

# *Annual Report*

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# *Fiscal Year 2019*

## **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	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, 2020
<b>Dana Espindola</b> Physician/ OB Practice	Eagle River	Mar 1, 2019	Mar 1, 2023
<b>Traci Barickman</b> Public Member	Sutton	May 15, 2018	Jan 25, 2019
<b>Kathryn Ostrom</b> Physician/OB Practice	Homer	May 31, 2018	Mar 1, 2019
<b>Cathy Mosher</b> Public Member	Anchorage	Jan 25, 2019	April 1, 2019

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**Identification of Staff**

**Lacey Derr – Licensing Examiner**

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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(907) 465-2550

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**Sonia Lipker, Brian Howes, Erika Prieksat – Investigator**

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**Greg Francois – Chief Investigator**

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(907) 269-8161

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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 Alaska consumers. Members of the board are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the legislature. The board consists of two direct-entry midwives, one 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 19, with proposed actions planned for FY 20. In FY 19, the board held 4 teleconferences in which Deborah Schneider, CDM presided as Chair and Dianna Kristeller, CNM as 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 18, total revenue was \$24,565 and expenses were \$24,379; leaving an annual surplus of \$186.

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2020**

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 10, 2019	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 19, 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>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2020**

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.

**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>

**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	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
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>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2020 (continued)**

**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:**

**Other Items with a Fiscal Impact**

**Cost Per Event: \$0.00**

- Not Applicable

**Number of Events: 0**

Product or Service	Provider	Total Cost
		\$0.00

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

**Summary of FY 2020 Fiscal Requests**

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 2020**

**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 2020**

**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:

- Course of Study to be accredited by MEAC, or an equivalent course of study as approved by the Department of Education.
- 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. Continuing Education? Supervision? Etc.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

***FY 2019's goals and objectives, and how they were met:***

**Objective #1:**

Conduct two meetings per year. Continue to meet for one day by teleconference.

*How met:* The board held 4 scheduled teleconferences in an effort to reduce expenses and be fiscally conservative. We used GCI teleconference and Zoom teleconference to facilitate communication. We also used Passageways OnBoard to conduct business and share documents in between meetings.

**Objective #2:**

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

*How met:* The board has continued to work on outstanding regulations projects with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) and the Department of Law (DOL). We have identified new regulations projects to attend to moving forward into FY 20.

**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.

**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 review basic education, training and apprentice programs. The Board is actively working on a regulatory project to require MEAC accredited courses of study as the standard for CDMs in Alaska. This objective will continue into FY 20.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part II**

**FY 2020'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 communication.
- Alternatives to OnBoard & Zoom when its system fails

**Objective #2:**

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

- MEAC accreditation of education courses of study regulatory change is a major goal of the Board.
- The Board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the Board will continue to pursue a regulatory change that will require MEAC accreditation of education courses, which will ensure the highest standards for competency are met and maintained by Alaskan midwives.
- Return to practice regulations for public safety by ensuring safety & competency of midwives returning to practice.

**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.

- The Board is tasked with the protection of public safety. As such, the Board will continue to pursue CPM certification, which will ensure the highest standards for competency are met and maintained by Alaskan midwives.

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**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II** (continued)

**FY 2020's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

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

**Objective #4:**

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.
- Update regulation to require MEAC accreditation of education courses of study.

**Objective #6:**

Consider regulations or other changes to how Boards & Commissions appoint members to this Board.

- There are unique requirements needed in order to be an effective member of the Board.
- Seek out legislators to consider bringing changes to confirmation of appointed members.
- Educate Legislators about unique issues of the Board.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit: 04/30/2016**  
**Board Sunset Date: 06/30/2021**

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	Division management, in consultation with the board, should increase licensing fees to eliminate the board's operating deficit.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	Licensure renewal fees were increased 169% for the 2016-2018 renewal cycle.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	The division will perform a fee analysis prior to each renewal to determine if additional increase 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. Date
<b>Date Completed:</b>	TBD