

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 November 10, 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 November 10, 2020; 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor Commissioners Conference Room, Juneau,
16 AK.
17

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

19
20 Bethel Belisle called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM AKDT.

21 Members present: Acting Chair Bethel Belisle, Dr. Dana Espindola, Hannah St. George

22 Staff Present: Records & Licensing Supervisor Lacey Derr
23

24 **Agenda Item 2 – Review Agenda**

25 **A motion was made to approve the Agenda as written by D. Espindola, seconded by H. St.
26 George; and agreed unanimously.**

27
28 **Agenda Item 3 – Vote New Board Chair**

29
30 RLS Lacey Derr informed the board Manga Penwell has stepped down from the board and there
31 needs to be a new Board Chair elected. Bethel is currently the only seated midwife and it has
32 been previously the wish of the Board to have the chair be a licensed CDM.
33

34 **A motion was made to elect Bethel Belisle as board chair by D. Espindola, seconded by H. St.
35 George; and agreed unanimously.**

36
37 **Agenda Item 4 – Ethics Report**

38
39 There were no ethics to report.

40 **Agenda Item 5 – MEAC Accreditation**

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42 Board Chair Belisle presented the recently approved regulation change in regard to education.
43 She explained this regulations change has become a barrier to the license program as MEAC
44 only accredited schools are very expensive, difficult to attend, and there are NO MEAC
45 accredited schools in Alaska. Chair Belisle had reached out to previously approved programs
46 which are in Alaska and they had confirmed they would be on board with updating their
47 programs to be more in line with what is needed for board approval. It was asked to revisit this
48 topic when there was a fully seated board as it's important to keep as many competent
49 pathways to licensure open.

50

51 **Agenda Item 6 – Investigations**

52

53 Investigator Christina Bond joined to present the Investigative Board Report for the time period
54 February 6, 2020 thru September 15, 2020. During that time, there were three open cases, one
55 of which will be presented to the board in executive session. Two cases had been closed during
56 that time period.

57

58 **I, Dana Espindola, move that the Alaska State Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives enter**
59 **into executive session in accordance with AS 44.62.310(c), and Alaska Constitutional Right to**
60 **Privacy Provisions, for the purpose of discussing matters which tend to prejudice the**
61 **reputation and character of any person provided that person may request a public discussion;**
62 **seconded by Hannah St. George and passed unanimously.**

63

64 **Executive Session: 9:20am**

65 **Out of Executive Session: 9:34am**

66

67 **A motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda for Case #2019-001222 by D. Espindola,**
68 **seconded by H. St. George; and agreed unanimously.**

69

70 **Agenda Item 12 – Application Review**

71

72 Because the board was ahead of schedule and to make best use of their time, they moved on to
73 Application Review while waiting for Director Chambers to present the Emergency Regulations
74 project.

75

76

77 The board reviewed applications and:
78 **Via roll call vote, the following applications were reviewed and by the board.**

79 **Laura Lemons Apprentice Midwife**
80 **Bethany Kirillov CDM**
81 **Noa Belisle Midwife Preceptor**

82
83 There was still time before Director Chambers was scheduled to present to the board took a
84 short break.

85
86 Off Record: 9:45am
87 On Record: 10:00am

88
89 **Agenda Item 7 – Emergency Regulations/ECL**

90
91 AAG Harriet Milks and Regulations Specialist Jun Maquis joined to discuss the implementation
92 of Emergency Regulations in case future events were to come up and the board wanted to
93 execute an emergency courtesy license. It was discussed what sorts of emergencies would
94 qualify, how long the license would be in effect for, and the parameters of the license itself.

95
96 **Emergency regulations dealing with emergency courtesy license – 12 AAC 02.145:**

97 The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives finds that an emergency exists under AS
98 44.62.250, and that an emergency regulation change is necessary to 12 AAC 14, dealing with
99 emergency courtesy license, requiring regulations to enable additional direct-entry midwives
100 services to be quickly available in the state, for the immediate preservation of the public peace,
101 health, safety, or general welfare. The facts constituting the emergency include the following:

102
103 Facilities are unable to maintain staffing levels due to the current and ongoing spike in
104 COVID-19 hospitalizations and the increase in medical staff unable to report to work due
105 to COVID-positive tests, quarantine awaiting test results, or caring for a COVID-positive
106 relative—especially in rural areas and in facilities serving special needs populations. The
107 commissioner of the Department of Health and Social Services has specifically requested
108 health care boards implement emergency measures to allow qualified providers in other
109 jurisdictions to become licensed quickly in Alaska to fill these gaps.

110 In a motion duly made by Dr. Dana Espindola and seconded by Hannah St. George, with
111 unanimous consent, it was

112 **RESOLVED** to adopt 12 AAC 02.145 as presented and amended, with the intent to make
113 the emergency regulation permanent.

114

115 **The motion passed with no further discussion.**

116

117 **Agenda Item 8 – Regulations - Peer Review**

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119 Attorney Megyn Weigand joined to discuss the latest draft of Peer Review to meet the needs of
120 the audit and the intentions of the board. The board and Attorney Weigand went line by line
121 through the draft and proposed language. They worked to clarify codes of ethics, more defined
122 language, and additional support for board actions if need.

123

124 Attorney Weigand was going to take these current suggested updates and put them into a final
125 draft for the board to review at their next meeting. If the board chooses to adopt the final
126 draft, it can be prepared for public comment.

127

128 **Off Record Lunch: 12pm – 1pm**

129

130 **Agenda Item 10 – Division Update**

131

132 Administrative Officer Melissa Dumas joined to present the 3rd Quarter Report to the board.
133 The report showed the board had done a great job pulling themselves out of deficit and if all
134 continues to go as it is, the board will have a surplus after the renewal period for the first time
135 in quite a few years. The board was pleased to see movement into a positive financial position
136 and stated they hope to keep that momentum moving forward and eventually lower license
137 fees.

138

139 **Agenda Item 13 – Adjourn**

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141 **A motion was made to Adjourn the meeting by D. Espindola; seconded by H. St. George, the**
142 **motion passed unanimously.**

143

144 **Meeting Adjourned 1:21 am**

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152 Respectfully Submitted:

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Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor

Bethel Belisle, CDM Chair

Date

DRAFT