



# Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

## Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on May 17, 2023

These minutes were approved by the board at a meeting held June 7, 2023.

Members: Bethel Belisle, Hannah St. George, Darcy Lucey, Rachel Pugh  
Staff: Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor; Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager

### Call to Order

The chair called the meeting to order, welcomed guests, and noted the roll. She invited members to declare any potential conflicts of interest. Member Darcy Lucey declared a potential conflict of interest with an investigative matter on the agenda. She stated that, as an employer and preceptor of the individual, she did not feel that she could maintain objectivity with the investigative matter. The chair indicated that further discussion of the potential conflict of interest would occur prior to that agenda item.

### Review and Approve Meeting Minutes

**Motion by Pugh: I move to approve the meeting minutes as proposed.** Unanimously approved.

The board reviewed the agenda and approved as noticed.

### Division Update

Melissa Dumas provided the board with an overview of the program's third quarter FY23 schedule of revenues and expenditures.

Sara Chambers asked the board to please check their emails periodically for notifications that license applications have been uploaded into OnBoard. Two ballots were open for 10 days without reaching a quorum and had to be reposted. This delays licensure for qualified applicants.

### Current licensees:

- 28 actively licensed certified direct-entry midwives
- 5 actively permitted apprentice direct-entry midwives
- 0 active temporary licenses/permits
- 4 in-process apprentice direct-entry midwife permit applications
- 3 in-process certified direct-entry midwife license applications

Annual Report: Darcy offered to draft the board's FY23 Annual Report and looked forward to the board's review and suggestions.

### Legislative Update

The chair announced the board's sunset legislation (SB 55) had passed, renewing the board for two years. The board was set for a four-year extension, but a last-minute letter from one physician who raised issue with one of the recent regulations incited a two-hour floor debate in the House, thus

reducing the extension for two years. The physician did not participate in public comment during the regulations process and has not contacted the board to express any concerns.

Rachel Pugh reported that the HB175 was introduced but had not made progress in committee, so it is being held until 2024. Board members had heard that there was confusion about CDMs vs APRN-CNMs, as well as assumptions that physicians have to oversee midwifery. There is some need to educate legislators about the profession of midwifery. Darcy is seeking conversations with APRN-CNMs and the APRN Alliance to ensure clarity of understanding prior to future hearings.

### **Discussion of midwifery statutes and regulations**

Ida Darragh, Executive Director, North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), discussed birthing requirements for CPM certification and the standards and processes of assessing them. She provided a general overview of the various pathways toward midwife certification and the clinical experience portfolio, which includes education and experience in over 700 knowledge points. She described a new feature at NARM called “preceptor-student accountability” where any concerns raised are evaluated and resolved through a committee process. This is also a forum for clients to initiate peer review through NARM in lieu of the licensing jurisdiction; this process seeks to increase the midwife’s understanding instead of revoke certification. (Revocation of certification is possible but is not the goal of the accountability process.)

She encouraged the board to continue to build relationships with Alaska nurse midwives through membership in ACNM. She stated that most states defer to NARM as the first phase of the licensing process; few states initiate the process or grant permissions to pre-CPM candidates. California has a bifurcated process for accredited in-state programs vs. nonaccredited educational programs. Some states require a jurisprudence exam and require specific pharmacology initial/CE courses, especially if the state permits use beyond NARM’s basic standard. She clarified that the NARM Job Analysis is a list of standards that the board could reference as a list of basic competencies; however, they don’t have a published scope of practice since that is authorized by each individual state. NACPM does have a published scope of practice standard; MANA has a collection of competencies but not a concise document. She was encouraged that the board is seeking legislation to clarify that the Alaska credential is a license. 38 states now require the CPM as a licensure credential. The commission over all agencies accrediting CPM, CNM, and CM credentials is the same.

The board recessed for a break at 11:31 a.m.; it reconvened at 11:40 a.m.

### **Alaska apprenticeship programs and preceptor requirements and forms**

Ms. Pugh asked whether the board mandates that preceptors attain approval before their births will count toward apprenticeship. She said she has been getting a lot of questions. The board reviewed statutes and regulations and discussed processes related to preceptor qualifications. The board discussed with Ms. Darragh that the current statutes and regulations do not align with NARM certified preceptor requirements, and there is additional work to do in statute.

The board discussed options for preceptors to verify their qualifications. They agreed it must be consistently applied to all preceptors who are supervising as part of the application packet. Chair Belisle asked for the current preceptor form to be updated so it is consistent with current law. The board requested that the form be available for preceptors to provide their qualifications as required by statute and regulation. As an alternative, the board could accept this information using

a method other than the form. It was agreed that the preceptor must meet the requirements but that there was no mandate for them to actively gain board approval ahead of precepting.

**Reporting the death of a client and birth assistants** was tabled to future meeting

### **Public Comment**

Deborah Schneider addressed the board on the preceptor process. Madi Grimes offered perspective on the legislative process and strategies for future statute change. She encouraged the board to work with MAA in the interim.

### **Investigative Report**

Investigator Christina Bond presented the current Investigative Report covering the period of January 19 – May 2, 2023. There are currently three open cases and one case that was closed in January with license action.

Darcy Lucey excused herself from the meeting due to a scheduling conflict.

**Motion by Pugh: In accordance with the provisions of Alaska Statute 44.62.310 (c), I move to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Ms. Chambers and Investigator Bond are requested to join the board during the session. Unanimously approved.**

The board entered executive session at 1:00 p.m.

The board exited executive session at 1:18 p.m. A quorum was maintained.

**Motion by Belisle: I move to deny the certified direct-entry midwife application #199476 by Vanessa Williams pursuant to AS 08.65.110(2), (3), (6); AS 08.65.150; 12 AAC 14.130; and 12 AAC 14.140. Unanimously approved.**

### **New Business**

Ms. Pugh asked why the apprentice applications in OnBoard had been pending since February. Ms. Chambers indicated that the renewal process, which ended in April, takes precedence over new applications so current midwives can keep working. The timeline was drawn out longer than desired due to licensing being handled by staff already assigned to legislative session and other duties. The board's delay in voting in OnBoard should be avoided, and all members have a responsibility to vote. Members are asked to communicate with the licensing staff if they will be unavailable for a window of time so the vote is not waiting on them.

**Motion by Pugh to adjourn. Unanimously approved.**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.