

DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIVES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2016

Call to Order:

The Direct-Entry Midwives Advisory Committee met in the Board Room of the BON at 10:00 a.m. on October 14, 2016. Those present were: Alexa Richardson, Chair; Harold Fox; Jan Kriebs; Elizabeth Reiner and Deana Frank. Those present via telephone were Kai Parker and Caitlin McDonough. Also present were Shirley Devaris, Ann Tyminski, Sarah Pendley, and Sharon Allen. Richard Proctor, Interim Executive Director arrived during the meeting. Absent was Julia Perkins.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 9 meeting were reviewed and approved with two corrections.

License Data Base

Ann Tyminski updated the Committee on the status of the licensure database. She explained that the standard information required by the Board of Nursing will be captured in the database. All other information will be available on the applications and each licensee will have a paper file that will be kept for reference. The application will be available on line to fill out, download and mail in to the office. It is not cost-effective at this time to offer electronic applications because of the low expected numbers of Direct-Entry midwife applicants. Mrs. Tyminski is working with the IT Department to have the database ready for licensure mid-November.

Regulations Update

Ms. Devaris explained the regulations have been published. The final date for comments is October 30. No comments have been received as yet. Ms. Devaris said that comments on regulations typically come in on the last day of the comment period. Ms. Richardson asked about the formulary, and Ms. Devaris replied that the formulary is in the regulations just as written.

Proposed Regulations from OHCQ

The next discussion was a proposed response to the Office of Health Care Quality's proposed amendments to COMAR 10.05.02 – Freestanding Birthing Centers. Ms. Pendley explained that OHCQ has asked the Board of Nursing for guidance on how to respond to comments received in a response to the regulation proposal. Ms. Pendley felt the question should also be presented to the DEMs Advisory Committee because they may be impacted by the regulations. The Committee felt that there is nothing in the statute that would prevent a Direct-Entry Midwife from operating or overseeing a birthing center. The Committee proposed that wherever the regulations state a Certified Nurse Midwife, Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife should be added. Ms. Devaris suggested that the DEMs state that they have no opinion regarding ultrasound. Currently the practice for DEMs is to refer for ultrasound as necessary.

The Committee agreed that vacuum extractions and forceps have no place in a birthing center. Kai Parker commented that there is no supervision of a DEM at a home birth; therefore, there should not be a requirement for supervision in a birthing center. At the conclusion of discussion, the plan is that Ms. Devaris will write a memo and present to the BON outlining the recommendations under Ms. Richardson's name. Ms. Richardson will be present at the October 26 Board of Nursing meeting to answer any questions.

Proposed Letter to Maryland Hospital Association

Mrs. Tyminski presented a proposed letter to be signed by Richard Proctor, Interim Executive Director, directed to the MHA to introduce the LDEMs and the possibility of transferring mother and child to one of their member hospitals from time to time. Mrs. Tyminski explained that the letter was written at the suggestion of Ms. Devaris. Ms. Tyminski informed the Committee members that Mary Kay Goetter was no longer Executive Director of the Board of Nursing and that Richard Proctor is Interim Executive Director. Mr. Proctor and the Chair of the Board of Nursing had both reviewed the letter and agree that the letter is appropriate to introduce the LDEMs in this manner. Ms. Pendley made some editorial changes. The letter will be presented to the BON at its October 26 meeting.

Introduction of Interim Executive Director

At this point, Richard A Proctor, Interim Executive Director, joined the meeting. Mrs. Tyminski introduced him as a person who has held many DHMH positions over the years and one who is extremely knowledgeable about Boards and their Committees. He is also very familiar with the legislative process. Mr. Proctor gave a brief overview of his credentials, and said that he is very much interested in the work of the various Committees under the BON.

Suggestion as to Contact with Appropriate Hospitals

Mrs. Tyminski suggested that once a list of hospitals to which DEMs may transfer patients was finalized, that a similar letter as that drafted for MHA be sent to introduce LDEMs. Ms. Richardson said she is working on the list.

Draft Informational Packet

Ms. Richardson presented the draft informational packet which she had greatly streamlined. The list of drugs submitted by Ms. Devaris will be added to the packet. DEMs are not prescribers but the drugs listed are available to LDEMs during the normal course of midwifery. It was suggested that some of the drugs such as Oxytocin have the designation, "post-partum" placed after the drug name. It is planned this packet will be available on the website.

The informational packet is not ready to go to the BON for Board approval. It will be disseminated after the LDEM is licensed, so there is some time left to review and make changes. A target date for presentation to BON is the November meeting.

It was also announced that a designated MBON mailbox for this Committee and its members is being requested as well as Maryland.gov e-mail addresses for the Committee members. Sharon Allen will prepare the appropriate IT requests to prepare the website for LDEM applicants, including directions for Criminal Background Checks.

Vital Records

Mrs. Tyminski explained that she had called Elaine Tretter at Vital Records to inquire how DEMs can submit birth certificates. Ms. Tretter referred her to Geneva Sparks, Director of Vital Records, who could give better information regarding working with the local Health Departments. Ms. Sparks was out of the office. Mrs. Tyminski will follow up.

Applications

Alexa Richardson, Elizabeth Reiner, and Kai Parker had all submitted applications which they had filled out and provided as a test run. None of them seemed to have any problems with the form that is on the website. The applications were then retrieved by Mrs. Tyminski for shredding. The applications for licensure will all be reviewed by the Committee, and the Committee will recommend that the BON license the acceptable applicants.

The criminal background check process was explained by Sharon Allen. She is working with the IT Department to place the Criminal Justice System card on the DEMs website if possible. In response to Committee member questions, Ms. Allen explained that applicants should be advised it will take from 2-4 weeks to have a criminal background check response once the applicant submits fingerprints. If the applicant has a charge or criminal record, the process can take much longer. It may even require an investigation into the matter, depending upon the severity of the reported crime.

The Committee was requested to look at the accepted list of continuing education for possible revision. There was a discussion regarding bridge certificates and whether they should request BON to approve such bridge programs. No decision was made.

Data Collection Form

The corrections requested from the September meeting have been made to the Data Collection form and a cover sheet added. Ann Tyminski and Sharon Allen will discuss with IT whether an electronic number to offer a degree of anonymity can be placed on the forms or whether staff should assign a number when the collection form is received. The form will be in PDF format on the website so that it can be filled out using an Acrobat program. This form will go to the BON for approval at its November meeting.

Other Business

Mrs. Tyminski advised the committee that Deana Frank, consumer member, had sent an e-mail indicating her term ends in December and she does not wish to be reappointed due to the fact that she is expecting her third child in November. Mrs. Tyminski had requested Kim Bennardi to try to help out by spreading the word about a replacement for Ms. Frank. Also, staff will request IT Department to post the vacancy on the website. Committee members also indicated they would get the word out in the DEMs community. A consumer of Direct-Entry Midwife services would be a preferred qualification for this vacancy. Ms. Frank indicated she would call in to the November meeting and serve in any way she can until a replacement is found for her position.

The next meeting will be November 18 at 10:00 a.m. The December meeting date has been changed to December 16. At the November meeting a Committee calendar for 2017 will be set. IT will be requested to change the dates on the website.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann E. Tyminski, Administrator III

Sharon Allen, Administrative Specialist II