

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES

Teleconference
September 14, 2018

By the authority of AS 08.065.020 and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled teleconference meeting of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives was held September 14, 2018; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor Conference Room B Juneau, AK.

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call

Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 8:39 AM AKDT.

Members present: Traci Barickman, Dana Brown, Deborah Schneider, Dianna Kristeller, and Dr. Kathryn Ostrom

Staff Present: Charles Ward

There were no ethics to disclose.

Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda/Review Minutes

A motion was made to approve the draft agenda as amended by K. Ostrom; seconded by D. Brown; the motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the draft minutes as written for the May 22, 2018 meeting by K. Ostrom; seconded by D. Brown; the motion passed unanimously.

Jessica Sawyer joined 8:10am.

Agenda Item 3 – Peer Review

Jessica Sawyer, committee chair for the Midwives Association of Alaska presented her short summary on the Accountability Action Committee and how it is set up. There are 7 member sand Ms. Sawyer is the chair. Their role is to review all of the annual summaries and the incident/transport reports. The committee summarizes feedback and prepares it for the midwives. In 2017, there were 33 midwives to review, 2 were late in providing their information. The committee was able to get in contact with the midwives and these 2 fall

September 14, 2018

under “Administrative Issues”, there was no risk or danger to public health and safety and were not practice issues.

Completed summaries were reviewed for at 33 midwives. Some midwives gave assisted births and even some out of state births, so a total of 562 births were reviewed. Of those 562 births, 5 cases were pulled. All 5 cases were felt to have been within compliance, documented properly, and no concerns were raised.

There was a brief discussion on how previous reported incident numbers compare with current numbers. There was also a request by Ms. Sawyer to use her review form format and it will be requested to administrative staff. Chairwoman Schneider quested what the most common incidents were and it was described #1 as newborn respiratory distress and #2 were postpartum hemorrhage and non-reassuring fetal heart tones during labor. There were also 3 newborns admitted to the NICU not immediately following birth but within the first week of life.

Chairwoman Schneider asked for additional clarification on were the regulations were regarding reporting Gestational Diabetes Mellitus and Ms. Sawyer helped clarify. It was discussed there could be changes needed to current regulations but that will need to be addressed at another time.

Agenda Item 4 – Review of Jurisprudence

Chairwoman Schneider questioned when the last Jurisprudence (JP) Exam was reviewed and Charles Ward stated it was last revised in November 2016. There were additional questions raised about a question on the exam that did not have a citation in the regulations. After a discussion, it was explained the JP Exam was intended to ensure everyone has read the statues and regulations, and keep up with new updates to the statues and regulations. There have been updates to states/regulations since the last update in Nov, 2016. Further clarification was made on the regulations changes that have been made, they need to be signed and accepted before those changes can be added to the JP Exam. It was agreed that the JP Exam should move forward for this current exam and be reviewed again after December, 2018 to add the updated regulations into the exam.

A motion was made to approve the Jurisprudence Exam as written by D. Brown; seconded by D. Kristeller; the motion passed unanimously.

Break at 8:51am

On Record at 9:15am

76 *Greg Francois, Chief Investigator; Sonia Lipker, Senior Investigator; Melissa Dumas, Admin*
77 *Officer II joined at 9:16am.*

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79 **Agenda Item 6 – Division Update**

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81 Melissa Dumas presented the Division Update to the board, the fee analysis. A fee increase
82 was determined not to be necessary. It would also be too late anyway to increase fees before
83 the renewal. There was also fear if a fee increase were to happen, it would deter people from
84 renewing their license. The MID Project has been pulling itself out of deficit and is projected to
85 be out of deficit by 2023. Possibly sooner if the program continues to grow in applicants and
86 keep expenses limited.

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88 Questions were asked regarding the Apprentice Fees and their renewal cycles. The board had
89 previously asked that the apprentice license fees be set as HALF of the full midwife fee. Where
90 did the division come up with the numbers used for the fees used? Melissa Dumas stated the
91 fees increased over the last 10 years but current fees are identical to 2017 fees. Fees were set
92 based on several factor such as level of effort to issue license, investigations, and number of
93 applicants. It was determined the board would need to prepare and submit a letter to the
94 Division in regards to lowering the apprentice fees. The board requested being more involved
95 with setting the fees and were instructed to send the request letter to Director Sarah
96 Chambers.

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98 After brief discussion for clarification on some budget items and how those fees are incurred,
99 the board thanked Melissa for her time and reiterated the need to be involved with fee setting.
100 The board would need to make sure any regulations projects to increase fees would be
101 monetarily beneficial to the program. That changes wouldn't outweigh the projected income.

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103 **Agenda Item 5 – Investigations Report**

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105 Investigator Lipker stated there have been no opened cases and closed two cases from March
106 16 – Aug 31, 2018. There is one case currently being actively investigated. Chairwoman
107 Schneider questioned how financial charges are established. Investigator Francois explained
108 that in order to open a case, the board must be billed. It's based on hours spent on the case
109 and is billed accordingly. Who is billed is dependent on which board was involved and the
110 individual the complaint was filed against. There is no way to tell how much a single case costs
111 and there is not.

112 **I, K. Ostrom, move that the Alaska State Board of Direct-Entry Midwives enter into**
113 **executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to**

Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person my request a public discussion. Seconded by D. Brown, the motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session begin 9:49am

End Executive Session at 10:03am

Break 10:07am

On Record 10:52am

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comment

Susan Tewillinger from Eagle River stated there was a minor typo in the agenda. Additionally, she thanked the board for their hard work. She had some questions regarding Traci Barickman’s appointment to the board. Concerns were raised about her knowledge/experience in midwifery and how she came to be appointment. Typically the Midwife Association of Alaska weighs in on board appointments. Traci Barickman responded by stating she has no background in midwifery or the midwife board but has had extensive experience serving as a board member on various state boards. Ms. Barickman’s daughter in law is a midwife and all 9 of her grandchildren have been delivered via a midwife. Appointments are made by the governor’s office and Ms. Barickman would be approved by the legislature in March, 2019.

Melanie Hansen CDN from Palmer commented on the apprentice permit fee increase. Even though it was not “official” the fee would be increased, she wanted to state the increase would result in fewer apprentices applying. Additional, it would likely result in fewer applications and an increase in unlicensed practice/rushed births. The increase of the apprentice fee to half of the midwife fee, would make the license unaffordable.

Jessica Johnson from Anchorage began to question about licensing fees and the education but was directed to wait until the correct time to discuss the regulations changes.

Public Comment Closed 11:17am.

Agenda Item 9 – New Business

Chairwoman Schneider stated there was board difficulty with OnBoard and how to sign into the program. The board members were not able to see the applications, therefore were not able to

review. The request has been to receive additional training on the system to sign-in and to be able to locate needed items. Board members stated they need access to review the application in order review this afternoon, otherwise to please send the application directly for review.

In discussing the letter from the Department of Law, it was suggested the Accountability Action Committee (AAC) would walk through the root cause analysis program and the application process, it would assist in proper completion of documentation. Chairwoman Schneider recommended a letter to request clarification on what factors to include to MAA & AAC, and not make it a regulations change. That they should create a list of indicators to present.

Lunch at 11:40am.

On record at 1:16pm.

The board briefly discussed what will be included in the AAC letter and the letter to the Division to be involved in the fee setting process. It was determined that Deborah Schneider would formulate the letters and forward on to Supervisor Renee Hoffard to send out for comment.

Agenda Item 8 – Oral Testimony (Current Regulations Project ONLY)

Amanda Penwell from Fairbanks addressed the board with concerns of how the regulations are written. She does not support the regulation project as written. She supports moving toward the MEAC accreditation but this current regulation does not completely meet that need.

Mattie Grimes from Juneau has similar thoughts too Amanda. Moving to MEAC Accreditation will make the program stronger but also agrees, the current regulation as written does not meet that need fully. She has sympathy for those currently enrolled in a previously approved program and the new regulation should provide further clarification for those individuals.

Susan Terwillinger from Eagle River stated a different opinion. She feels the move to MEAC ONLY for licensure would be dangerous/hurtful to Alaska Midwives. Why is the board not able to retain the current regulations and add an addition to the needs? Per her research, the lowest cost program was a minimum of \$16,000. The high cost of MEAC standards only education will limit the accessibility/affordability of midwifery in Alaska.

Jessica Johnson from Anchorage seconded what Susan Terwillinger stated. The increase cost will limit access to woman obtaining their midwife career choice. The fear is we're going to legislate ourselves out of a profession. She also asked how many current midwives have MEAC accreditation. Very worried about excluding the profession due to the cost.

Judy Davidson from Wasilla has been a midwife since before licensure in the State of Alaska. She was not MEAC accredited but lobbied to be licensed during her entry. She believes midwifery has changed and there is a lot more ability to interface with the medical community. There is an obligation to change with the times and for that reason, she is in support of MEAC Accreditation only.

Megan Koontz from Anchorage wanted to comment because states have different standards, it can be very confusing as a midwife coming in what needs to be completed. Megan feels the MEAC accreditation could create serious barriers to cultural diversity to midwifery. The cost is also very high for MEAC only programs. She requested to revisit the solution to education. She recommends the PIT process instead of strictly MEAC Accreditation.

Chairwoman Schneider thanked everyone for their input, as well as Board Member Dana Brown. The regulation doesn't take away midwifery to be or via vita. Also to clarify, Ms. Brown said it was too much to review the entire curriculum for so many programs. There was a brief discussion on the potential for modifying/tweaking the regulations, at least to add the Department of Education. But regardless, the duty of the board is protect the health and safety of the public. This is a professional that deals directly with human lives. The standards must be improved to keep up with the time but Chairwoman Schneider recognizes the financial burden that comes with becoming a midwife.

The discussion moved toward the need for more research. It was recommend to table the current regulations so more research can be completed.

A motion was made to approve table the Current Regulations Project to obtain more information by D. Brown; seconded by T. Barickman; the motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – Board Business

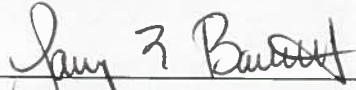
The board will meet on February 22, 2019 for the next all-day teleconference.

A motion was made to adjourn by D. Kristeller; seconded by Dr. K. Ostrom; the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:15pm.

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Respectfully Submitted:



Lacey Bartlett, Licensing Examiner



Deborah Schneider, CDM Chair

2/5/2020

Date

FINAL

September 14, 2018