



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting - February 4, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

2/4/2026 9:00 AM AKST

Virtual

Approved by unanimous vote at April 29, 2026 board meeting.

1. Call to Order

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting was called to order on Wednesday, February 4, 2026 by Chair Holly Steiner at 9:03am.

A. Roll Call

Board Members:

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

Roll Call taken:

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

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner; Ryan Bennett, Investigator; Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager

Guest: Erika Johnston

Quorum established. 4 of 5 appointed board members present.

Board member Stacia Miller joined at 9:08 am. Quorum continues; 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

Lori Lindsay moved to accept the agenda for the February 4, 2026 board meeting as written. Bethel Belisle seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No public comment given.

3. Investigative Report (Presenter: Ryan Bennett)

Ryan Bennett, new Investigator assigned to Midwives Board, introduced himself to the board members. Report submitted for the period of November 3, 2025 through January 22, 2026 for cases, complaints, and intake matters handled since the last report submitted. One license application review/referral complaint open since June 17, 2025. Report included in public packet. Investigator anticipates that case should be send for review soon.

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

Board discussed status update of their request to replace form #08-4215e with an attestation. NARM certification provides the training required in the documentation of #08-4215e. See [NARM Form 201 page 3](#). Form #08-4215e is fullfilling the documentation required in regulation 12 AAC 14.560(a)(2).

12 AAC 14.560. PERMITTED PRACTICES. (a) The following practices may be performed by a certified direct-entry midwife who, in accordance with (c) of this section, provides documentation acceptable to the board of having acquired the training and skills necessary to safely perform them:

(1) catheterization of the urinary bladder;

(2) administration of medications as specified in 12 AAC 14.570;

Board discussion to possibly change regulation languge as part of AO360 to similar language as utilized in 12 AAC 14.420 Continuing Education Requirements. Continuing education 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). After thorough discussion, board determination to recommend the following draft language through AO360:

change 12 AAC 14.560 Permitted Practices to read: (a) The following practices may be performed by a certified direct-entry midwife: remove [WHO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH (C) OF THIS SECTION, PROVIDES DOCUMENTATION

ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD OF HAVING THE TRAINING AND SKILLS NECESSARY TO SAFELY PERFORM THEM:]

Keep the list in (a) the same:

- (1) catheterization of the urinary bladder;*
- (2) administration of medications as specified in 12 AAC 14.570;*
- (3) venipuncture;*
- (4) capillary blood sampling;*
- (5) suturing;*
- (6) emergency measures as specified in 12 AAC 14.600;*
- (7) intravenous therapy; or*
- (8) an episiotomy.*

Keep (b) the same. (b) Before performing prenatal care, vaginal delivery, and postpartum care for a client with a previous cesarean section, a certified direct-entry midwife must provide evidence of at least six hours of training and education in performing these practices for a post-cesarean client.

change to read: (c) The board will notify the certified direct-entry midwife that documentation submitted under (b) of this section is acceptable to the board of competence in these practices. A certified direct-entry midwife may not perform the practices set out in (b) of this section until notification or acceptance has been provided to the certified direct-entry midwife by the board.

Board discussed also changing form #08-4215e now as application requirement is so extensive. Board consensus to change form with draft language as follows:

I certify that I have met the requirement of 12 AAC 14.560 by maintaining my North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) certification in good standing.

Run language and amended form by Department of Law for approval, if needed.

5. 04/01/2027 - 03/31/2029 MID Renewal - Fee Analysis Tool (Presenter: Melissa Dumas)

Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager went over the MID Fee Analysis Tool provided to the board in their packet. While there is \$106,419 surplus, the division is still recommending that no reductions be made in ongoing licensing or renewal fees due to overall decrease in midwife numbers. Division recommends that the board maintain at minimum one year of budget surplus. Any reductions made would eat into surplus and most likely result in an increase in the following renewal cycle. Board

provided feedback to reduce initial licensing fee for any incoming Direct-Entry Midwife (by examination or by credentials) by \$800. License fee currently \$2,800 and board is recommending it be decreased to \$2,000. Board issued 7 licenses in FY2025 so this would not have a significant impact on the overall surplus but would assist new midwives entering the profession in Alaska. Division to move forward with board recommendation and initiate regulations project to reduce the certification fee for the initial biennial period from \$2,800 to \$2,000 in centralized regulation 12 AAC 02.145(2).

6. Division Update (Presenter: Melissa Dumas)

Division update on MID FY2025 Qtr4; FY2026 Qtr1 and Qtr2 reports tabled to next meeting.

7. AO360 Regulatory Reform Plan

Board reviewed the committee's recommendations for regulation changes in the AO 360 Reform Plan Excel working document and Midwives draft regulations PDF.

Discussion regarding 12 AAC 14.120(9). Decision to only include (1) the date of birth; (2) the location of birth; and (3) the name of the person who managed the labor and delivery. Remove all other items in regulation and on form = infant sex, birth weight, gender, prenatal, postpartum, newborn exam, hospital transfer.

NARM certification renewed every 3 years. NARM does not require active practice for renewal. Active practice requirement of 10 births is an Alaska requirement in 12 AAC 14.440 Continuing Professional Practice Requirements.

Keep 12 AAC 14.500 – Practice. Committee had recommended repealing entire section. Discussion regarding list provides clarification in investigative actions that licensee violated a regulation. Counter argument is that midwives are held to basic standards of care; national organization NARM does not have set practice guidelines. List would provide reinforcement of standards that Alaska midwives would be held to. Example – OB physicians have the American College of OBGYN standards. Consensus of board not to repeal 12 AAC 14.500 – Practice as recommended by the committee.

Board member Lori Lindsay left the meeting at 11:07 am. Quorum maintained; 4 of 5 appointed board members in attendance. Break. Recording stopped. 11:07 am. Recording resumed 11:14 am.

Roll Call taken:

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

Quorum in effect; 4 of 5 appointed board members in attendance.

A. 12 AAC 14.470(b)(6)(A) + (B) - Professional Practice Requirement for reinstatement Discussion

12 AAC 14.470(b) The board will reinstate a certificate that has been lapsed for at least two years, but not more than five years, if the applicant

(6) documents completion of

(A) the continuing professional practice requirements in 12 AAC 14.440 for the entire period since the certificate lapsed; or

(B) at least 10 preceptor-supervised deliveries in the year immediately preceding the application for reinstatement in which the applicant was the primary or assisting midwife; in at least five of the supervised deliveries, the applicant must have been the primary midwife;

Board discussed perceived inability for in-state applicants to fulfill requirements as they would not have a license or permit. Board members remembered being able to issue a temporary permit previously in these situations. Licensing Examiner Sheri Ryan informed the board that the Midwives Statutes and Regulations had been reviewed from February 2015 to current. The only reference to a "temporary" certificate or permit was effective 12/17/2023 in regulation - 12 AAC 14.135 where a Temporary Military Courtesy Certificate or Permit was added. Prior to that the only mention of "temporary" in statute or regulation was in APPENDIX A - TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS - TEMPORARY SUPERVISORS. *A direct-entry midwife who has been certified in this state for less than two years may supervise an apprentice until December 27, 1994 if the certified direct-entry midwife has practiced midwifery in this state for at least two years immediately before June 26, 1992.* The only reference to "permit" was pertaining to an Apprentice Direct-Entry permit.

The board discussed possible statutory changes that would be necessary to grant authority to issue temporary licenses or permits. Board discussed a return-to-work program and possible modifications to the apprenticeship program to allow out-of-state apprentices to fulfill NARM requirements at larger birth centers in Alaska.

The board briefly discussed alternatives to the 10-birth requirement in 12 AAC 14.440 but is unanimous on active practice requirement as currently outlined.

The board decided to make a note in the AO360 Reform Plan that the board recognizes statutory changes required for reinstatement regulation 12 AAC 14.470(b)(6).

B. 12 AAC 14.910(2) - Code of Ethics Discussion

Board members evaluated the effect the removal of the Alaska Midwives Alliance North America (MANA) Statement of Values and Ethics would have as MANA was dissolved March 1, 2024. The board considered the International Confederation of Midwives Code of Ethics document as a replacement but felt the current Alaska Code of Ethics adequately encompassed all ethical requirements necessary.

Bethel Belisle motion to accept the AO 360 Reform Plan with the modifications as discussed at today's meeting. Darcy Lucey seconded the motion. All in favor (Holly Steiner, Bethel Belisle, Darcy Lucey, Stacia Miller); none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Item:

Staff to amend AO 360 Reform Plan with modifications as discussed and submit to the department by the February 13, 2026 deadline.

8. Legislative Update

No recent conversations had with bill sponsor Rep. Jaime Allard regarding HB95. No productive talks with other sponsors on introduction of concurrent bill on Senate side. Board discussed need to correct bill language before resubmitting with possible ability to issue temporary licensure language due to identified reinstatement complication in 12 AAC 14.470(b)(6). Redrafted statutory language would need to be ready for sponsor identification in Fall, 2026 for reintroduction in 35th legislative session January, 2027. Board to discuss redrafting language at next board meeting.

9. Board Administrative Business

- A. FY2026 Annual Report – Darcy Lucey to draft all sections of the annual report - accomplishments, activities, and the past and present needs of the licensing program - from the board's perspective and submit to staff to compile. Report to loaded into OnBoard for review and approval by board. Report due to publications team by June 30, 2026.
- B. Set Next Meeting Date(s) – Next meeting date set for Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Staff to notice as appropriate.

10. Next Steps

- A. Staff to draft amended form 08-4215e – Documentation of Pharmaceutical Knowledge as discussed.
- B. Division to move forward with board recommendation and initiate regulations project to reduce the certification fee for the initial biennial period from \$2,800 to \$2,000 in 12 AAC 02.145(2).
- C. Staff to schedule Division Updates on FY25 Qtr4; FY2026 Qtr1 and Qtr 2 for April 29, 2026 meeting.
- D. Staff to amend AO 360 Reform Plan with modifications as discussed and submit to the department by the February 13, 2026 deadline.
- E. Board to discuss redrafting HB95 at April 29, 2026 board meeting.

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 meeting at 12:07 pm on Wednesday, February 4, 2026.

Next regular board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 29, 2026 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am.