

OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
February 8, 2019

On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee (the "Committee") was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by Chairperson, Dr. Kai Parker. The meeting was held at the Maryland Board of Nursing, (the "Board"), 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. Present at the meeting were Committee members Dr. Kai Parker, Jan Kriebs, Karen Webster, Dr. Harold Fox, Julia Perkins, Jessica Watkins and Elizabeth Reiner by telephone. Staff members present were Ann Tyminski, Administrator, Lindsey Snyder, AAG, Board Counsel; and Katie Giblin, AAG, Board Counsel. Members of the general public present were Kirra Brandon and Brittany Coffman. Sara Branson was present via telephone.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the December 7, 2018 meeting were approved with minor corrections.

**Application**

The application of Brittany Coffman for licensure as a direct-entry midwife was reviewed and determined complete except that the Board has not yet received the results of Ms. Coffman's criminal history records check ("CHRC"). Pursuant to the Code of Maryland Regulations 10.64.01.16E, a license may not be issued until the Board has received and reviewed the results of the CHRC. Ms. Coffman was advised by Ms. Tyminski to check with Criminal Justice information Services as to the status of her CHRC. On a motion made by Ms. Kriebs, seconded, and unanimously approved, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board that Ms. Coffman be approved for licensure as a direct-entry midwife pending the results of her CHRC pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-11(a)(1).

**Letter from the Association of Independent Midwives of America ("AIMM")**

The Committee reviewed an inquiry from AIMM expressing concern regarding a pending licensure application and asking for the timeframe for reviewing applications. Ms. Snyder summarized generally the process for licensure applications and explained that there are certain situations that will extend the length of time it takes to process an application. For example, if an application warrants an investigation by the Board, the timeframe for licensure depends on the outcome of the investigation. This process is necessary because the Board must exercise due diligence in the licensure process to fulfill its role of protecting the public.

**2019 License Renewal Application**

Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. ("Health Occ.") §8-6C-18(d)(3)(i), licensees are required to renew their licenses by submitting a renewal application on a form that the Board requires. Periodically, the Committee reviews and recommends changes to the renewal application form required by the Board. The Committee reviewed the 2019 renewal application form, recommended small Typographical and grammatical changes, and decided that the question regarding workmens' compensation will be clarified to state that it is directed towards employers. On a motion made by

Dr. Fox, seconded and unanimously approved, the Committee voted to recommend that the Board approve the revised 2019 renewal application for direct-entry midwives with the discussed changes.

The Committee also requested a memo be sent to the Executive Director to upgrade gender identity on initial applications and renewal applications to a modern standard in the Board's database and on all the Board's forms. Presently the standard is male or female.

#### **Data Collection Form**

Next, the discussion turned to the Data Collection Form that contains reporting information outlined in Health Occ. §8-6-10(a). The Committee uses this Data Collection Form to collect information from the direct-entry midwives on behalf of the Board, which is then reported to the Legislature as statutorily required. Ms. Watkins and Ms. Reiner have been working on revision to the Data Collection Form. Ms. Watkins presented the revisions to the Committee. The Committee discussed the revised form and recommended certain typographical and grammatical revisions. Ms. Snyder and Mrs. Tyminski recommended that the questions asked on the revised form directly correlate with the information required by the Legislature as outlined in Health Occ. §8-6C-10(a). Mrs. Tyminski stated that if at some point the Committee wants to collect other types of data, it could do so through an optional survey.

Ms. Watkins will make further revisions as suggested and will circulate the revised Data Collection form to all Committee members and staff prior to the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the goal that the Committee will be able to approve a form to recommend to the Board at its March meeting.

#### **Checklist to Accompany New Licensee Letter**

Ms. Perkins presented the proposed Direct-Entry Midwife Licensee Checklist to be sent out with the New Licensee letter. The Committee suggested certain typographical and grammatical changes. Ms. Perkins will revise the form as recommended by the Committee and will present the revised form at the March 8 meeting.

#### **Other Business**

A copy of the Direct-Entry Midwife Practice Act and underlying regulations was distributed to the Committee with the request that the members be familiar with these documents and bring their copies to each meeting for reference.

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion made and unanimously approved, the Committee adjourned the open session of the meeting at 11:40 a.m. to enter into administrative session to discuss general requirements of the Open Meetings Act. The administrative session began at 11:40 a.m., in the same location, and those

present at the open session remained present in the administrative session. During the administrative session, Ms. Giblin briefed the Committee on the general requirements of the Open Meetings Act as it relates to the Committee. The administrative session adjourned at 12:01 p.m. The next meeting will be March 8, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann E. Tyminski, Administrator