

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
4

5 BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES
6

7 Videoconference
8 February 20, 2020
9

10 **These DRAFT minutes were prepared by the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business
11 and Professional Licensing. They have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.**

12
13 By the authority of AS 08.065.020 and in compliance with the provision of AS 44.62, Article 6, a
14 scheduled videoconference meeting of the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives was held
15 February 20, 2020; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor Commissioners Conference Room, Juneau, AK.
16

17 **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call**

18
19 Chair Schneider called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM AKDT.

20 Members present: Dana Brown, Deborah Schneider, Dianna Kristeller, Dr. Dana Espindola,
21 Hannah St. George

22 Staff Present: Lacey Derr, Andy Khmelev

23 **Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda/Review Minutes**

24 **A motion was made to amend the agenda to include the Alaska Perinatal Quality
25 Collaborative Update by Dianna Kristeller; seconded by Dana Brown, the motion passed
26 unanimously.**

27
28 **A motion was made to approve the draft minutes as written for the October 10, 2019
29 meeting by D. Kristeller, seconded by D. Brown; and agreed unanimously.**

30
31 **Agenda Item 3 – Ethics Report**

32
33 No ethics to report.
34

35 **Agenda Item 4 – New Member Introduction**

36
37 New members of the Board introduced themselves, beginning with Hannah St. George. She
38 stated she was located out of Fairbanks and was currently carrying her 10th child. One of the

39 other board members actually attended one of her births so she's very familiar with the
40 midwifery services available in Alaska. Hannah considered herself an 'unofficial doula' by
41 attending births whenever possible. She really loved the birthing process and was grateful to
42 be serving on the Board.

43

44 There was also a newly appointed upcoming board member present, Amanda 'Manga' Penwell,
45 who briefly introduced herself. OLE Derr requested seasoned board members to inform newly
46 appointed members of the board's current work, goals/objectives, and any additional
47 information they felt would be useful for new members to know. Chair Schneider briefly
48 reviewed bringing the statutes and regulations in line with national CPM process to streamline
49 licensing and hopefully decrease costs. Also, to bring standards in line with national standards
50 which would assist midwives in obtaining licenses in other jurisdictions with similar
51 requirements.

52

53 **Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence**

54

55 The Midwife Association of Alaska (MAA) sent in a letter respectfully requesting whomever the
56 new elected board chair will be, that they hold a Certified Direct-Entry Midwife license as
57 opposed to the other midwifery license types or the public member. Historically the board has
58 always worked to maintain a CDM as board chair and the newly appointed CDM Manga Penwell
59 was interested in taking on the board chair position. After a brief discussion, it was agreed at
60 the next meeting once newly appointed members being their terms, a formal vote would be
61 made.

62

63 **Agenda Item 6 – Perinatal Conference**

64

65 Certified Nurse Midwife Diana Kristeller informed the board of the Perinatal Conference she
66 attended as the Alaska representative for the Perinatal Quality Collaborative. It's a state-wide
67 collaborative of professions focused on improving care for mothers and children. One of the
68 major projects of the group is the "Community Birth Transfer Initiative". The intention is to
69 advance the professional relationships by continuing to improve the transfer process from a
70 community birth setting to a hospital birth setting. Membership to the collaborative is
71 encouraged so all areas of Alaska and their birth needs are represented.

72

73 CNM Kristeller went on to request additional board support in addressing additional access to
74 medications for hypertensive transport. The board had a discussion on the medications
75 involved, how they would/could be administered, and what implementing those changes into
76 the statutes and regulations would look like. After identifying areas such as 12 AAC 14.560,

77 14.570, 14.600 it was agreed there should be a recommendation from MAA on the subject.
78 There needs to be more research put into continuing education for the administration of
79 additional medications, in line with national standards, and accessible for midwives in Alaska.
80 CNM Kristeller will go back to the collaborative and work with MAA to further the discussion on
81 medical assistance for hypertensive transports.

82

83 **Agenda Item 7 – Board Admin Business**

84

85 OLE Derr worked with the board to identify the best date for the next board meeting. Because
86 new members were available to discuss the best dates, it was agreed to hold the next meeting
87 October 8, 2020.

88 **Off Record: 10:12am**

89 **On Record: 10:24am**

90

91 **Agenda Item 8 – Right Touch Regulation Review**

92

93 Chair Schneider began introducing the Right Touch Regulation Project and her ideas on where
94 the board might try to focus efforts. The board overall has been making changes to licensing
95 requirements and becoming more in line with national standards. Through the approved
96 increase to requiring MEAC accredited education and implementing more NARM standards into
97 the licensing process, the midwives in Alaska would be on par with national requirements. This
98 would in turn help reduce costs to the board and increase midwifery license mobility.

99

100 Because there would be a newly seated board in a few weeks, it was decided a subcommittee
101 should be formed of 2 new members to address regulatory changes more specifically for a May
102 meeting.

103

104 **A motion was made to approve the formation of a subcommittee for the regulations project
105 comprised of a current and new board member by D. Brown, seconded by D. Kristeller; and
106 agreed unanimously.**

107

108 **Off Record: 11:24am**

109 **On Record: 11:30am**

110

111 **Agenda Item 9 – Public Comment**

112

113 MAA Representative Maddie Grimes provided public comment requesting additional
114 information on the meeting link for attendance to be accessible. It was difficult to locate and

115 others may have missed the meeting. Meeting minutes have also been delayed online and
116 having those available sooner is very helpful to license holders and MAA. On behalf of the
117 association, it was requested any information on changes that are made to statute or
118 regulation be made available to license holders as soon as possible. Additionally, Ms. Grimes
119 requested to please keep MAA informed of changes so they can aid and improve
120 implementation of those changes in the most positive way possible. Last, she recommended
121 any fee reductions be implemented as best as possible to all midwives because license fees are
122 incredibly high but births overall in Alaska are down. Any reductions in license cost would be
123 greatly appreciated by midwives.

124

125 **Public Comment Closed at 11:43am.**

126

127 **Recess for Lunch 11:45am – 1:02pm**

128

129 **Agenda Item 10 – Investigations**

130

131 Investigators Christina Bond joined to present the most recent Investigative Report. At the time
132 the report was completed, September 26, 2019 – February 5, 2020 there were Three Opened
133 Cases and Zero Closed Cases. The board chair asked questions regarding the older cases and
134 why they're still open. Investigator Bond explained cases which are being actively investigated,
135 they cannot be discussed with the board. Senior Investigator Sonia Lipker joined to reinforce
136 Investigator Bond's statement regarding open investigations and the duties to protect the
137 board from bias if the case comes before them for review. Chair Schneider continued to
138 question the investigators on specific questions when Chief Investigator Greg Francois joined to
139 support both Senior Investigator Lipker and Investigator Bond's explanations of investigations.

140

141 MAA Action Accountability Committee Peer Review Chair Bethel Belisle was present to discuss
142 how MAA facilitates their side of the Peer Review contract process. There had been some
143 questions on how the Peer Review process was completed and the Board was hoping to clarify
144 some of those questions. Peer Review Chair Belisle explained the committee receives full
145 charts for births which fall into 12 AAC 14.900(C)(3)(A-D). The sensitive information is redacted
146 and reviewed by the committee for errors, violations, patterns, or other identifiable issues.
147 From there, AAC will send out a letter to the licensee advising them if they've met the standard
148 of care or not. They will also send out guidance on areas where midwives could do better,
149 recommend additional continuing education, or require supervision from another midwife.
150 They would send a letter to the investigators if there was a regulation break but AAC has been
151 told they don't have any "teeth" to require additional education or supervision on their own.

152

153 Director Sara Chambers joined to discuss additional matters with the board.

154

155 I, Dianna Kristeller, move that the Alaska State Board of Direct-Entry Midwives enter into
156 executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to
157 Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters the immediate knowledge of
158 which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finance of the public entity; subjects
159 that tend to prejudice the reputation of character of any person provided the person may
160 request a public discussion; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are
161 required to be confidential. Seconded by D. Brown, the motion passed unanimously.

162

163 Executive Session:

164 End Executive Session: 2:30pm

165

166 **Agenda Item 11 – Division Update**

167

168 Director Chambers presented the FY19 4th Quarter report and boards current financials. It was
169 explained the board was in a position to be able to reduce licensing fees for the upcoming
170 renewal year. The board discussed dividing the reduction between both CDM and Apprentice
171 license fees, all to CDM or all to the Apprentice fees. It was agreed that helping midwifery
172 students obtain full licensure is what keeps the board sustainable. With birth rates down
173 nationally, supporting student midwives should remain a priority.

174

175 **A motion was made to apply the full fee reduction to the apprentice midwife license fees by**
176 **D. Brown, seconded by D. Espindola; and agreed unanimously.**

177

178 **A motion was made to hold a regulations meeting to address Peer Review on March 9, 2020**
179 **by D. Kristeller, seconded by D. Brown; and agreed unanimously.**

180

181 **Item 12 – Adjourn**

182

183 **A motion was made to Adjourn the Meeting by Dr. Espindola; seconded by D. Brown, the**
184 **motion passed unanimously.**

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186 **Meeting Adjourned 3:27pm**

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Respectfully Submitted:

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Deborah Schneider, CDM Chair

Date

DRAFT