

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2025



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

This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

**Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Board Membership

Page 1

Accomplishments

Page 2

Activities

Page 3

Needs

Page 4

**Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives
FY 2025 Annual Report**

Board Membership *(as of the Date This Report was Approved)*

Date of Final Board Approval: 5/21/2025

Holly Steiner, Certified Direct-Entry Midwife, Chair

Bethel Belisle, Certified Direct-Entry Midwife

Darcy Lucey, Certified Nurse-Midwife

Dr. Lori Lindsay, Physician

Stacia Miller, Public Member

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives FY 2025 Annual Report

Accomplishments

The fiscal year (FY) is July 1st through June 30th; this report is for board business accomplished in FY 2025, with proposed actions planned for FY 2026. In FY 2025, the board held six teleconferences in which Bethel Belisle, CDM presided as Chair for three, and Holly Steiner, CDM as Chair for three (Ms Steiner was voted in as chair at the beginning of the January 8, 2025 meeting and acted as chair for the majority of that meeting, and acted as Chair at a meeting that Ms. Belisle was unable to attend).

In these teleconferences, 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 members received training on investigative processes from investigator Christina Bond during an executive session meeting.

The board has two open complaints as of the time of this report. They are both recently opened in Jan/Feb 2025. There was one closed complaint due to incomplete complaint status.

The board's most recent sunset was extended until June 30, 2025, although the recommendation by the auditor had been for June 30, 2027. The most recent audit was completed within the FY2025 and recommends an extension of the Board to June 30, 2031, which is six (6) years.

The physician seat on the board, which had been vacant since March 2023, was filled in FY2025, just prior to the March 19, 2025 meeting. The new member was unable to attend that meeting with short notice, but is planning to attend meetings in FY2026. The public member seat was vacated after the October 30, 2024 meeting and filled April, 2025.

For FY 2024, total revenue was \$7,700 and expenses were \$8,387, leaving an annual surplus of \$75,869.

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives FY 2025 Annual Report

Activities

The board held six meetings by teleconference during FY2025. They maintained a quorum for all of these meetings. One of these meetings in October was for the purpose of investigative training and was done in executive session with investigator Christina Bond leading the training. The others were open to the public.

The board received public comment on a number of issues pertaining to licensure of midwives, unlicensed practice, regulations projects and suggested statute recommendations.

The board drafted and approved a Notice Regarding the Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery.

The board reviewed revenue, expenses and budget for FY2025.

The board reviewed and approved several Midwife-Apprentice applications and Direct-Entry Midwife applications. The biannual renewal of licenses occurred within FY2025. Discussion of the fee schedule occurred, but no changes in licensing fees were adopted.

No disciplinary actions were taken by the board in FY2025.

A work group was established and came to the board with recommendations for updating HB 175 and suggestions regarding appropriate sponsors for this bill in the legislature. Once the elections were completed in November, the recommendations that were approved by the Board were given to Representative Allard for introduction in the House. HB 95 was introduced, but contained the language from the prior bill. The chair is in communication with Representative Allard regarding revision of this language.

The board reviewed the Sunset Audit Report which recommended Sunset on June 30, 2031 and made recommendations regarding auditing licenses in a timely manner, improved documentation of licensure decisions, and continuing to work to decrease the overall cost of licensure for Certified Direct-Entry Midwives. They also noted some discrepancies between requirements of the NARM CPM certification, which is now required for licensure, and the regulations and statutes of the State of Alaska for CDM licensure. We supported a Sunset Bill being sponsored by Senator Bjorkman that was introduced in March of this year.

A regulations project was opened for regulations pertaining to Peer Review, Reporting Client Deaths, cleaning up some language and removing redundant regulations.

Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives FY 2025 Annual Report

Needs

HB 95 has been introduced, but there is a current request out to Representative Allard to pull this bill in order to revise the language to the updated recommendations from the Board. If there is not action on this bill during the current session, we will need to work on contacting legislators during the next year's session to gain support. The board may need to travel to Juneau during a legislative session to seek support for these statutory changes.

The board has an open regulation project regarding peer review and client death report processes, continuing education requirements, clarification of terms and elimination of dissonant regulations. They will need staff and possibly legal assistance/support as they work to finalize these updated regulations.

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. They will rely on adequate staffing and support of the investigative staff to facilitate this task.

All seats on the board are current filled. However, the board continues to encourage interested individuals to submit applications for future vacancies, as maintaining a full board is essential to ensuring quorum and conducting business efficiently.

The board will continue to make regulatory adjustments in order to bring statutes and regulations in line with each other, eliminate dissonance, and ensure public safety. We may need expert testimony and/or community support to ensure these regulations are in line with community/national standards of care.

The board has a Sunset Bill currently in the legislature, which will need to pass to avoid Sunset of the board in June of this year.