



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting - March 19, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
3/19/2025 9:00 AM AKDT via Zoom

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

- i. The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, March 19, 2025, by chair Holly Steiner at 9:07 am.
- ii. Board members present: Holly Steiner, Chair; Bethel Belisle; and Darcy Lucey.
- iii. Board member absent: Lori Lindsey, excused absence
- iv. Staff present: Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 1; Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Stefanie Davis, Regulations Specialist, Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3, and Keri Mell, Licensing Examiner 3.
- v. Guests: Mary Yanagwa, Deborah Schneider, and Rachel Pugh.
- vi. Quorum established. 3 of 4 appointed board members present. One vacant seat available on this board - public member available since November 1, 2024.

B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

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

C. Accept Agenda

Bethel Belisle motioned to accept the agenda for the March 19, 2025 meeting as submitted. Darcy Lucey seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

D. Approve Minutes - 01/08/2025

Request was made for the minutes from the January 8, 2025 meeting to be loaded into OnBoard for review and vote.

2. Public Comment

Rachel Pugh gave public comment regarding her concerns over the pending sunset of the Midwives board. She was concerned over the upcoming expiration of all midwives certificates on 03/31/2025 and wanted to assure that if she renewed her license and paid the \$2800.00 fee, her midwife certificate would still be valid if the legislature were to sunset the Midwives board.

The board conveyed that they are currently working with a sponsor to introduce a sunset bill and are confident that the bill will be passed in this legislative session (2025-2026). Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager clarified that even if the sunset bill did not pass and a board went away, a license/certificate type would not go away. The Division would function as the administrator in the board's place for any program without a board. She expressed there was no reason to be concerned about renewing a midwife certificate as in the history of sunset bills, none introduced have ever not passed.

3. Division Update - FY25Q2 (Presenters: Melissa Dumas)

Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager presented the FYQ2 update to the board.

4. Legislative Update

- Statutory bill introduction - HB95
 - Sponsor - Representative Allard
- Sunset Bill - Senator Bjorkman - to be introduced week of 03/17

HB95 - Board member Holly Steiner reported that it has been difficult getting traction for movement on HB95. Due to previous bill language being introduced and not the modified language as agreed upon by the board, Ms. Steiner had requested that Representative Allard pull the bill so that it could be reintroduced or start over next session. Rep. Allard did reply that the bill was in need of an overhaul. This bill was discussed in the Medical Board's meeting where they had several concerns. Chair Holly Steiner to reach out to Medical Board Chair to discuss and clear up any confusion. Darcy Lucey to review Nursing Board meeting minutes for any concerns regarding bill language.

5. Letter of Support - Sunset Bill

Sponsor - Senator Bjorkman

Bethel Belisle motioned to accept the Letter of Support for the Sunset bill and designate board member Holly Steiner to testify on behalf of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives at any legislative hearings for this bill. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

6. Regulation Projects - Update (Presenters: Stefanie Davis)

- Opening Questionnaires for previously adopted regulation projects - completed and submitted to Regulations Specialist
 - 12 AAC 14.130(g) - Clarify definition of "in good standing"
 - 12 AAC 14.540(f) - Update peer review requirements to include review of Reports of Client Death
 - 12 AAC 14.445 - Align peer review requirements with national standards (NARM).

- Language update to “in good standing” means a *license or certification* that is not conditioned.
- Submitted to Department of Law

Stefanie Davis, Regulation Specialist updated the board that their regulations project has been fully drafted and sent to the Department of Law for review. Target is 60 days for turnaround. Once approval received from the Department of Law, the regulations project can be sent out for public comment.

7. Board Administrative Business

Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner reported on renewal progress. 33 certificates eligible for renewal 16 processed as of March 19 = 48.5%. 3 pending. 13 certificate holders need to file for renewal.

A. Board Correspondence

Board members reviewed Ms. Norris's correspondence. Questions exist regarding her current status - active in another state, does she have her CPM, retake the NARM exam, requirement of 10 births, etc. Holly Steiner to draft response based on current statutes and regulations and pointing Ms. Norris to NARM requirements as CPM now required for certificate in Alaska. Draft response to be loaded into OnBoard for board review and approval.

B. Annual Report Update (Presenters: Darcy Lucey)

Completed approved report deadline 05/31/2025

Darcy Lucey reported she is actively working on the annual report. She asked for input from the board members for the Needs section - travel for HB95 endorsement. She will review previous minutes for Accomplishment and Activities sections.

C. Report of Death of a Client

Completed form received - discuss distribution process

Form #08-4551 to be filed in applicant's record. No further distribution required at this time. Current regulations project addressing this issue.

D. Board Appointments/Recruitment - Midwives

- MID Homepage updated 01/13/2025 w/both open board positions
- Darcy Lucey reappointed - 01/17/2025 - new term 03/01/2025 - 03/01/2029
- Recruitment email sent 01/31/2025 to all active licensees
- Lori Lindsay appointed 02/04/2025 - term 02/04/2025 - 03/01/2027

Recruitment ongoing for open public member seat. Holly Steiner reported she encouraged someone to apply for the position.

E. 2025 Legislative Guidance For CBPL Board Members

Informational guidance for board members provided.

F. Set Next Meeting Date(s)

Sec. 08.65.020. MEETINGS. The board shall meet twice annually and may hold special meetings at the call of the chair or on the written notice of two board members.

Next meeting for the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives set for
Wednesday, July 30, 2025 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

8. Investigative Report (Presenters: Christina Bond)

Board members reviewed written report submitted by Investigator Christina Bond. Ms. Bond was unable to attend the meeting as she was participating in training at the time this came up on the agenda.

9. Next Steps

1. Staff to update Letter of Support for Sunset Bill once Senate Bill number assigned and send through appropriate channels.
2. Holly Steiner to draft response for board correspondence to Ms. Norris. Staff to upload into OnBoard for review and approval vote.
3. Darcy Lucey to finalize draft FY2025 Annual report and forward to staff to upload into OnBoard for review and approval vote.
4. Staff to notice out next board meeting of Wednesday, July 30, 2025 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

10. 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 10:00 am on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, July 30, 2025 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

These minutes were approved by the board in accordance with PL-12/online voting 04/17/2025.