



## Board of Direct-Entry Midwives - HB334 & SB192 Discussion

### **March 25, 2022 Minutes**

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

By the authority of AS 08.065.020 and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled videoconference meeting of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives was held March 18, 2022; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Division Director's Office, Juneau, AK.

#### **Attendance**

##### **Members Present:**

Bethel Belisle, Sara Chambers, Hannah St. George, Rachel Pugh

##### **Guests Present:**

Morgan Bunch, Johanna Crossett, Kate Parks, Mary Yanagawa (MAA President)

1. 8:00am Call to Order/Roll Call

All members reported no ethics violations

2. 8:02am Review/Approve Agenda

##### **Motion:**

Approve agenda

Motion moved by Pugh and motion seconded by St George. Pass

3. 8:05am HB 334 & SB 192 Discussion

Pugh reported that she spoke to Joe Hayes in Sen. Kawasaki's office, who said Sen. Begich has proposed an amendment to strip the bill of all content other than to rename the board/licensees from certified to licensed. She said he mentioned the bill would not be on the docket for next week but likely heard the following week.

Chambers discussed the audit findings and cleared up misunderstanding: The audit reflected the board's need to put forward recommendations for statutory changes, but it did not analyze or address any of the content of those changes. Belisle and Pugh discussed changes in statutory language over time and NARM's recommendation to eliminate MD oversight because it is no longer needed. Board members reflected on how it has been difficult for the MD member to engage due to scheduling and a lack of understanding of the profession. The board held a general discussion about the bill's contents, expressing that all elements are linked together as national standards.

Belisle stressed how the board's focus is public safety and that legislators are generally not well-informed about midwifery. One of the benefits of the bill is lower costs to midwives through licensing standards and patients through increased ability for insurance to cover costs. Chambers discussed legislative strategy and asked where would the board be willing to compromise. Several members and MAA president said they had requested meetings with Sen Begich to discuss the rumored amendment, but they have received no response. Chambers recommended the board speak with Sen. Wilson and Sen. Kawasaki about areas where the board might compromise, if any. St. George offered to provide more support in reaching out to legislators. The board discussed whether to meet again within the next two weeks. Chambers suggested publicly noticing several meetings and then cancelling if they are not needed to save time and money. The board agreed they would consider meeting two weeks from now if needed.

**Motion:**

I move that if amendments are made to this legislation, the board support keeping the current board makeup and adding two certified midwife members, while keeping the remainder of the current bill: renaming as licensed midwives, adopting national licensing and scope of practice standards, and adding the ability to bill insurance,

Motion moved by Rachel Pugh and motion seconded by Hannah St. George. Pass

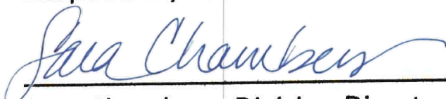
**Motion:**

Adjourn

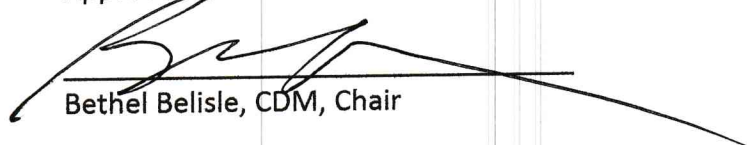
Motion moved by Rachel Pugh and motion seconded by Hannah St. George. Pass  
unanimously

4. 9:00am Adjourn

Respectfully submitted:

  
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Sara Chambers, Division Director

Approved:

  
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Bethel Belisle, CDM, Chair