

**Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee
Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
Open Session Committee Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2022**

| NAME | TITLE | PRESENT | ABSENT |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Committee Members | | | |
| Jessica Watkins | Committee member (consumer) 1 st term appointment ended 12/31/2021, Reappointed to 2 nd term by the Board on January 26, 2022 | X | |
| Karen Webster | Committee member (LDEM) Appointment ends 12/31/2023 | X | |
| Brittany Coffman, LDEM | Committee member (LDEM) Appointed to the Committee by the Board on January 26, 2022 | X | |
| Jan Kriebs | Committee member (CNM) Reappointment ends 12/31/2022 | X | |
| Roxann Gordon | Committee member (CNM) Appointment ends 12/31/2024 | X | |
| Dr. Monica Buescher, MD | Committee member (MHA Representative) Appointed to the Committee by the Board on January 26, 2022 | | X |
| Vacant (LDEM) | A Replacement for Ms. Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, LDEM position on the Committee by the Board is pending | | |
| Board Staff | | | |
| Michael Conti, AAG | Board Counsel | | X |
| Margaret Lankford, AAG | Board Counsel | X | |
| Monica Mentzer | Manager of Practice, Board Staff | X | |
| Additional Board Staff | | | |
| Iman Farid | Health Policy Analyst | X | |
| Guests: | | | |
| Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM | | X | |
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| <p>1. Call to Order</p> | | <p>There were 4 Committee members present meeting the requirement for a quorum.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ms. Jan Kriebs; 2. Ms. Roxann Gordon; 3. Ms. Jessica Watkins; 4. Ms. Brittany Coffman; and 5. Ms. Karen Webster (beginning at 10:12am). <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 10:04 a.m., a motion was made by Jan Kriebs, and seconded by Roxann Gordon, to call the meeting to order.</p> |
| <p>2. Maryland Board of Nursing appointments to the Committee</p> | <p>Monica Mentzer, Board staff member</p> | <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee members with an update of the two new Committee members, whom the Board appointed at its Open Session Meeting on January 26, 2022: Brittany Coffman, LDEM, and Dr. Monica Buescher, MD. In addition, at that meeting, the Board reappointed Ms. Jessica Watkins, as the consumer member on the Committee, for a second four-year term.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer further reported that the Board did not appoint a new individual for the LDEM position, held by Ms. Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, whose term expired on December 31, 2021. The Board requested that the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland ("AIMM") submit an additional list of potential LDEM candidates</p> | |

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| | <p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, former Committee member and Co-chairperson (currently, Guest)</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p> | <p>to fill Ms. Reiner's LDEM position on this Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, whose second term as a member of the Committee expired on December 21, 2021, disclosed to the Committee that AIMM, a professional association which advocates for direct-entry midwives in the State of Maryland, has elected her as their Secretary.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that the Maryland Annotated Code's Health Occupations Article § 1-222 prohibits an individual from concurrently serving as a member of a health occupation board, or advisory committees thereof (e.g., DEM Advisory Committee), and as "an elected officer of a professional association organized under the laws of the State that represents and advocates for the interests of the individuals regulated by that health occupations board" (e.g. AIMM).</p> <p>Based on this statutory prohibition, Ms. Lankford further advised that Ms. Elizabeth Reiner would be able to attend today's Committee meeting only as a guest and would no longer be able to participate as a member on the Committee or as the Committee's Co-Chairperson.</p> | |

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| | <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Monica Mentzer, Board staff member</p> | <p>Given the absence of a Chair at the meeting, Ms. Kriebs volunteered to lead today's Committee meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer also reported to the Committee members that she received an e-mail from Dr. Monica Buescher regarding her clinic schedule on Friday mornings conflicting with this Committee's regularly scheduled meetings. Dr. Buescher also noted her availability for meetings on other days and asked the Committee to consider changing the dates and times of the scheduled Committee meetings for calendar year 2022.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the current schedule of the Committee meetings and agreed that the dates and times of the Committee meeting scheduled for Calendar Year 2022 cannot be changed.</p> | <p>Ms. Mentzer agreed to reach out to Dr. Monica Buescher, MD, by e-mail to notify her that the Committee is unable to change the dates of its scheduled Committee meetings for 2022 and to request Dr. Buescher provide a response to the e-mail whether she is able and willing to change her schedule to accommodate the Committee's scheduled meetings for 2022.</p> |
| <p>2. Review of Applications for Licensure to Practice Direct - Entry Midwifery received by the Board</p> | <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> | <p>The Committee was provided with the Applications for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery for the following applicants:</p> <p>1. Felicia Renee Mc Mullen – The Committee used its Initial Application Review Checklist, based on applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, to review the application and determined that</p> | <p>A motion was made by Roxann Gordan, CNM, and was seconded by Jessica Watkins, to recommend to the Board that it accept the initial</p> |

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| <p>3. Other – Ms. Karen Webster requested the Committee look at how birth certificates are filed</p> | <p>Karen Webster, LDEM, Committee member</p> | <p>the applicant meets all of the requirements for licensure as a direct-entry midwife (“LDEM”) in accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code, Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Subtitle 6C, specifically §§ 8-6C-13 through 8-6C-14, and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 10, Subtitle 64, Chapter 01, specifically COMAR 10.64.01.15 and COMAR 10.64.01.16.</p> | <p>Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery and to license Ms. Felicia Renee Mc Mullen to practice as a Direct-Entry Midwife in Maryland. The motion passed; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p> |
| | | <p>2. Luisely Melecio-Zambrano - The Committee used its Initial Application Review Checklist, based on applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, to review the application and determined that the applicant meets all of the requirements for licensure as a direct-entry midwife (“LDEM”) in accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code, Health Occupations Article, Title 8, Subtitle 6C, specifically §§ 8-6C-13 through 8-6C-14, and the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 10, Subtitle 64, Chapter 01, specifically COMAR 10.64.01.15 and COMAR 10.64.01.16.</p> | <p>A motion was made by Jessica Watkins, and was seconded by Karen Webster, LDEM, to recommend to the Board that it accept the initial Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery and to license Ms. Luisely Melecio-Zambrano to practice as a Direct-Entry Midwife in Maryland. The motion passed; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p> |
| | | <p>Ms. Karen Webster, LDEM, requested the Committee members discuss the process required by the Maryland Department of Health, Vital Statistics Administration for licensed direct-entry midwives (“DEMs”) to submit a birth certificate.</p> | <p>No action is required, or taken, by the Committee at this time.</p> |

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| | Monica Mentzer, Board Staff | Ms. Mentzer reviewed § 4-208 of the Health-General Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, governing birth registration procedures with the Committee members. Ms. Mentzer also advised the Committee of the guidance Ms. Mentzer received from Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director of the Maryland Board of Nursing, of e-mail correspondence with Mr. Matthew Daniel, Birth Data Quality Manager at the Maryland Department of Health's Vital Statistics Administration, advising the method that direct-entry midwives (DEMs) have to register births - either by faxing or emailing the completed required forms. The DEMs used to mail them to Vital Records. | |
| | Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member | Ms. Kriebs noted that this is a long-standing issue that has not been resolved and that it is an "inequitable situation" for DEMs to not be able to file the information for the birth certificates electronically as other health care professionals, including Certified Nurse Midwives (CNMs) who were able to file the birth certificates electronically, at least initially. However, Ms. Kriebs further reported that newer CNMs do not have access to electronic filing of birth certificates either. | |
| | Elizabeth Reiner, | The Committee members and guest Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, discussed various | |

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| <p>4. State Ethics Commission submissions by Committee members are due by April 30, 2022</p> | LDEM (Guest) | <p>challenges that the DEMs are presented with the patient population to whom they provide midwifery care in the communities they serve, including a host of cultural and/or religious norms (e.g., delay in naming the infant, lack of being able to provide for documents required, limited transportation, etc.).</p> | <p>The Committee members will submit their 2021 Financial Disclosure information to the Maryland State Ethics Commission before the due date of April 30, 2022. No action is required by the Committee at this time.</p> |
| | Karen Webster, LDEM, Committee member | <p>Ms. Webster noted that the current required process for DEMs to submit birth certificate documents to the Vital Records Administration is very cumbersome for DEMs.</p> | |
| | Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel | <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that any changes to § 4-208 of the Health-General Article, to amend birth registration procedures, would need to go to through the Maryland Legislature.</p> <p>Ms. Karen Webster subsequently left the Committee meeting to attend a prior engagement. A quorum was maintained.</p> | |
| | Monica Mentzer, Board Staff | <p>Ms. Mentzer reminded the Committee members of their obligation to complete the requirement of submitting their annual financial disclosure forms (for calendar year 2021) to the Maryland State Ethics Commission before the due date of April 30, 2022.</p> | |

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| <p>5. Review and Approval of the December 3, 2021, open session meeting minutes</p> | <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> | <p>Each Committee member should have received an e-mail from the State Ethics Commission to complete the requirement and if there are any questions regarding the information required to be submitted, the Committee member may contact the State Ethics Commission directly for clarification or further assistance.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee members with the draft of the open session minutes from the Committee's meeting on December 3, 2021 for review and discussion.</p> <p>In discussion, Committee members reviewed the December 3, 2021, open session meeting minutes. The Committee did not note any changes necessary in its discussion of the December 3, 2021, meeting minutes.</p> | <p>A motion was made to accept and approve the December 3 2021 open session meeting minutes by Roxann Gordon. The motion was seconded by Jessica Watkins. There were no abstentions and none opposed. The motion carried to accept and approve the December 3, 2021 open session minutes as written.</p> |
| <p>6. Review and discussion of the currently approved Annual Data Collection form</p> | <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> | <p>The Committee members were provided with a copy of the currently approved "Annual Data Collection form," posted on the Maryland Board of Nursing's website, to review and discuss. Ms. Kriebs 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>The Committee members were requested to provide a list of which terms on the Annual Data Collection form that they think should be considered for inclusion on a definition sheet to accompany the Annual Data Collection form at the next scheduled Committee meeting.</p> |

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| | <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM (Guest)</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG, Board Counsel</p> | <p>The Committee agreed that there needs to be a clear definition sheet to define terms on the Annual Data Collection form for items that may be unclear to the licensed DEM completing the Annual Data Collection form.</p> <p>Ms. Kriebs proposed to the Committee that the Committee develop a definition sheet to clarify the definition of terms on the form. Ms. Kriebs requested that each Committee member review which items on the currently approved Annual Data Collection form need to be defined, and to bring the terms requiring definitions to the Committee for further discussion at their next scheduled meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Elizabeth Reiner offered to e-mail her suggestions to the Committee to review and discuss, considering that she had worked on the prior update of the approved Annual Data Collection form.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that she received and reviewed the Legislative history from the State Archives for § 8-6C-10 of the Health Occupations Article of the Maryland Annotated Code, governing the contents of the Annual Data Collection form. Ms. Lankford advised the Committee members that the legislative history was</p> | |

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| 7. Adjournment | <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM, Committee member</p> <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p> | <p>unclear as to the meaning or scope of certain terms required to be reported by licensed DEMs. Therefore, the Committee may interpret and define the terminology of the required data points within reason, particularly the standards of the direct-entry midwifery profession.</p> <p>Ms. Kriebs asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p> <p>The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2022.</p> | <p>At 11:08 a.m., a motion was made by Jessica Watkins to close the open session meeting. The motion was seconded by Roxann Gordon, CNM. The motion to adjourn the open session meeting carried; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p> |