



# Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM AKST – 12:00 PM AKST  
Videoconference

## 1. Call to Order

### 1. Roll Call

- i. The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, by chair Bethel Belisle at 9:04 am.
- ii. Board members present: Bethel Belisle, Chair; Holly Steiner and Darcy Lucey.
- iii. Staff present: Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 1; Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist, and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3 Advanced.
- iv. Guests: Onica Sprokkreeff and Kate Parks.
- v. Quorum established. 3 of 3 appointed board members present. Two vacant seats available on this board - public member available since November 1, 2024 and physician seat available since March, 2023. Physician seat required to be licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who has an obstetrical practice or has specialized training in obstetrics.

### 2. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Each board member present declared no conflict of interest to report.

### 3. Accept Agenda

**Holly Steiner moved to accept the agenda as submitted. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

### 4. Board Chair Election

Bethel Belisle requested to step down as chair of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives but remain as a member of the board.

**Ms. Belisle nominated Holly Steiner as the new chair for the board. Darcy Lucey seconded the nomination. Vote called. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

Holly Steiner installed as new chair of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives effective this section of the board meeting on 01/08/2025.

5. Approve Minutes - 11-27-2024

**Bethel Belisle moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 27, 2024 as written. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

2. **Division Update - FY24 - Q4 + FY25 Q1**

Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager, for the division went over FYQ4 revenues and expenditures in detail for the board and FY25Q1 report placeholder expenses. Board asked questions regarding staffing expenses and how they were allocated. Ms. Dumas and Mr. Bowman provided clarification.

3. **Public Comment**

No public comment given.

4. **Sunset Audit Report**

Public posting for Sunset Audits available at <https://legaudit.akleg.gov/audits/sunset/> Legislative Auditor made a recommendation to extend board termination six years to June 30, 2031 (current termination 6/30/2025). Findings and Recommendations on pages 11-13. Board discussed 4 hours of peer review over 2 years in Alaska regulation versus 5 hours of peer review over 3 years for NARM certification requirement and regulation project to correct redundancy. NARM certification is required for initial Alaska midwife license and renewal. Board also discussed auditor finding of continuing professional practice requirement of 10 deliveries in concluding licensing period per 12 AAC 14.440 for renewal of a license. Board feels professional practice requirement found in 12 AAC 14.440 maintains public protection and wishes to continue this regulation requirement for renewal of a midwife license.

5. **Legislative Discussion**

The board reviewed the changes recommended by the Legislative Work Group to previously introduced HB175. No questions or subsequent changes made to the draft bill language.

**Motion by Bethel Belisle to accept the redesigned House bill 175 as written with the changes that have been looked at today and to approve Holly Steiner as our legislative liaison to speak with legislators on behalf of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. Seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously. Motion amended by Bethel Belisle to also appoint Holly Steiner as the designated board member to testify in any legislative hearings and to speak on behalf**

**of the board regarding the redesigned HB175 bill language. Amended motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Action Items:**

Staff to forward cleaned up copy of HB175 with accepted changes to chair Holly Steiner to present to Representative Jaime Allard for potential sponsorship.

**6. Regulation Projects**

The board reviewed Regulations “Cleanup” changes accepted at November 27, 2024 meeting.

Bethel Belisle requested clarification on “death report” requirement brought up as a concern in board oversight when there is a death of a client was brought up during legislative hearings in 2024. Topic previously discussed not to remove 12 AAC 14.540(f) but instead edited to read *“Not later than 3 days after the delivery or transfer of care of a client for whom a certified direct-entry midwife had primary responsibility, the certified direct-entry midwife shall report to the Department of Health as required in AS 08.65.140(3) if that client died.”* Current regulation requires reporting within 14 days on a form provided by the Department. Justification for change is to provide a directional point back to the statute AS 08.65.140(3) to give licensees clarification. Discussion on how to comply with this regulation per AS 18.150.230 referenced in AS 08.65.140(3) regarding registration of deaths by the Department of Health. No form will be filed with or maintained by the Midwives board any longer.

#3 discussion – “aligning supervisor requirements across all sections of regulations”. Unclear as to intent of this topic. Board members decided to take out as possible project and wait until it comes up again.

Remove Peer Review requirement redundancy discussion – CPM requires Peer Review already – NARM standard requires 5 hours every 3 years to maintain CPM. AK regulations require 4 hours per certification period every 2 years. One hour difference over 3 years for peer review. NARM requires submission of peer review at recertification and random audits are completed. 0.66 contact hour less per year to align to national standards. Adopting this regulation project would provide less confusion for licensees as they are already required to maintain their NARM CPM certification and submit at AK Midwife certificate renewal. This duplication was also something noted in the Sunset Audit report. Discussed options if a certifying body such as NARM were to cease to function. Emergency regulations could be adopted in the interim rather quickly as board worked on permanent regulations. Board feels priority issue as part of Sunset Audit and should be added to current regulations project. Board discussed best option(s) for draft regulation language to accomplish similar to 12 AAC 14.420 Continuing Education referencing NARM requirements.

The regulations change adopted at the last meeting – November 27, 2024 - #2 14.445(f) retained records – would now be negated as board is now recommending removal of entire Peer Review 14.445 section.

Break taken 10:30 am. Recording stopped.

Recording resumed 10:39 am. Roll call: Holly Steiner, Bethel Belisle, and Darcy Lucey present.

**Motion by Darcy Lucey to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 14.445 by removing (a) through (i) and substituting the following language “Peer Review requirements are satisfied by holding a current certification at the time of renewal as a certified professional midwife from the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)” for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law and I motion to remove the previously adopted regulations project for 12 AAC 14.445 regarding 12 AAC 14.445(g).**

**Seconded by Bethel Belisle. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

**Action Items:**

Staff to forward opening questionnaires (4) to Holly Steiner for completion for #1 + #4 on the list adopted 11/27/2025 and 12 AAC 14.445 regulations project adopted today, 01/08/2025.

**7. Board Administrative Business**

1. Correspondence – invitation reviewed from Nutrition & Lactation Research at the University of Alaska. Board chair Holly Steiner to forward to Midwives Association of Alaska.
2. Set Next Meeting Date(s) – Board required by statute to meet two times annually. Unable to schedule more than six months out due to changing schedules of board members. . Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**8. Next Steps**

1. Staff to forward cleaned up copy of HB175 with accepted changes to chair Holly Steiner to present to Representative Jaime Allard for potential sponsorship.
2. Staff to forward opening questionnaires (4) to Holly Steiner for completion for #1 + #4 on the list adopted 11/27/2025 and 12 AAC 14.445 regulations project adopted today, 01/08/2025.

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion by Bethel Belisle to adjourn. Seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board meeting was adjourned at 10:58 am on Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**Approved by majority board electronic vote January 22, 2025**