

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Direct-Entry Midwives

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2022



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
Email: License@Alaska.Gov

**Board of Direct-Entry Midwives
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**Board of Direct-Entry Midwives
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Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Bethel Belisle Certified Direct Entry Midwife, Chair	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
Rachel Pugh Certified Direct Entry Midwife	Eagle River	Dec 15, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
Hannah St. George Public Member	Fairbanks	Jul 9, 2019	Mar 1, 2026
Darcy Lucey Certified Nurse Midwife	Wasilla	Jun 22, 2022	Mar 1, 2025

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Identification of Staff

Sara Chambers - Division Director

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Lacey Derr - Records & Licensing Supervisor

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806
(907) 465-2550

Christina Bond - Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3567
(907) 269-8124

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Narrative Statement

The Mission of the Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives (CDM) is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated Direct Entry Midwifery services are available to Alaskan consumers. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. The board consists of two direct entry midwives, one OBGYN physician, one certified nurse midwife, and one public member. The board meets by teleconference at least twice per fiscal year, usually more often (quarterly) depending on circumstances, and conducts additional business through the OnBoard Passageways system.

The fiscal year (FY) is July 1st through June 30th; this report is for board business accomplished in FY 22, with proposed actions planned for FY 23. In FY 22, the board held 4 teleconferences in which Bethel Belisle was Chair, CDM presided as Chair. The board held 1 more teleconference with Bethel Belisle as Chair in the fall of 2021.

In these teleconferences, Bethel Belisle was board chair and a new CNM was welcomed to the board. The board discussed and acted on apprenticeship and license applications, regulation projects, goals and objectives for the current and upcoming fiscal year, as well as sought input for various regulatory and licensing issues from the Department of Law. The board was able to finalize the new proposed regulations. It is felt in the upcoming legislative session, the board will successfully have support for statutory changes, bringing the Certified Direct Entry Midwives up to National Certified Professional Midwifery standards.

For FY 22, total revenue was \$142,945 and expenses were \$28,242, leaving an annual surplus of \$67,329. This is the first year for a cumulative surplus in almost a decade.

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board's fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as "other" so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 0.00

Travel Required to Perform Examinations			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable			
Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board: <input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Conference: <input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:				\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other				\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
Net Total:	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

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Budget Recommendations for FY 2023 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable
 Resources
 Examinations
 Membership
 Training
 Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable
 Cost Per Event:
 Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2023 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$0.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$0.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$0.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	- \$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$0.00

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Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2023

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

Update Alaska Midwifery Statutes to meet or exceed the national standards of a Certified Professional Midwife.

Enhance protections by elevating application processing and educational verifications through NARM.

Change title from Certified Direct Entry Midwife to Licensed Midwife.

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Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2023

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

Increase scope of practice to Certified Professional Midwife standards.

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Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2022's goals and objectives and how they were met:

Objective #1: Conduct two meetings per year. Continue to meet by teleconference.

How met: The board held 5 scheduled teleconferences in an effort to reduce expenses and be fiscally conservative. We used Zoom teleconference services to conduct board meetings and facilitate communication. We also used Passageways OnBoard to conduct board business, including review of license applications, voting responsibilities as required, and to share and review documents in between meetings.

Objective #2: Complete regulation projects. Work with the division to update the regulations.

How met: The board has completed 1 regulations projects with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) and the Department of Law (DOL).

The regulation project updated the current regulations to accept any midwifery program accepted by NARM, increased scope of practice for CDMs.

Objective #3: Review investigative reports and monitor disciplinary actions.

How met: The board has reviewed investigative reports and monitored disciplinary actions in consultation with the division staff and DOL at board meetings during this fiscal year. The board advocated for expeditious completion of investigations. We will continue this into FY 22.

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Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2023's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

Objective #1: Conduct two meetings per year. Continue to primarily meet via teleconference.

Use Passageways OnBoard and Zoom to facilitate board business and communication. With improved finances, meet in person in Juneau to speak with legislative leaders on potential statutory changes the board is looking at accomplishing.

Objective #2: Complete regulation projects. Work with division to streamline the regulation process.

CPM national certification as the licensure standard for Alaska's CDMs.

The board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the board will continue to pursue a regulatory change that will bring Alaska in line with the national certification standard for CDMs, which will ensure the highest standards for competency are met and maintained by Alaskan midwives.

This change will enable the board to more efficiently approve new licenses for midwives and allows the board to continue regulating practice for the midwifery profession.

Objective #3: Review investigative reports and monitor disciplinary actions.

The board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the board will continue to monitor investigations and disciplinary actions and advocate for expeditious processing and completion of these cases.

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Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 2019

Board Sunset Date: 06/2023

Audit Recommendation:

The board should recommend statutory changes that benefit the public.

Action Taken:

Attempted statute changes in legislation in 2022 SB 191. Bill did not advance.

Next Steps:

Will continue to seek statutory change in 2023.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed:

Audit Recommendation:

DCBPL's chief investigator should ensure investigations are completed timely.

Action Taken:

This is within the purview of the division.

Next Steps:

Will continue to complete board member review timely and work with the division.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed:

Audit Recommendation:

The board should improve oversight of the peer review.

Action Taken:

Attempted statute changes in legislation in 2022; however, the bill did not advance. Regulations have been adopted to address peer review.

Next Steps:

Will continue to seek statutory change in 2023.

Completed: No Yes

If yes, date completed: