



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting - April 29, 2026 Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

4/29/2026 9:00 AM AKDT

Virtual

These minutes were approved by the board in accordance with PL-12/online voting 05/21/2026.

1. Call to Order

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 29, 2026 by Chair Holly Steiner at 9:01 am.

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, Darcy Lucey, Bethel Belisle, Stacia Miller, and Lori Lindsay.

Quorum established. 5 of 5 appointed board members are present.

Staff present: Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1; Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 2; Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director.

Guests: Stella Lyn, Melanie Sipes, Madi Grimes, Kate Parks, Ernest Gibbs, Susan Terwilliger, Mary Yanagawa, and RP (unknown).

B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

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

C. Accept Agenda

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

D. Approve Minutes 02-04-2026 and 03-05-2026

Minutes reviewed. February minutes were not put through OnBoard as they were completed closer to this board meeting. No objections to February 4, 2026

meetings as submitted. Discussed passage on page 4, second paragraph in March 5, 2026 meeting minutes of “Ms. Lyn instructed to apply”. Consensus by the board that this mischaracterized the situation. Ms. Lyn was given options regarding the application for an apprentice permit but at no time did the board “instruct” her to apply. March 5, 2026 minutes to be amended from “instructed to apply” to “given options regarding application for apprentice permit”.

Bethel Belisle motioned to accept the minutes from 02-04-2026 as submitted and the minutes from 03-05-2026 with changes as stated. Darcy Lucey seconded the motion. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No written comment submitted or oral comment given at the meeting.

3. Division Update - Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 2

FY2025 Qtr4 and FY2026 Qtr3 reports reviewed. FY2025 - \$104,366 total revenue received in 2025 – licensing renewal year. \$25, 177 total expenditures. Cumulative Surplus \$155,745. 9% reduction in licensees from 2019 to 2025. FY2026 - \$4,990 total revenue received in FY2026. Anticipated total expenditures \$26,380. Ending Cumulative Surplus \$134,355. Normal to dip into surplus in a non-renewal year. Fiscal year will close out June 30, 2026.

Chair Holly Steiner left the meeting at 9:14 am. Quorum maintained as 4 of 5 appointed board members present.

4. Investigative Report – Ryan Bennett, Investigator

Written report submitted.

January 22, 2026 through April 24, 2026. One (1) open Investigation matter – License application review/referral. No closed cases.

5. VBAC Approval Request - 12 AAC 14.560(b)

Board discussion for course approval request for Permitted Practices for VBAC designation under 12 AAC 14.560(b) for attendance received for the following courses:

- 5 hours at in-person conference - VBAC, Breech and Twins Community and Documentation Standards - Jan, 2026 Kona, Hawaii Retreat - <https://pacificbirthinstitute.thinkific.com/courses/hawaiiretreat>
- 1-hour virtual course - Beyond 'Supporting' VBAC: How to Facilitate Vaginal Birth After Cesarean - <https://www.goldlearning.com/lecture/2001>.

Regulation requires that the six hours of training is specific to “performing prenatal care, vaginal delivery, and postpartum care for a client with a previous cesarean section”. The course outline and learning objectives for the 5-hour in-person conference do not specify the number of hours devoted to these topics. The board acknowledges that the course did include some relevant training, but it also appears to include additional training outside the requirements. It is not possible to tell from the documentation provided how many hours were delivered specifically to VBAC. Therefore, the training does not meet the requirements outlined in 12 AAC 14.560(b).

Motion made by Darcy Lucey to accept the 6 hours of training submitted by Melanie Sipes as documentation for approval under 12 AAC 14.560(b). Lori Lindsay seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Lori Lindsay – No.

Darcy Lucey – No.

Stacia Miller – No.

Bethel Belisle – No.

All opposed. Motion does not pass. Melanie Sipes’ request for approval of six hours of VBAC training to perform prenatal care, vaginal delivery, and postpartum care for a client with a previous cesarean section denied as the training submitted does not meet the requirements of 12 AAC 14.560(b). The following courses have been approved by the Midwives board and meet the training requirements of 12 AAC 14.560(b): [Labor after Cesarean in the Community Setting: Recent Research and Clinical Implications](#) available through HiveCE.com course and [The Truth About VBACs: History, Politics & Stats](#) course from VBACfacts.com. Staff to notify Ms. Sipes of denial and approved courses that meet requirement for approval under 12 AAC 14.560(b).

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

Board reviewed the draft changes for form #08-4215e and per previous discussion, recommendations for removing the following areas: indications, dose range, method of administration, side effects, contraindications, and pharmacology/actions for each medication listed in 12 AAC 14.570 and replacing with the following attestation:

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. My NARM Certification # is _____ and expires _____.

Name _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Lori Lindsay motioned to accept the revised form #08-4215e as discussed. Darcy Lucey seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

7. Centralized Regulations Project - Initial Licensing Fee Reduction

Department is moving forward with the fee reduction in 12 AAC 02.145(2) as requested by the board at their February 4, 2026 meeting. Initial licensing fee for an incoming Direct-Entry Midwife (by examination or by credentials) will be reduced from \$2,800 to \$2,000 - an \$800 reduction. The regulations project is currently under review by the Department of Law. Board to be notified when the project will be sent out for public comment.

8. Legislative Update

Representative Allard indicated there is no support in the House or Senate for [HB95](#) and is not able to get a hearing this legislative session. Bill would need to be reintroduced next legislative session (35th session 2027-2028).

9. Statutory Initiatives

Board briefly reviewed revised bill language from 01-08-2025. Any proposed changes will need to be worked on and recommended to the Midwives board for approval. Once approved by the full board, the draft language would need to be submitted to the department for consideration by the Governor's Legislative Office. Board discussed advantages of having a subcommittee (board members only) versus work group (board member(s) and stakeholders work on the draft language and timeframes for 35th Legislative introduction. Previous board meeting discussion for possible draft language inclusion:

- authority to issue temporary permits for ability for Direct Entry Midwives to meet requirements in 12 AAC 14.470(6)
- discuss possibility of apprentice temporary permit for out of state apprentices to gain births
 - Regulations for "return to work" program to meet reinstatement requirements in 12 AAC 14.470(6)
 - Regulations for out-of-state apprentices working at AK birthing centers

Darcy Lucey moved to form a work group to work on statutory language drafting to recommend to the Midwives board for approval. Once approved by the Midwives board, draft will need to be submitted to department for consideration by the Governor's Legislative Office. Motion seconded by Lori Lindsay. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Darcy Lucey volunteered to serve on the work group. Suggested that either Bethel Belisle or Holly Steiner also serve. If more than 2 board members are on the work group, it would need to be noticed as a board meeting as there would be a quorum. Kate Parks, President of the Midwives Association of Alaska (MAA) is interested in serving. Composition of work group and first meeting to be determined later.

10. Board Administrative Business

A. Board Correspondence - Glenn Saviers, Deputy Director

Board discussed Legislative Communications Guidance for Professional Licensing Boards email received 03-18-2026 from Director of Boards and Commissions. Deputy Director Glenn Saviers answered questions from the board related to the new directive on how this new process would be implemented and highlighted the positive assistance it could offer the boards with their legislative endeavors. Highlights from the discussion. The board must submit all requests to testify on legislation or pursue statutory changes through the Governor's office before approaching the legislature directly. Ms. Saviers noted that despite adding extra steps, the process has not caused delays or missed opportunities so far. Approval turnarounds for testimony usually take one to two days. The new process will loop the division into proposals directly, which may result in increased support from the division. This could include backing from the Governor's office to find a bill sponsor or introducing proposals as a Governor's bill. Next Steps for statutory changes – Department proposals typically move forward in late summer. However, Ms. Saviers confirmed that volunteer board members face no strict deadlines. She recommended that the work group begin early but prioritize drafting quality over rushing.

B. 12 AAC 14.130 - Discussion

The board reviewed 12 AAC 14.130 Review of an Apprentice Direct-Entry Midwife Permit Application and if delegation should be given to staff to issue apprentice permits based on the language in statute AS 08.65.030 and AS 08.65.090 and regulation. Staff currently utilizes "Checklist for Initial Apprentice Permit" to review all apprentice applications and sent to the board through OnBoard for approval. Board felt it was redundant to review/approve applications that clearly meet the guidelines set forth in the checklist already but reserved the right to review any questionable application.

Darcy Lucey motioned to delegate to staff the ability to review and issue apprentice permits who clearly meet the criteria of AS 08.65.090 and 12 AAC 14.130 utilizing the current Checklist for Initial Apprentice Permit. Any permit requests that do not clearly meet the criteria will be sent to the board for review. Motion seconded by Lori Lindsay. Motion amended to include subsequent requests for additional preceptor(s) to an apprentice permit. Amended motion seconded by Lori Lindsay. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

C. FY2026 Annual Report - Darcy Lucey

Final edits for FY2026 Annual Report are being compiled. Report will be completed within next 2 weeks and submitted to staff to compile into template. Report will be put through OnBoard for review and approval. Due date for final approved report is 06/30/2026 to Publications team.

D. Set Next Meeting Date(s)

Board discussed need for next meeting date could be 2-3 months out – late July, early August to allow for work on draft statutory changes. Next meeting set for July 29, 2026 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am due to scheduling conflicts for early August.

11. Next Steps

- Staff to amend 03/05/2026 board minutes from “instructed to apply” to “given options regarding application for apprentice permit” and post. 02/04/2026 board minutes approved as submitted. Staff to post.
- The board voted to establish a form a work group to draft language for statutory changes to recommend to the board for approval with any draft to be submitted to the department for consideration by the Governor’s Legislative Office. Work groups = board member(s) and stakeholders. The composition of the work group was not determined at the meeting (maximum number of members, stakeholders to invite, etc.) Darcy volunteered to be a part of the work group, and it was suggested that either Holly or Bethel be involved. All agreed. First meeting to be determined. Bethel or Holly – if you would like to throw out some dates that would be great! I can take it from there.
- Annual report to be completed in the next 2 weeks and submitted through OnBoard for review and vote.
- VBAC course approval denied. Staff to notify the licensee of denial and options.
- Staff to update Applications with new Documentation of Pharmaceutical Knowledge form as approved
 - 08-4215 with form 08-4215e
 - 08-4198 with form 08-4198e
- Authority delegated to staff to approve and issue Apprentice permits per regulation 12 AAC 14.130 unless applicant does not clearly meet the requirements as outlined. Those applications will be sent for board review through OnBoard. This delegated authority will include requests to add additional preceptors to apprentice permits.
- Staff to notice next board meeting for Wednesday, July 29, 2026 from 9-11am.

12. Adjourn

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

Bethel Belisle adjourned the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting at 10:14 am on Wednesday, April 29, 2026.

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