



# Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting - November 18, 2025 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

11/18/2025 9:00 AM AKST

Videoconference

## 1. Call to Order

### A. Roll Call

Board Members:

- Holly Steiner, RN, CDM, CPM, Chair
- Bethel Belisle, CDM, CPM
- Darcy Lucey, APRN, CNM
- Lori Lindsay, MD
- Stacia Miller

Board members present: Holly Steiner, Chair; Bethel Belisle, Lori Lindsay, Darcy Lucey, and Stacia Miller.

Staff present: Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1; Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director, Jennifer Summers, Investigator 4, and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner.

Guests: Vernon Yoder, Madi Grimes, and Mary Yanagawa.

Quorum established. 5 of 5 appointed board members present.

### B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were reported by any of the five board members present.

### C. Accept Agenda

Bethel Belisle moved to accept the amended agenda for the November 18, 2025 board meeting as discussed. Darcy Lucey seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

## 2. Public Comment

No public comment given.

## 3. Investigative Report (Presenter: Jennifer Summers)

Jennifer Summers, Investigator 4, updated the board on staffing assignments for Certified Direct-Entry Midwives cases. Previous Investigator Christina Bond left the division in September. A new investigator has been hired and will be taking over the caseload. Ms. Summers reviewed the investigative report to the Board for the period of September 22, 2025 thru November 02, 2025 which has one open complaint case. No closed cases during this time period. The board asked about the anticipated completion of the open complaint case from June, 2025. Ms. Summers indicated the goal to close any case is six months. The case was reassigned to Ms. Summers upon the previous investigator's departure and has been actively worked. It will be reassigned to the new investigator's caseload.

4. Legislative Update

No update available.

5. Board Administrative Business

A. Set Next Meeting Date(s)

Next board meeting set for Wednesday, February 4, 2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

6. Documentation of Pharmaceutical Knowledge - form #08-4215e

Status update of board request to replace form #08-4215e with an attestation. No update available as of this date. When response received, update to be emailed to all board members.

7. Board Position Statement (Presenter: Bethel Belisle)

Draft Board Position Statement on approved use of [Cook® Cervical Ripening Balloon with Stylet](#) by Midwives from 11-07-2025 reviewed. The Midwives Board feels rather than have the position statement include procedure, supplies, training, etc., it should be as general as possible - support use of device as within scope (statute); appropriate training required if used; and follow manufacturer's guidelines when using. Statement should remove reference to "Cook Cervical Ripening Balloon" and make generic for similar balloon catheters. Typo on draft in list of contraindications - Active outbreak of genital herpes Free/ballotable head should be two separate bullet points; Active outbreak of genital herpes and Free/ballotable head.

**Dr. Lori Lindsay moved to put the amended version of the draft position statement on the use of catheters for induction of labor into OnBoard for review and approval by the full board. Approved draft board position statement to be sent to the Department of**

**Law (DOL) for review. Motion seconded by Bethel Belisle. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.** DOL comments to be shared with the board.

Action Items:

- Amended version as discussed to be completed by Bethel Belisle and forwarded to staff for upload into OnBoard for vote.
- Once approved, draft board position statement to be sent to the Department of Law for review.

8. AO360 Regulatory Reduction Plan (Presenter: Glenn Saviers)

Deputy Director Glenn Saviers gave a brief overview to the board on the Governor's AO360 directive. Board tasked with developing a regulatory reform plan (due in February 13): Design and approve a plan to reduce specific discretionary regulatory requirements by 15% in calendar year 2026, culminating in a total reduction of 25% by the end of calendar year 2027. Reductions are not mandated in areas that would impact patient safety. Division working to identify items of commonality across programs that can be reduced. Deputy Director provided information on the scoring process completed by the division and gave examples of partial reductions that could be made and the reduction scoring attached. Of the total 1158 count assigned to the Certified Direct-Entry Midwives board, 197 are discretionary regulations and 961 exist in documents adopted by reference in the regulations. The targeted 25% reduction would mean a reduction in 290 regulatory components. Mrs. Saviers also provided strategies for how the board could go about accomplishing the task by either a full board meeting, subcommittee or work group with identified industry participants and board members to identify and make a recommendation to the board for approval ahead of the February 13, 2025 due date.

Board discussed options and decided for all board members to review existing regulations (if board members' schedules permit) and send highlighted recommendations to staff. Meeting to be held in January consisting of Holly Steiner, Bethel Belisle and Stacia Miller to review and compile the plan recommendation. Draft plan to be presented to the full board on February 4, 2026 for review/approval. Board meeting for AO360 to be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2025 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Action Items:

- Staff to notice out AO360 board meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2025 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.

- Board members to review existing regulations (if board members' schedules permit) and send highlighted recommendations to staff for review at January 7, 2026 meeting.

9. Board Project - Regulations Project + AO 358 Exemption Request

Board reviewed draft regulation language submitted by subcommittee from their work 10/07/2025. NARM examination and NARM certification in good standing are two entirely different things and should be two separate requirements. Recommendations to keep:

- 12 AAC 14.110(b)(5)(B) instead of striking and delete language "that certification is currently in good standing" from 12 AAC 14.110(b)(8).
- 12 AAC 14.120(b)(4)(B) instead of striking and delete language "that certification is currently in good standing" from 12 AAC 14.120(b)(7).

Discussion about requirement for certification to be "in good standing" and if someone could apply who wasn't in good standing and receive a license. Possibly through a consent agreement with supervision, etc. This language could potentially keep someone otherwise qualified from being able to receive a license. It is the board's intent that anyone without a NARM certification "in good standing" would not be eligible for licensure/certification as a Direct-Entry midwife in Alaska. NARM only rescinds "in good standing" for NARM certification in extreme cases. NARM certification in good standing is the minimum national standard.

The board discussed deletion/redaction of 12 AAC 14.210 Supervised Clinical Experience Requirements and accepting NARM requirements for examination as baseline. This would expand overall requirement length from two years to three years to gain experience requirements and reduce continuous care requirement from 15 clients to 5 clients as required by NARM. AK requirements are over and above national standard. The board felt reducing continuous care requirement would align Alaska with national standards, decrease confusion for apprentices between NARM standards and AK regulations which has delayed many in their path to certification. Elimination of the entire 12 AAC 14.210 section would also eliminate adoption of the *Practical Skills List for Alaska Certified Direct-Entry Midwives*, dated January 2003, adapted from the copyrighted 2002 version of the North American Registry of Midwives. The AK version was a duplicate of the NARM Practical Skills List required for NARM examination. The AK version has not been maintained or updated and not relevant as passing the NARM examination and having a CPM in good standing are required for licensure. This document adopted by reference amounts to a scoring of 858 requirements in AO360.

Board decided to hold on pursuing AO358 exemption request. AO360 Reduction Reform takes priority. All draft changes above to be included in AO360 Reform plan. Subcommittee/board to prioritize regulation changes for submission to Department of Law.

**Action Items:**

Staff to make changes to draft regulation language as discussed.

10. Next Steps

1. Staff to notice out board meeting set for Wednesday, February 4, 2026 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. **DONE 11-18-2025**
2. Documentation of Pharmaceutical Knowledge - form #08-4215e – Staff to email update to board when received from division.
3. Bethel Belisle to amended board position statement as discussed and forward to staff for upload into OnBoard for vote. Once approved, draft board position statement to be sent to the Department of Law for review. Comments to be shared with the board.
3. Staff to notice out AO360 board meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2025 from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm. **DONE 11-18-2025**
4. Board members to review existing regulations (if board members' schedules permit) and send highlighted recommendations to staff for review at January 7, 2026 meeting.
5. Staff to log draft regulation changes from subcommittee meeting and previous regulations project into AO360 Reform Plan and Decisional Document template for January 7, 2026 meeting date.
6. Staff to make changes in subcommittee draft as discussed. **DONE 11-18-2025**

11. Adjourn

**Bethel Belisle moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.**

Chair Holly Steiner adjourned the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board meeting at 10:28 am on Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

- AO360 board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2026 from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm.

- Next regular board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 4, 2026 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

**These minutes were approved by the board in accordance with PL-12/online voting 11/28/2025.**