

**Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee
Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
Open Session Committee Meeting Minutes
December 3, 2021**

NAME	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Committee Members			
Elizabeth Reiner	Committee member (LDEM) and Co-Chairperson, Reappointment ends 12/31/2021	X	
Jessica Watkins	Committee member (consumer) Appointment ends 12/31/2021	X	
Karen Webster	Committee member (LDEM) Appointment ends 12/31/2023	X	
Dr. Kai Parker	Chairperson (LDEM) Reappointment ends 12/31/2021	X	
Jan Kriebs	Committee member (CNM) Reappointment ends 12/31/2022	X	
Roxann Gordon	Committee member (CNM) Appointment ends 12/31/2024	X	
Dr. Harold Fox	Committee Reappointment ends 12/31/2021		X
Board Staff			
Michael Conti, AAG	Board Counsel		X
Margaret Lankford, AAG	Board Counsel	X	
Monica Mentzer	Manager of Practice, Board Staff	X	
		X	
Additional Board Staff			
Iman Farid	Health Policy Analyst	X	
Karen E. Evans	Executive Director	X	
Rhonda Scott	Deputy Director	X	
Guests:			

Subject	Responsible Party	Action Item/Discussion	Results
<p>1. Call to Order</p>	<p>Dr. Kai Parker, LDEM, Committee Chairperson</p> <p>Monica Mentzer, Board staff member</p>	<p>There were 4 Committee members present meeting the requirement for a quorum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Kai Parker; 2. Ms. Jan Kriebs; 3. Ms. Jessica Watkins; and 4. Ms. Karen Webster. <p>Two additional Committee members joined after the meeting was called to order:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elizabeth Reiner; and 2. Roxann Gordon. <p>The meeting was held by conference call and the call-in information and agenda were posted on the Board's website.</p>	<p>At 10:07 a.m., the meeting was called to order by Dr. Kai Parker.</p>
<p>2. Review and Approval of the October 15, 2021 and November 5, 2021, open session meeting minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Kai Parker, LDEM, Committee Chairperson</p>	<p>In discussion, Committee members reviewed the October 15, 2021, open session meeting minutes and the November 5, 2021 meeting minutes.</p> <p>The discussion of the October 15, 2021, open session minutes included review of the Committee members' vote to approve the vaginal birth after Cesarean delivery ("VBAC") study with the Committee's report and recommendations to the Maryland General Assembly, as to whether or not further clarification of the vote noting "one member opposed" instead of the notation that the named the member who voted to oppose the Committee's position in its</p>	<p>A motion was made to accept and approve the October 15, 2021 open session meeting minutes by Jan Kriebs, with the noted change. The motion was seconded by Karen Webster. There were no abstentions and none opposed. The motion carried to accept and approve the October 15, 2021 open session minutes with the noted changed.</p> <p>A motion was made to accept and approve the November 5,</p>

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	<p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Karen E. Evans, Board Executive Director</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p>	<p>VBAC study. The Committee decided to change the notation from including the member's name with the vote in opposition to "one member opposed," in accordance with the Committee's prior practice.</p> <p>The discussion of the October 15, 2021, open session minutes included discussion of the comment by Ms. Jan Kriebs of a catastrophe and as to whether or not the statute and Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) governing the licensure and practice of licensed direct-entry midwives ("LDEMs") may provide for a 30 day grace period for the expiration date of LDEMs to permit additional time for licenses to be renewed by the Board, comparable to the statutes for licensed nurses and certificate holders. Ms. Kriebs stated that the minutes, as written, accurately captured her comment.</p> <p>Ms. Karen Evans commented that she is in full agreement and supports a 30 day grace period (to the expiration date) for all licensees and is willing to work on the legislative process, with the assistance of Ms. Margaret Lankford, on the necessary changes in statute and regulations to establish a 30 day grace period for LDEMS.</p>	<p>2021 open session minutes by Karen Webster. The motion was seconded by Jessica Watkins. There were no abstentions and none opposed. The motion carried to accept and approve the November 5, 2021, open session minutes.</p>

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<p>3. Review of renewal applications received to the Board with documentation of requirements for 20 CEUs.</p>	<p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p>	<p>Ms. Kriebs commented that consideration be given for the Board to accept on a renewal application, documentation the LDEM provide a copy of current North American Registry of Midwives (“NARM”) certification, that mandates 30 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every 3 years for renewal of certification, instead of the current requirement for LDEMs to provide documentation with their renewal application of at least 20 acceptable CEUs. This would be consistent with the Board’s requirement for advanced practice registered nurses to provide to the Board a copy of their current national certification.</p> <p>The Committee did not note any changes necessary in its discussion of the November 5, 2021 meeting minutes.</p>	<p>A motion was made by Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, to recommend to the Board to accept the renewal application and additional documentation submitted for the requirement of 20 acceptable CEUs, as meeting the minimum requirement for license renewal, for Dianne Sellers, LDEM (DEM00003). The motion was seconded by Jessica Watkins. There were</p>
	<p>Dr. Kai Parker, LDEM, Committee Chairperson</p>	<p>1. Dianne Sellers, LDEM (DEM00003), submitted to the Board for review additional documentation of evidencing her completion of the requirement for 20 CEUs.</p> <p>The Application for Renewal of 2021 License to Practice Direct Entry Midwifery was received to the Board with a stamp date of November 5, 2021.</p>	
	<p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p>	<p>In consultation with Ms. Karen E. Evans, this application for renewal of 2021 License to Practice Direct Entry Midwifery may be</p>	

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<p>4. Review of the Maryland Annual Data Collection form</p>	<p>Dr. Kai Parker, LDEM, Committee Chairperson</p> <p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, Committee Co-Chairperson</p>	<p>reviewed by the Committee, and if all requirements are met, the Committee may make a recommendation to the Board to approve the renewal application for Ms. Dianne Sellers, LDEM (DEM00003) at the Board's December open session meeting.</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the Application for Renewal and documentation of completion of CEUs and Ms. Sellers met requirements for renewal of her license.</p> <p>The Committee members were provided with a copy of the currently approved and posted on the Maryland Board of Nursing website "Annual Data Collection form" to review and discuss. Dr. Parker opened the discussion to the Committee members to address any identified areas of concern with the currently approved Annual Data Collection form in use.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Reiner commented that the first question on the form, requesting the "total number of clients served as primary caregiver at onset of care," may be misinterpreted by the LDEM filling out the Annual Data Collection form. Ms. Reiner recommended defining the onset of care as beginning care at a first prenatal visit for this pregnancy. Ms. Reiner noted that sometimes people come to midwifery care later in the pregnancy. Ms. Reiner further</p>	<p>no abstentions and none opposed. The motion carried.</p>

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	<p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, Committee Co-chairperson</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p>	<p>recommended clarifying people who are pregnant and already given birth or are transferred out be included in the report.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford suggested a breakdown to include subcategories for question #1 to clarify the question.</p> <p>Ms. Jan Kriebs commented it may be helpful to include how many new clients for a pregnancy enter a specific practice on the form and then whether that individual transfers out to another midwife would count as a delivery.</p> <p>Ms. Reiner commented that information that is not required may not necessarily need to be included on the Annual Data Collection form and that some midwives, but not all, compile Midwives Alliance of North America ("MANA") stats that are designed by MANA for out of hospital births.</p> <p>Ms. Kreibs commented that the important information should include numbers that match up on the report and that this may need input from Ms. Karen Evans and Ms. Rhonda Scott. It would be helpful to have a paged by page key to explain to the LDEM how to complete a response to each question.</p>	

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	<p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, Co-chairperson</p> <p>Dr. Kai Parker, Committee Chairperson</p> <p>Jessica Watkins, Consumer member</p>	<p>Ms. Reiner added that providing an example or algorithm would also be helpful to the LDEM to correctly report the information requested in their Annual Data Collection report.</p> <p>Dr. Kai Parker had a question regarding how the Annual Data Collection form could be put online and who would need to make the request to the Board for this to happen. Dr. Parker agreed an algorithm may be helpful to assist those who may have difficulty with interpretation of data that should be included on the form and agrees that instruction pages that accompany the form would be very helpful and requests that we work on this as a Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Jessica Watkins asked whether the statute provides clarity regarding what the legislature really want to know under these Annual Data Reports. Is it how many people planned for a home birth and how many have transferred out? Ms. Watkins noted that there may be more than one reason for a transfer, but that each transfer out should only be counted as one transfer. Ms. Watkins further noted that is important to know what the intent was by the legislature for the data collection report.</p>	

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	<p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p> <p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, Co-chairperson</p>	<p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that she received the Legislative history from the State Archives and will review it before the next Committee meeting and recommends that the Committee not change any of the language that comes directly from the statutory provisions governing the annual data collection report.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford further advised the Committee members that when you interpret statute, you look at how words are defined and the plain language of the wording, including the legislative history if the plain language is unclear or vague, and, if it still confusing or vague, the courts will turn to the subject matter experts to interpret the language.</p> <p>Ms. Reiner asks that the Committee: (1) remember and consider the intent of the Annual Data Collection form; (2) review how did the Committee come to the questions of the form; and (3) how does the data submitted on the current Data Collection form does or does not capture the information for people who receive pre-natal and post-partum care, but birth in another state.</p> <p>Ms. Reiner offered to reach out to Ms. Alexa Richardson to obtain more information from Ms. Richardson regarding</p>	

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<p>4. Committee member assignments</p>	<p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p>	<p>when the state requirements were designed and report to the Committee any information that may be helpful to the current Committee members reviewing any necessary changes to the approved Annual Data Collection form currently in use.</p> <p>Ms. Kriebs agreed that this would be a good idea to reach out to Ms. Richardson.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that the statute requires that the Maryland Board of Nursing appoint the Committee members to the Committee and that the Committee has no role in this process. Ms. Lankford further advised that the current appointed members will be required to continue to serve on the Committee until the Board appoints successors to fill the positions for the Committee members who have completed their appointment terms on December 31, 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised Committee member Ms. Jessica Watkins submit a formal request (e.g., letter of notification by email) to Ms. Karen E. Evans (Executive Director, Maryland Board of Nursing) and Mr. Gary Hicks (President, Maryland Board of Nursing) documenting that she is interested in a reappointment for a second 4-yr. term</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer will add the Committee Member Appointments to the Board's open session meeting scheduled for December 15, 2021.</p>

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<p>5. Adjournment</p>	<p>Dr. Kai Parker, LDEM, Chairperson</p> <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p>	<p>and that she continues to meet all of the statutory requirements in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Section 8-6C-11(c) and 8-6C-11(e)(1) through (4).</p> <p>Dr. Kai Parker closed the meeting with thanking the Committee members who will be completing their appointment terms for their work and commitment to the Committee.</p> <p>The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 7, 2022.</p>	<p>At 11:27 a.m., a motion was made by Jan Krebs, to close the open session meeting. The motion was seconded by Karen Webster. The motion to adjourn the open session meeting carried; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p>