MINUTES OF DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 10, 2017

Alexa Richardson, Committee Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Those present were: Jan Kriebs, Elizabeth Reiner, Harold Fox, Kai Parker, Jessica Watkins, Sarah Pendley, AAG; Richard Proctor, Interim Executive Director; Sharon Allen and Ann Tyminski. Julia Perkins was present via telephone.

MINUTES

Ms. Richardson explained the discussions that took place at the February 10, 2017 meeting as reflected in the minutes. On a motion made and voted, the minutes were accepted as amended.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Mr. Proctor explained his recent visit with Geneva Sparks, Vital Records Registrar. Ms. Sparks is willing to meet with the DEMs Committee or their representatives but wishes to include Isabelle Horon, Vital Statistics Administration. Unfortunately, Ms. Horon was not available for the DEMs' March meeting. After discussion it was decided that Ms. Richardson would offer some dates to Mr. Proctor and Mrs. Tyminski for coordination with Ms. Sparks and Ms. Horon, preferably prior to April 14. The Committee is willing to have some representatives of the Committee at such a meeting if necessary. Mr. Proctor made it clear that if outsiders are to be invited, such as representatives from the nurse midwives or the various associations related to midwifery, he would like to notify Ms. Sparks and Ms. Horon of the addition of those attendees. Ms. Perkins indicated she would make herself available with Ms. Richardson if other members of the Committee are not available on the designated date. It will be called a special meeting of the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee if the date does not coincide with the regularly scheduled April 14 meeting as the Committee would prefer the meeting take place as soon as possible.

Ms. Kriebs and Ms. Richardson informed the Committee that a bill has been introduced in the Legislature by the Maryland Chapter of the American College of Nurse Midwives. The bill number is HB 1632, with a hearing on March 13 at 1:00 p.m. This bill would change the Vital Records statute regarding birth certificates. The bill is also cross-filed as SB 1174. At the March 13 hearing only written testimony will be accepted. The Committee was told that anyone is free to write letters in support of these bills if they so wish.

Further discussion enlightened the Committee that every County currently has different processes for issuing birth certificates for home births. Some Counties accept the shortened reporting form, some do not. Some accept the shortened reporting form but also send a nurse for a home visit. There is no box on the shortened form to indicate that the health provider is a Direct-Entry Midwife.

Mrs. Tyminski distributed copies of a memo from Isabel Horon to Webster Lee, DHMH Governmental Affairs, regarding the birth certificate issue. Since a copy of the memo on this issue intended for the MBON was pulled from the MBON February agenda to give Sarah Pendley an opportunity for discussion with Vital Records' Board Counsel, and that memo mysteriously ended up with a Delegate, it was made clear to the Committee that they could review Ms. Horon's memo at this meeting but the copies of the memo would be collected at the end of the meeting.

UNIVERSAL PRECAUTIONS

Mrs. Tyminski reported that no notice of Universal Precautions that is required by Statute has ever been developed by DHMH and other healthcare entities named in the statute. She had checked with other Healthcare Boards who indicated that they have their licensees' post some portions of the CDC suggested universal precautions or those found on the World Health Organization website. After conferring with Ms. Devaris, Mrs. Tyminski reported that Universal Precautions are considered part of the standards of practice. The requirement for posting the Universal Precautions was being removed from the Electrology Act in conjunction with the Board's 2017 Clean-up Bill. Therefore, it is suggested that the DEMs propose removing the requirement from their Act for the 2018 legislation.

RENEWALS

Mrs. Tyminski and Ms. Allen had discovered recently that the programming of the DEMs licensure database was erroneous in that it was programmed the same as Registered Nurses whose licenses expire according to birth date. The IT Department has been requested to change the programming to coincide with the DEMs' regulations which state that all licenses expire on October 28 of odd-numbered years. When the regulations were written, it was presumed that DEMs would have been licensed in 2016. This did not happen, and therefore those DEMs who were licensed in January and February of 2017 will renew in October 2017. The regulations state that licenses are good for two years except for the initial license. Sarah Pendley and Ann Tyminski reviewed the regulations closely to be certain they were interpreting the regulations correctly, and there is no way to change the upcoming 2017 renewal date. Ms. Richardson indicated this is causing some upset amongst the recently licensed DEMs, and many DEMs are deciding not to initiate licensure at this time. Mrs. Tyminski explained that the initial $900 fee covers the initial license. The $800 renewal fee covers licensure for the 2-years a renewed license is in effect. Ms. Richardson said it is projected that at the end of 2017 there will be approximately 20 DEMs licensed in Maryland. It was suggested that a blurb appear on the DEM's website notifying of the October 2017 renewal date. Each current licensee will be sent a separate e-mail.

Mrs. Tyminski asked if the renewal application could pattern the recent renewal application for electrologists. The Committee agreed to that suggestion. Ms. Pendley wants to be assured that the required questions are on the form. It is noted that the DEMs are required to have criminal background checks only every 12 years. Mrs. Tyminski will present the form to the Committee in April, but cautioned there should not be significant changes as it takes time for the printing process, and the renewals should be sent out in July.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Mrs. Tyminski presented a draft of continuing education regulations. After discussion, Ms. Kriebs and Ms. Richardson decided they would work on the draft for presentation at the April meeting.

PRACTICE ACT

There was very little time left to review additional portions of the Act for possible 2018 legislative changes. However, discussion centered around 8-6C-03 (30) to change that section as follows: (3) Primary genital herpes simplex virus infection in third trimester of current pregnancy or active genital herpes lesions at time of labor.

8-6C-04 (a) A licensed direct-entry midwife shall consult with [a]**an appropriate** healthcare practitioner.....

8-6C-04 (21)[Herpes simplex virus, primary infection or active infection at time of delivery] **Active genital herpes lesions during pregnancy.**

Continuation of review will be placed on the April agenda

CLOSED SESSION

On a motion made, seconded and voted, the Committee moved into closed session at 12:02 p.m. to review the Closed Session minutes of the February 10 meeting. At this point, Mr. Proctor left the meeting.

The minutes of the February 10 meeting were read and approved. The Committee came out of closed session at 12:10 p.m. There being no further business, the meeting immediately adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann E. Tyminski, Administrator

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