

OPEN SESSION MINUTES
DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (THE "COMMITTEE")
TO THE MARYLAND BOARD OF NURSING (THE "BOARD")
July 10th, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Elizabeth Reiner at 10:14am. 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: Jan Kriebs, 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.

Minutes

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on June 5, 2020 were reviewed. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2020 meeting was made by Jan Kriebs, the motion seconded by Karen Webster, all Committee members present voted in favor, there were no nays, no abstentions. The motion carried and passed to approve the June 5, 2020 minutes.

Data Collection Forms

Monica Mentzer updated the Committee that Data Collection forms were sent by U.S. mail to all licensed direct-entry midwives ("DEMs") on June 29, 2020, and are due to the Board by October 1, 2020.

Discussion of revisions to Informed Consent Agreement

Karen Webster reported that there is no update from AIMM regarding potential revisions to the Informed Consent Agreement, because AIMM has not had any meetings since the inception of the COVID-19 state of emergency.

Request for items to be placed on the 4rd Quarter FY '20 Report (April 1, 2020 – 6/30/2020) to the Board at the Open Session Board meeting on July 22, 2020

The Committee discussed the following topics as potential additions to the 4th Quarter FY'20 Report to the Board:

- The Committee reported that there has been a significant increase in inquiries regarding home births since the inception of the COVID-19 state of emergency. The Committee also noted that there has been an increase in community births in general, particularly in light of the dwindling number of birth centers available in the State of Maryland.
- The Committee expressed their interest in revisiting the current legislation governing DEMs to permit DEMs to perform VBACs. The Committee is concerned that the prohibition of DEMs assisting with VBACs limits women's birth options, especially in a time where there is a greater interest in home births.

- The Committee reported its ongoing concern that DEMs are unable to utilize the Maryland Division of Vital Record's electronic birth filing system, and are instead required to submit the information manually. The Committee members are interested in working with the Division of Vital Records to change this process to allow DEMs to submit the information electronically to enhance the service to their clients and newborns.

General discussion about available resources

As a follow up to the Committee's discussion at its last meeting regarding racial inequity in maternal care and what the Committee could do to help address this issue, Monica Mentzer provided the Committee with some resources on the topic:

- Resources available to the Committee from the Maryland Department of Health including the Maryland Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Bureau:
<https://phpa.health.maryland.gov/mch/Pages/home.aspx>
- Resources available to the Committee on the topic of Social Determinants of Health:
<https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-of-health>

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:56am. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 4, 2020, but the Committee will hold a meeting on August 7, 2020 in the event that urgent business arises.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Watkins, Committee member