difficult to attend, and there are NO MEAC  
42 accredited schools in Alaska. Chair Belisle had reached out to previously approved programs  
43 which are in Alaska and they had confirmed they would be on board with updating their  
44 programs to be more in line with what is needed for board approval. It was asked to revisit this  
45 topic when there was a fully seated board as it's important to keep as many competent  
46 pathways to licensure open.

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48 **Agenda Item 6 – Investigations**

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50 Investigator Christina Bond joined to present the Investigative Board Report for the time period  
51 February 6, 2020 thru September 15, 2020. During that time, there were three open cases, one  
52 of which will be presented to the board in executive session. Two cases had been closed during  
53 that time period.

54

55 **I, Dana Espindola, move that the Alaska State Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives enter**  
56 **into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to**  
57 **Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters which tend to prejudice the**  
58 **reputation and character of any person provided that person may request a public discussion;**  
59 **seconded by Hannah St. George and passed unanimously.**

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61 **Executive Session: 9:20am**

62 **Out of Executive Session: 9:34am**

63

64 **A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda for Case #2019-001222 by D. Espindola,**  
65 **seconded by H. St. George; and agreed unanimously.**

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67 **Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

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69 Because the board was ahead of schedule and to make best use of their time, they moved on to  
70 Application Review while waiting for Director Chambers to present the Emergency Regulations  
71 project.

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73

74 The board reviewed applications and:

75 **Via roll call vote, the following applications were reviewed and by the board.**

76 **Laura Lemons Apprentice Midwife**

77 **Bethany Kirillov CDM**  
78 **Noa Belisle Midwife Preceptor**

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80 There was still time before Director Chambers was scheduled to present to the board took a  
81 short break.

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83 Off Record: 9:45am  
84 On Record: 10:00am

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86 **Agenda Item 7 – Emergency Regulations/ECL**

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88 AAG Harriet Milks and Regulations Specialist Jun Maquis joined to discuss the implementation  
89 of Emergency Regulations in case future events were to come up and the board wanted to  
90 execute an emergency courtesy license. It was discussed what sorts of emergencies would  
91 qualify, how long the license would be in effect for, and the parameters of the license itself.

92  
93 **Emergency regulations dealing with emergency courtesy license – 12 AAC 02.145:**

94 The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives finds that an emergency exists under AS  
95 44.62.250, and that an emergency regulation change is necessary to 12 AAC 14, dealing with  
96 emergency courtesy license, requiring regulations to enable additional direct-entry midwives  
97 services to be quickly available in the state, for the immediate preservation of the public peace,  
98 health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

99  
100 Facilities are unable to maintain staffing levels due to the current and ongoing spike in  
101 COVID-19 hospitalizations and the increase in medical staff unable to report to work due  
102 to COVID-positive tests, quarantine awaiting test results, or caring for a COVID-positive  
103 relative—especially in rural areas and in facilities serving special needs populations. The  
104 commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services has specifically requested  
105 health care boards implement emergency measures to allow qualified providers in other  
106 jurisdictions to become licensed quickly in Alaska to fill these gaps.

107 In a motion duly made by Dr. Dana Espindola and seconded by Hannah St. George, with  
108 unanimous consent, it was

109 **RESOLVED** to adopt 12 AAC 02.145 as presented and amended, with the intent to make  
110 the emergency regulation permanent.

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112 **The motion passed with no further discussion.**

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114 **Agenda Item 8 – Regulations - Peer Review**



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Attorney Megyn Weigand joined to discuss the latest draft of Peer Review to meet the needs of the audit and the intentions of the board. The board and Attorney Weigand went line by line through the draft and proposed language. They worked to clarify codes of ethics, more defined language, and additional support for board actions if need.

Attorney Weigand was going to take these current suggested updates and put them into a final draft for the board to review at their next meeting. If the board chooses to adopt the final draft, it can be prepared for public comment.

**Off Record Lunch: 12pm – 1pm**

**Agenda Item 10 – Division Update**

Administrative Officer Melissa Dumas joined to present the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report to the board. The report showed the board had done a great job pulling themselves out of deficit and if all continues to go as it is, the board will have a surplus after the renewal period for the first time in quite a few years. The board was pleased to see movement into a positive financial position and stated they hope to keep that momentum moving forward and eventually lower license fees.

**Agenda Item 13 – Adjourn**

**A motion was made to Adjourn the meeting by D. Espindola; seconded by H. St. George, the motion passed unanimously.**

**Meeting Adjourned 1:21 am**

Respectfully Submitted:

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Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

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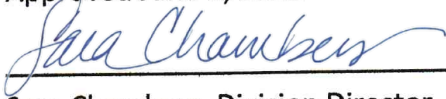
Bethel Belisle, CDM Chair

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Date

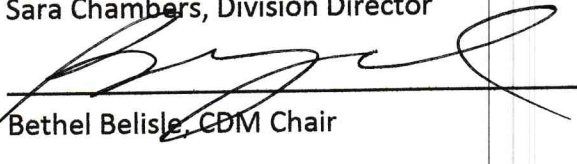
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Approved June 1, 2022



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Sara Chambers, Division Director



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Bethel Belisle, CDM Chair