



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting - March 5, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
3/5/2026 12:00 PM AKST
Virtual Meeting

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 Thursday, March 5, 2026 by Chair Holly Steiner at 12:02 pm.

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; Darcy Lucey, Stacia Miller, and Lori Lindsay.

Quorum established at 12:05 pm. 4 of 5 appointed board members present.

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner and Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1.

Guest: Bernard Martinez, Onica Sprokkreeff, and Stella Lyn.

B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were reported by Holly Steiner, Darcy Lucey, Stacia Miller, or Lori Lindsay.

C. Accept Agenda

Lori Lindsay moved to accept the agenda as submitted. Darcy Lucey seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Stella Lyn provided background regarding her letter submitted to the board for discussion. Past midwifery experience started in 1999 when she did the first of what would be 3 apprenticeships. Moved to Alaska in 2003. In 2005 started a company called Village Herbals that she ran for 17 years providing consultations as an herbalist specializing in the child bearing year and created formulas that are still in use by midwives across the state today. In 2010 she apprenticed under local CDM/CPM Susan Terwilliger as her preceptor, got across the finish line in 2013 and opened a practice called Holistic Midwifery all the while continuing to own and operate Village Herbals and even afterward when she took a break from birth. She has continued to kept current with the evolution of midwifery throughout this time and has collected 120 CEUS even just over the past year. She is a certified lactation counselor, an ICEA trained child birth educator, a DONA trained postpartum Doula, and holds current NRP and BLS certifications. So expressed even in her break from midwifery, she's continued to do birth adjacent work. But with her real calling being as a midwife, she's decided to pursue relicensing. She's recently completed Mercy and Action's NARM exam prep course as a refresher and is the final steps of gaining recertification with NARM and licensure in Oregon based on her past experience. In order to attend the required 10 recent births needed for application by credentials right here in Alaska where her life and deep midwifery relationships exist and to do so in good legal standing needed for the application by credentials, she would like to purchase an apprentice permit with some slightly modified expectations from the board if she may as compared to someone starting completely from scratch. She would like to propose on the form where it asks for about the academic course of study, she could write "completed" and would ask for the board's understanding that once five assists and five births as primary under supervision were completed, she would be submitting an application for licensing by credentials using her CPM and Oregon license with the intention to start back practicing locally as soon as possible as a CDM and CPM.

No other public comment given.

3. Board Administrative Business

Board member Bethel Belisle joined at 12:12 pm. Quorum remains in effect. 5 of 5 appointed board members present.

A. Board Correspondence

Licensing Examiner Sheri Ryan gave overview of discussions with Program Coordinator Shane Bannarbie on ineligibility for reinstatement under 12 AAC 14.470 – license is expired, not lapsed for Ms. Lyn. Ms. Lyn would be required to reapply and start over with an apprenticeship if applying by examination.

Discussed regulation 12 AAC 14.220(1) Apprenticeship program and definition of

“program” versus a person’s requirement to take one full year to complete a program. The board has the discretion based on a person’s advanced education and skills, to allow a person to complete a program in a shorter period of time.

The board discussed the correspondence submitted by Stella Lyn on 02-10-2026 requesting clarification on a pathway forward for relicensure in Alaska. She will be applying by credentials once she receives her Oregon midwife license, but is unable to meet the birth requirement in 12 AAC 14.120(b)(9) as this is not a requirement in Oregon. Ms. Lyn is requesting to receive an apprentice permit in Alaska in order to meet the active practice requirement for Alaska midwifery and obtain the births required. Ms. Lyn maintains it is a financial hardship for her to travel outside the State of Alaska to secure the birth requirement in 12 AAC 14.120(b)(9).

Board discussed the valid options currently in regulation open to Ms. Lyn for obtaining a Certified Direct-Entry midwife certificate:

- Application by examination requirements per 12 AAC 14.110 under an apprenticeship program with an apprentice permit. Definition of apprenticeship program per 12 AAC 14.220(1) discussed and program itself being approved for one year versus apprentice completing the approved program in a shorter period of time due to advanced education and skill capability. Board expressed concern that granting any exemption to an apprentice serving an apprenticeship program for any length of time less than one year would break established precedent previously set. Apprenticeship programs include both didactic and clinical experience.
- Application by credentials per 12 AAC 14.120. Discussed birth requirement under 12 AAC 14.120(b)(9) and how other applicants fulfill this requirement while actively practicing with their other state license in that state. Ms. Lyn has not obtained a license yet in Oregon, nor has she practiced in the State of Oregon or expressed that she will be practicing in the state of Oregon. Concern was raised regarding Ms. Lyn’s length of absence from the profession and lack of recent hands on skills with midwifery since 2016. Ms. Lyn has completed the NARM prep program and recertified as a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM). She was required to have 5 births and 35 continuing education units to recertify. She maintained her CPM until 2021 and let it expire. CPM renewal does not include an active practice requirement.

Board posed the question – can someone get an apprentice permit, get 10 births, discontinue their apprenticeship program, and use the 10 births for their application by credentials?

No motions or vote taken. The board to research the matters further.

Ms. Lyn given options regarding application for apprentice permit with no assurances given that an apprenticeship could be shortened below the one year period or that any births obtained with an apprentice permit could be used to meet an application by credentials. The board stated only that if she met the criteria for an apprentice permit per current statutes and regulations, she could receive one and she would be that much further ahead in preparation for receiving her Alaska Certified Direct-entry certificate.

B. Legislative Update

Item not discussed at this meeting. To be added to next scheduled meeting.

4. Next Steps

5. Adjourn

Lori Lindsay moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Chair Holly Steiner adjourned the emergency meeting of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives at 1:01 pm on Thursday, March 5, 2026.

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