

1 STATE OF ALASKA
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
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5 BOARD OF CERTIFIED DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES
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7 Videoconference
8 April 20, 2020
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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.**

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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 April 20, 2020; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor Commissioners Conference Room, Juneau, AK.
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17 **Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order/Roll Call**

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19 Chair Penwell called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM AKDT.

20 Members present: Amanda ‘Manga’ Penwell, Bethel Belisle, Dianna Kristeller, Hannah St.
21 George, Dr. Dana Espindola

22 Staff Present: Lacey Derr, Andy Khmelev
23

24 **Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda**

25 **A motion was made to approve the Agenda as written by D. Kristeller, seconded by B. Belisle;
26 and agreed unanimously.**

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28 **Agenda Item 3 – Ethics Report**

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30 There were no ethics to report.
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32 **Agenda Item 4 – Continuing Education/Renewal Requirements**

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34 OLE Derr thanked the board for reviewing their regulations and providing meaningful guidance
35 and direction to midwives during these stressful and changing times. OLE Derr presented the
36 board with some areas of concern other boards are having regarding continuing education and
37 the ability to obtain in-person CE credits.
38

39 The board discussed the number of hours required per licensing period and the ability to gain

40 those hours with 8 months still left in the licensing period. Board members agreed the hours
41 necessary should not be reduced and licensees need to be reviewing online for alternative
42 sources of CE hours. It was agreed there could be difficulty in obtaining in-person/synchronous
43 courses as Alaska already receives a reduced number of in-person trainings available to
44 midwives.

45
46 **A motion to allow all 20 Continuing Education Credit Hours by self-study for the 2018-2020**
47 **Renewal Period by B. Belisle, seconded by D. Kristeller; and agreed unanimously.**

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49 **Agenda Item 5 – Telemedicine Delivery & Resources**

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51 OLE Derr addressed the board and updated them on the Telemedicine Business Registry and
52 how the application process works. The Telemedicine Guidance for licensees is based on their
53 boards statute, regulation, and direction. Board Chair Penwell located some resources for
54 Midwifery Telemedicine delivery and asked for the boards input on their substance. Board
55 members discussed the difficulties faced in Telemedicine Midwifery care like getting a blood
56 pressure reading, fetal doppler numbers, or other assessments. Nurse Practitioner Midwife
57 Kristeller and Dr. Espindola both stated how their facilities have been measuring these vitals
58 given the current mandates and it has been assessed by the mother's reports of wellbeing, fetal
59 kick counts/movements, and if the mother can obtain a blood pressure cuff, that's been very
60 helpful. It was agreed the list was supportive to the licensees and OLE Derr will put it up on the
61 website.

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63 **Agenda Item 6 – COVID-19/Mandate Policy Statement**

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65 Chair Penwell presented to the board the first draft of the Board of Direct-Entry Midwives
66 COVID-19 State Mandate Guidance. Bethel Belisle raised one of the recommendations of the
67 CDC is for birthing women to test 3 days prior to their delivery date and currently her clinic
68 does not offer COVID-19 testing. It would be helpful to have a list of testing sights or a generic
69 referral form for COVID-19 testing for patients. Dr. Espindola stated it had been difficult to get
70 patients tested within her facility where as Diana Kristeller stated her patients had been able to
71 gain testing through their facilities drive through testing center. Accessibility to testing has
72 been varied across the state and test result turn around can be 48hours to 3-5 days.

73
74 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has been difficult to obtain as well. Surgical masks are
75 starting to dry up and getting difficult to obtain. OLE Derr is going to assist the board with
76 contacting the DHSS resources for PPE. Chair Penwell reviewed the drafted mandate statement
77 paragraph by paragraph with the board and it was agreed to publish the letter as discussed to

78 the COVID-19 Website.

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80 **Agenda Item 7 – New Business**

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82 NARM had sent out correspondence they're allowing remote proctoring of exams so applicants
83 can still move forward with their licensing process. OLE Derr explained other professionals
84 have had testing stop all together so this was a positive license pathway forward for the
85 midwifery profession.

86

87 OLE Derr updated the board on 'Zoom Bombing' and the Divisions efforts to prevent disruptive
88 behavior but not prevent anyone from rightfully joining the meeting. It was recommended
89 anyone who wanted to attend the meeting to please reach out to the Division and the
90 information for the Zoom link can be provided. Dianna Kristeller requested a copy of the
91 previous Annual Report and will begin drafting some of the information for the upcoming
92 meeting. This will assist the board in being ahead of the game.

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94 **Agenda Item 8 – Adjourn**

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96 **A motion was made to Adjourn the meeting by D. Kristeller; seconded by B. Belisle, the**
97 **motion passed unanimously.**

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99 **Meeting Adjourned 10:30 am**

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Respectfully Submitted:

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Amanda "Manga" Penwell, CDM Chair

Date