

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 12, 2018

On a motion made by Dr. Harold Fox, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Direct Entry Midwife Advisory Committee (the "Committee") meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Committee Chairperson, Dr. Kai Parker. Also present were Committee members Dr. Harold Fox, Jessica Watkins, Karen Webster, and Elizabeth Reiner. Absent Committee members were Jan Kriebs and Julia Perkins.

Also present were Maryland Board of Nursing (the "Board") Director of Practice Monica J. Mentzer, Board Administrator Ann Tyminski, and Assistant Attorney General Lindsey Snyder.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2018 meeting were reviewed with several corrections made: Dr. Fox's first name was noted to be Harold, not Michael. The prefix "Dr." was added to Dr. Parker's name. It was requested that the Association that represents independent midwives be referenced by its full name: Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (AIMM).

Further, Ms. Reiner requested a change in the last paragraph, second to last sentence of the "Discussion Topics" section of the minutes. The discussion section of the minutes was regarding clinical preceptees. The original sentence stated, "Therefore, if a student is not participating in a clinically-approved program, they cannot be preceptored in Maryland." Ms. Reiner did not believe this was an accurate reflection of the conservation. Therefore, the sentence was changed to state, "If a student is not participating in a clinically-approved program, that student does not meet the requirements outlined in § 8-6C-13(b) of the Health Occupations Article."

Dr. Fox moved to approve the minutes with the above-outlined corrections. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Data Collection

Next, the discussion turned to the information that the Board, in consultation with the Committee, is required to submit to the Legislature on December 1, 2018 pursuant to § 8-6C-12(C) of the Health Occupations Article. Specifically the Board is required to submit data regarding cases in which each DEM assisted when the intended place of birth at the onset of care was an out of hospital setting pursuant to § 8-6C-10(a) of the Health Occupations Article and recommendations pursuant to § 8-6C-12(C) of the Health Occupations Article. Mrs. Tyminski provided the Committee with a copy of the Board's report to the Legislature in 2017 as a guide for what the 2018 report will look like. The Committee discussed the information to be provided to the Board so that the Board may report to the Legislature as required.

Prior to the meeting, each DEM was required to complete and submit to the Board a form that contains reporting information outlined in § 8-6C-10(a) of the Health Occupations Article ("Reporting Form"). The Board received Reporting Forms from 14 of the 15 DEMs required to report. At the meeting, the Committee reviewed and compiled the data provided on the Reporting Forms. Each person present received a packet of all Reporting Forms, and as a group effort, with Ms. Snyder tallying the numbers,

the data was compiled and recorded. During the compilation process, it was noted that the Reporting Form used does not directly correlate to the information required pursuant to § 8-6C-10(a) of the Health Occupations Article. It was also noted that certain aspects of the Reporting Form are confusing, which may have led to inconsistent reporting. Ms. Reiner and Ms. Watkins agreed to work on a new Reporting Form to be distributed to and utilized by the DEMs for next year's reporting period.

Next, the Committee discussed whether the Committee should include recommendations in its report to the Board regarding (1) the continuation and improvement of the licensure of the DEMs in Maryland, (2) expanding the scope of practice of DEMs, and (3) the scope of practice of DEMs to include vaginal birth after cesarean pursuant to § 8-6C-12(c) of the Health Occupations Article. The Committee unanimously agreed that they would like to continue last year's recommendation that all certified professional midwives who are currently or will be practicing midwifery in Maryland immediately seek licensure. Ms. Watkins stated there are consumers who are pushing to allow DEMs to assist at vaginal births after a caesarian section ("VBAC"). Ms. Reiner said that she receives calls once or twice a week from prospective clients interested in VBACs and she has to decline taking on such clients. Dr. Fox noted that a change in the law to allow midwives to assist in VBACs would be unwise at this time since the risk for complications is high and there are hospitals that do not allow such a procedure.

Ms. Reiner brought up the point that the requirements to (1) notify pediatricians during labor and (2) report the birth within 24 hours adds an extra burden to the duties of the DEMs. Ms. Watkins agreed, noting that it seems most important that DEMs are concentrating on assisting with labor rather than notifying the pediatrician during the labor.

Mrs. Tyminski reminded the Committee that the Board's Director of Legislative Affairs Shirley Devaris has on several occasions at recent Committee meetings reminded the Committee that their licensure status is new and it would be unwise to seek legislative changes at this time. The discussion ended, and Dr. Fox moved that the Committee's report to the Board not include recommendations for changes as outlined under § 8-6C-12(c) of the Health Occupations Article, but include a continued request that all certified professional midwives who are currently or will be practicing midwifery in Maryland immediately seek licensure. The motion was seconded. Vote: 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

Checklist

At the September meeting, Ms. Webster suggested that a kit be prepared to send out to newly licensed DEMs. The intention of the kit would be to inform new licensees of their responsibilities. It was pointed out that each new licensee receives a new licensee letter that outlines the responsibilities of licensure and includes a copy of the Nurse Practice Act and regulations relating to the practice of direct-entry midwifery. It was suggested perhaps the Committee could prepare a checklist. Ms. Perkins and Ms. Reiner stated they would work on such a checklist. As of this meeting, the checklist was not finished. In Ms. Perkins' absence, Ms. Watkins and Ms. Reiner agreed to collaborate on such a checklist for the November meeting.

Reappointment

At the September meeting, Ms. Kriebs expressed interest in being reappointed to the Committee as a Certified Nurse Midwife ("CNM") for a 4-year term to commence on January 1, 2019.

Ms. Watkins moved to recommend to the Board that Ms. Kriebs be re-appointed as one of the two CNM members of the Committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann E. Tyminski, Administrator

