

# ***Annual Report***

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# ***Fiscal Year 2020***

## **Alaska Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives**



**Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development**

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**Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing**

This annual performance report is presented in accordance with  
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the  
past and present needs of the licensing program.

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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Deborah Schneider</b> Certified Direct-Entry Midwife Board Chair	Wasilla	Mar 15, 2012	Mar 1, 2020
<b>Dana Brown</b> Certified Direct-Entry Midwife	Fairbanks	May 31, 2016	Mar 1, 2020
<b>Dianna Kristeller</b> Certified Nurse Midwife	Fairbanks	Dec 18, 2017	Mar 1, 2021
<b>Dana Espindola</b> Physician / OB Practice	Eagle River	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2023
<b>Amanda 'Manga' Penwell</b> Certified Direct-Entry Midwife Board Chair	Fairbanks	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Bethel Belisle</b> Certified Direct-Entry Midwife	Anchorage	Mar 1, 2020	Mar 1, 2024
<b>Hannah St. George</b> Public Member	Fairbanks	Jul 9, 2019	Mar 1, 2022

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**Identification of Staff**

**Lacey Derr – Licensing Examiner**

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(907) 465-2550

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**Andy Khmelev – Acting Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Sonia Lipker, Erika Prieksat, Christina Bond – Investigator**

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**Greg Fancois – Chief Investigator**

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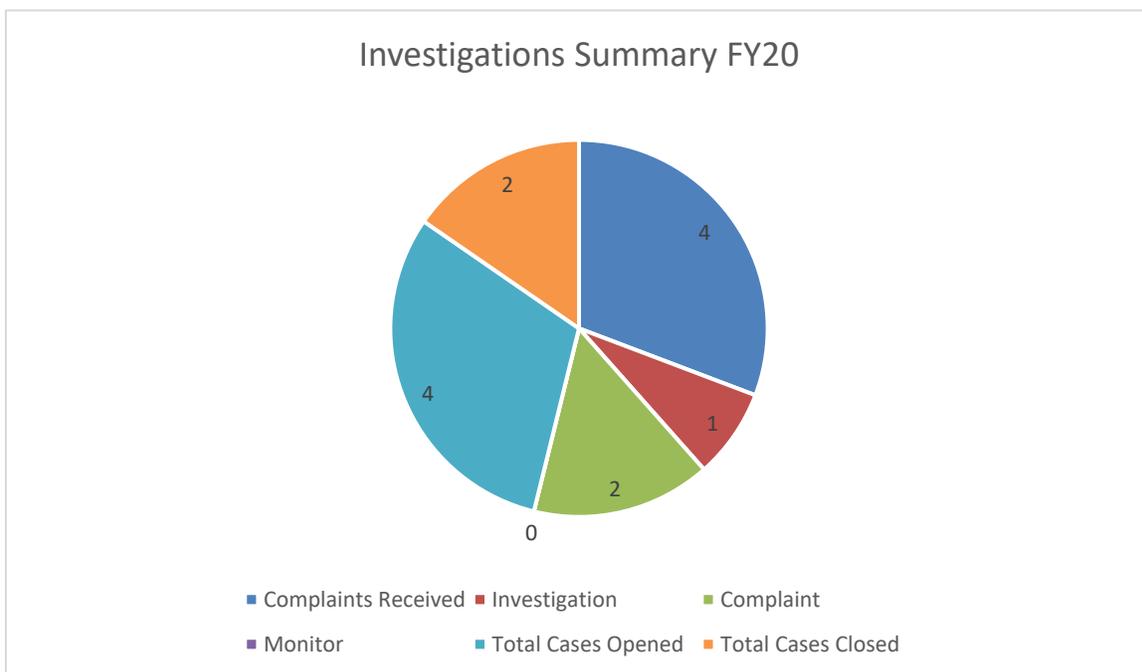
## Narrative Statement

The Mission of the Board of Certified Direct Entry Midwives (CDM) is to ensure that competent, professional and regulated commercial 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 20, with proposed actions planned for FY 21. In FY 20, the board held 2 teleconferences in which Deborah Schneider, CDM presided as Chair and Dianna Kristeller, CNM as Secretary. The two CDM board members Deborah Schneider and Dana Brown completed their terms, and were replaced by appointees Amanda Penwell and Bethel Belisle. The Board voted unanimously to elect Amanda Penwell as the new Chair. The Board held 3 more teleconferences with Amanda Penwell as Chair, and Dianna Kristeller agreed to remain as Board Secretary. In these teleconferences, the Board discussed and acted on apprenticeship and licensure 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.

For FY 20, total revenue was \$13,105 and expenses were \$28,403; leaving an annual deficit of **\$14,938**.

*Investigator Christina Bond provided the following information regarding investigations:*



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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2021**

The 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
October 8, 2020	Juneau	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$200.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$200.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
February 11, 2021	Juneau	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$200.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$200.00</b>

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
<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):			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (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	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                               Training                               Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

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

**Budget Recommendations for FY 2021 (continued)**

<b>Other Items with a Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>Cost Per Event:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Applicable</b>		<b>Number of Events:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Product or Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	
		\$0.00	
<b>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			

<b>Summary of FY 2021 Fiscal Requests</b>	
Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$400.00
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
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>

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**Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

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**Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2021**

**No Recommendations**

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

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

- Checking for an applicant's potential licensing issues /disciplinary actions in other states.
- Removal of the Jurisprudence Exam.
- Return to practice regulation: Specifications of requirements to renew/receive a license after being lapsed/expired for 5+ years.
- Removal of Peer Review, 12 AAC 14.900.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

***FY 2020'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 licensure applications, voting responsibilities as required, and share and review documents in between meetings.

**Objective #2:**

**Complete regulation projects. Work with the division to streamline the regulation process.**

- How met: The Board has completed 2 regulations projects with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) and the Department of Law (DOL).
  - The first regulation project updated the CDM education programs approved by the Board to be required to have MEAC accreditation, which reflects national standards for midwifery education.
  - The second regulation project updated the Peer Review process to be separated from the investigations process. 12 AAC 14.900 has been proposed to be removed and replaced by 12 AAC 14.455 – Community Peer Review – as defined by the Board.

**Objective #3:**

**Pursue Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) certification to help alleviate the need for the state to approve licensure, yet allow the Board to continue regulating practice for the midwifery profession.**

- How met: The Board has researched pursuing CPM certification and will continue to work to meet this objective into FY 20.

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

***FY 2020's goals and objectives, and how they were met:***

**Objective #4:**

**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 20.

**Objective #5:**

**Review and approve curriculum and adopt basic education, training, and apprentice programs. Approve new continuing education programs that meet regulatory requirements.**

- How met: The board continues to advocate for a high standard of education and training for Alaska CDMs. The Board has completed a regulatory project to require MEAC accredited courses of study as the standard for CDMs in Alaska.

**Objective #6: *COVID Response***

**The Board met and discussed how best to support Alaskan midwives through unprecedented stressors related to the COVID-19 global pandemic. This is an ongoing objective that we will continue to focus on into the next fiscal year.**

- We drafted a letter of support and recommendations, with a resource list for Alaskan midwives.
- This global pandemic has had a significant impact on birthing women and the choices they face, with more women seeking to birth outside of hospital settings. We are discussing ways to grow the midwifery workforce in our state, and to support our midwives who provide community birth setting options.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part II**

**FY 2021'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 meet by teleconference.**

- Use Passageways OnBoard and Zoom to facilitate Board business and communication.
- Our financial situation continues to require that we meet remotely for the next fiscal year.

**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 alleviate the need for the state to approve licensure, yet allow 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.

**Objective #5:**

**Review and approve curricula and adopt basic education, training, and apprentice programs.  
Approve new continuing education programs that meet regulatory requirements.**

- Continue to review and approve extant qualifying curricula to ensure these meet current regulatory requirements.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit: 4/30/2016**  
**Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2021**

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	Division management, in consultation with the board, may consider a small decrease in licensing fees as the board's operating deficit is improving.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	Licensure renewal fees for Apprentice Midwives were decreased \$500 for the 2020-2022 renewal cycle.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	The Division will perform a fee analysis prior to each renewal to determine if adjustment (increase or decrease) of fees is needed.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	The Division continues to monitor and work on this recommendation.

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The DCBPL director should take steps in ensure license records are accurately recorded.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	These records in question were corrected; and training and accountability processes have improved.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	The Division will continue to review records to ensure accuracy in record keeping.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	The Division continues to monitor this recommendation.

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The legislature should consider alternate forms of regulating the midwife profession.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	DCCED has no action to take on this recommendation.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	N.A.
<b>Date Completed:</b>	TBD