

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THE "COMMITTEE")
TO THE MARYLAND BOARD OF NURSING (THE "BOARD")
June 5, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Kai Parker at 10:05am. The meeting was held remotely due to Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.'s declaration of a state of emergency and catastrophic health emergency in Maryland on March 5, 2020 in response to the spread of COVID-19. Present at the meeting were Committee members: Harold Fox, Jan Kriebs, Kai Parker, Julia Perkins, Elizabeth Reiner, Jessica Watkins and Karen Webster. Also present were: Assistant Attorney General- Board Counsel Lindsey Snyder and Board Staff, Director of Practice Monica J. Mentzer. Members of the public present were: licensed direct-entry midwives Karen Carr, Liz O'Shea, Maureen McIver and Dianne Sellers.

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on February 7, 2020 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2020 meeting, with one correction/addition noted by Kai Parker, was made by Jan Kriebs, the motion seconded by Julia Perkins, all Committee members present voted in favor, there were no nays, no abstentions. The motion carried and passed to approve the February 7, 2020 meeting minutes.

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on April 3, 2020 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2020 meeting was made by Jan Kriebs, the motion seconded by Harold Fox, all Committee members present voted in favor, there were no nays, no abstentions. The motion carried and passed to approve the April 3, 2020 meeting minutes.

Committee Member Assignments

The Committee reviewed the members' appointment expiration dates. The appointment of Julia Perkins, CNM, ends on December 31, 2020. At an Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (AIMM) meeting, the Committee members inquired about individuals interested in filling Julia Perkins' role as a CNM on the Committee, and there was at least one individual who expressed interest.

Other Business

Jan Kriebs attended the Maryland Board of Nursing Open Session meeting on April 22, 2020 and presented on two topics. First, she presented information about the profession of certified midwives and asked the Board to support legislation intended to be introduced next year regarding certified midwives as a profession in Maryland. Second, she presented the Committee's recommendation to revise COMAR 10.64.01.15(b) to be consistent with Section 8-6C-13(b)(2) of the Health Occupations Article regarding education requirements for licensed direct-entry midwives. She reported that there were no questions from the Board about either presentation. Lindsey Snyder said the Board voted to approve the Committee's recommendation to revise the language in COMAR 10.64.01.15(b) to be consistent with Section 8-6C-13(b)(2) of the Health Occupations Article.

Karen Webster inquired about the timeframe for sending the Data Collection forms to all licensed direct-entry midwives for completion. Monica Mentzer said the Data Collection forms are usually mailed to licensees on July 1st. Additionally, the updated Data Collection form is available on the Board's website.

The Data Collection forms are due from all licensed direct-entry midwives by October 1st of each year. The Committee's October meeting is currently scheduled for October 2, 2020. The Committee was concerned

that this would not allow enough time to receive all Data Collection forms by the scheduled meeting date. Accordingly, Elizabeth Reiner moved to change the date of the Committee's October meeting to October 16, 2020. Karen Webster seconded the motion. All Committee members voted in favor, there were no nays, no abstentions. The motion carried and passed to change the date of the meeting from October 2, 2020 to October 16, 2020. Monica Mentzer will check on room availability for that date.

Karen Webster stated that AIMM is actively working on revisions to the informed consent agreement, and is seeking feedback. Per statute, the Board, in consultation with stakeholders, shall review and update as necessary the informed consent agreement at least every 4 years. The Committee discussed that interested stakeholders would include AIMM and the Maryland Hospital Association.

Monica Mentzer updated the Committee on the Administrator III contractual position. She was advised by the Board Personnel Liaison that Human Resources determined only two of the three candidates met all requirements, and that all positions are currently frozen due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency budget constraints.

Monica Mentzer made a request for any additional items to be placed on the 4th Quarter FY '20 Report (04/01/2020-6/30/2020) to the Board at the Open Session Board meeting scheduled for July 22, 2020.

New Business

Elizabeth Reiner began a discussion about racial inequity in maternal care and what the Committee could do to help address this issue. The Committee discussed ideas such as gathering data about infant and maternal outcomes by race on the Data Collection Form in future years, or amongst midwives outside of the Data Collection form. The Committee did not make any final decisions, and agreed to discuss this topic further in future meetings. Dianne Sellers suggested this topic should be added to the AIMM agenda as well.

Karen Carr brought forth a question about who can report data in the event of a death of a licensed direct-entry midwife. The statute and regulations as currently written don't allow for reporting by anyone other than the licensed direct-entry midwife who served as primary caregiver at the onset of care.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 11:39am. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10th, 2020 (rescheduled from July 3, 2020 due to the July 4th holiday).

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Watkins, Committee member