

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

Committee approved on December 2, 2022

NAME	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Committee Members			
Jessica Watkins	Committee member (Consumer) 1 st Term ended 12/31/2021; Reappointed by the Board to 2 nd Term on 1/26/2022; 2 nd Term ends 12/31/2025	X	
Karen Webster, LDEM	Chair, Committee member (LDEM) Current Term ends 12/31/2022	X	
Brittany Coffman, LDEM	Committee member (LDEM) Appointed by the Board on 1/26/2022; 1 st Term ends 1/31/2026		X
Jan Kriebs, CNM	Committee member (CNM) 2 nd Term ends 12/31/2022	X	
Roxann Gordon, CNM	Committee member (CNM) 1 st Term ends 12/31/2024	X	
Dr. Monica Buescher, MD	Committee member (MHA Representative) Appointed by the Board on 1/26/2022; 1 st Term ends 1/31/2026		X
Paige Barocca, LDEM	Committee member (LDEM) Appointed by the Board on 6/22/2022; 1 st Term ends on June 30, 2026	X	
Board Staff			
Michael Conti, AAG	Board Counsel	X	
Margaret Lankford, AAG	Board Counsel		X
Monica Mentzer	Manager of Practice, Board Staff	X	
Katherine Cummings, AAG	Board Counsel	X	
Additional Board Staff			
Karen E.B. Evans	Executive Director	X	
Guests:			

Subject	Responsible Party	Action Item/Discussion	Results
Karen Carr			X
Nicole Williams, LDEM	President, Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (AIMM)		X
Caitlyn McDonough			X
Dianne Sellers, LDEM			X
Marilee Pinkleton, LDEM			X
Rachel Cipryk, LDEM			X
Rrano Sarrano			X
1. Call to Order	Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee chairperson)	Ms. Karen Webster, Committee chairperson, requested a motion to call the Committee meeting to order. There were 4 Committee members present at the time of the meeting call to order, meeting the requirement for a quorum. 1. Ms. Jan Kriebs; 2. Ms. Karen Webster; 3. Ms. Jessica Watkins; and 4. Ms. Paige Barocca	At 10:13 a.m., a motion was made by Jan Kriebs, seconded by Paige Barocca, LDEM, to call the November 4, 2022 meeting to order.
2. Minutes – Review and approval of the September 2, 2022 open session meeting minutes	Monica Mentzer, (Board Staff)	The meeting was held via conference call and the call-in information and agenda were posted on the Board’s website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.	A motion was made to approve the October 14, 2022 open session meeting minutes, as written and with no changes, by Paige Barocca, LDEM. The motion was seconded by Jan Kriebs,
	Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)	Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee members with the October 14, 2022 open session minutes for review and discussion. In discussion, Committee members reviewed the October 14, 2022 open	

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<p>3. Scheduling of Committee meetings for Calendar Year 2023</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p>	<p>session meeting minutes and did not note any changes necessary.</p> <p>The meetings will be scheduled on the first Friday of each month, except for the month of October, when the meeting will be scheduled on the second Friday of the month, for the Committee's review of the Annual Data Collections forms, submitted by each LDEM, and due to the Board by October 1, of each calendar year.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer notified the Committee of the dates for the schedule of Committee meetings in Calendar Year 2023. The dates are as follows: January 6, 2023 February 3, 2023 March 3, 2023 April 7, 2023 May 5, 2023 June 2, 2023 July 7, 2023 August 4, 2023 September 1, 2023 October 13, 2023 November 3, 2023 December 1, 2023</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the proposed schedule for Committee meetings in</p>	<p>CNM. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer will seek approval to post the dates of the Calendar Year 2023 to the Board's website.</p>

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	<p>Roxann Gordon, CNM (Committee member)</p> <p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>Calendar Year 2023 and there were no suggested changes to the dates.</p> <p>Ms. Roxann Gordon, CNM, notified the Committee that she had joined the meeting and that she is present at today's meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Webster requested the Committee move to item #7, to accommodate the guests in attendance at today's open session meeting.</p>	
<p>4. Committee appointments</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer shared with the Committee that during the 1st Quarter FY 2023 (July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022) Quarterly Report to the Board on October 26, 2022, Ms. Mentzer reported that the Committee received notification from Dr. Monica Buescher, MD, that she would need to resign from the Committee, as the Representative for the Maryland Hospital Association member, if the meetings were unable to be scheduled on another day of the week, when she is available.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer reported to the Committee, that the Board received a letter of interest and CV for a Certified Nurse Midwife, who is interested in being appointed to the Committed to fill a position that will become available, beginning January 2023, when</p>	<p>The Board will review any potential candidates interested in an appointment to the Committee to fill upcoming vacancies. Ms. Karen E. B. Evans will reach out to Ms. Jane Krienke, of the Maryland Hospital Association, for interested members of MHA to be considered by the Board, for an appointment to the Committee to replace Dr. Monica Buescher, MD.</p> <p>There is no action required by the Committee at this time.</p>

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<p>5. Review of the draft Committee Report to the Board for FY 2022</p>		<p>Ms. Jan Kriebs completes her second term appointment on December 31, 2022.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer noted that an additional appointment, by the Board, will be needed for a licensed Direct-Entry Midwife position, to replace Ms. Karen Webster, LDEM, who will be completing her current term on December 31, 2022.</p>	
	<p>Nicole Williams, LDEM (President of AIMM)</p>	<p>Ms. Williams confirmed that the list she provided to the Board, on behalf of the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland, earlier this year, included the names for two candidates who may be considered by the Board for an appointment to the Committee to fill any upcoming vacancies for an LDEM, and there are no additional LDEMs to recommend to the Board at this time.</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will contact the potential candidate(s) on the list provided by Ms. Nicole Williams earlier this year and share the information with Ms. Karen E. B. Evans, Executive Director, and Mr. Gary Hicks, Board President.</p>
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p> <p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a draft copy of the Committee's Report to the Board for FY 2022 (the "Report").</p> <p>Following review and discussion, the Committee members had only a few comments for minor changes to the document before the Committee voted to approve the Report.</p>	<p>A motion was made by Ms. Karen Webster, LDEM, and seconded by Paige Barocca, LDEM, to accept the Committee's Report to the Board with the minor amended changes to be made to the Report by Ms. Mentzer.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer will present the Report from the Committee to</p>

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<p>6. Discussion of the Committee's recommendations to the Board to be included in the FY 2022 Committee Report to the Board</p>		<p>The Committee did not have any additional recommendations to add to the Report other than those voted at the Committee's October 14, 2022 meeting.</p>	<p>the Board for approval at its open session Board meeting on November 16, 2022.</p>
<p>7. Review of inquiry received from Ms. Nicole Williams, LDEM, on behalf of AIMM</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the letter dated October 14, 2022, from Ms. Nicole Williams, LDEM, and President of the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland ("AIMM"), for review and discussion.</p>	
	<p>Nicole Williams, LDEM, President of AIMM</p>	<p>Ms. Williams highlighted the concerns from AIMM members, noted in the October 14, 2022 letter, concerning recent Board actions involving birth assistants and students.</p>	
	<p>Michael Conti, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Mr. Conti advised the Committee that the Committee may not address any specific case during the meeting, but could review applicable statutes and regulations to determine whether any ambiguities are present and, if so, make recommendations to the Board to clarify those ambiguities.</p>	

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	<p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Board Chairperson)</p> <p>Jan Kriebs, CNM (Committee member)</p> <p>Paige Barocca, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Ms. Webster noted the requirement for each LDEM to have a birth assistant present at each home birth, as provided for in Md. Code Ann., Health Occ., § 8-6C-05, and that it is common for the LDEM to have a midwifery student be the assistant to the LDEM at the time of the delivery.</p> <p>Ms. Kriebs requested clarification on the statute regarding the student experience under the supervision of the LDEM, does it include direct or general supervision?</p> <p>Further discussion by the Committee members included discussion of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (“PEP”), one of the requirements to be completed for the Bridge Program. It was noted that the current statutes and regulations do not speak to the PEP educational components.</p> <p>Ms. Barocca noted, based on her review of the regulations and HB116 dated 2018 and SB 1114, dated March 15, 2018, PEP was added as a legitimate pathway for an individual seeking to obtain an approved program for midwifery education, when a midwifery school is not Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) approved.</p>	

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	Karen E. B. Evans (Board Executive Director)	Following further discussion, Ms. Karen E. B. Evans, suggested that Ms. Williams present information to the full Board at the December open session Board meeting.	Ms. Evans will check the December 14, 2022, open session Board meeting schedule, and will provide notification if the agenda may include a presentation from AIMM regarding the identified concerns.
	Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)	Ms. Mentzer reminded the Committee that the changes to Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 10, Subtitle 64, Chapter 01, specifically, regulation 10.64.01.15(B) Midwifery Education Program, proposed by the Committee and approved by the Board in 2021, have not yet been adopted.	Ms. Mentzer will follow-up with Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, on the status of the Board approved proposed regulations to COMAR 10.64.01.15(B) Midwifery Education Program.
	Karen E. B. Evans (Board, Executive Director)	Ms. Evans explained the lengthy process for the proposed regulations to be sent downtown and for an additional review period and before updated regulations are adopted by the Maryland Register and COMAR.	

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<p>8. Consideration of creating an Individual Care Plan template for a resource for licensed DEMs</p>	<p>Paige Barocca, LDEM (Committee member)</p> <p>Katherine Cummings, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Barocca provided Ms. Mentzer with a draft document "Individual transfer plan" last evening and the draft document was shared this morning by email to the Committee for the Committee's consideration and discussion. The rationale for the request to the Committee is to provide for a one page "individual transfer plan" that would be made available on the Board's website and would provide for a similar prior version of a transfer plan that was included in the former version of the "Informed Consent and Disclosure" document.</p> <p>Ms. Cummings suggested the draft document be reviewed by Board Counsel for compliance with the current law.</p>	<p>Board Counsel will review the draft document "individual transfer plan" and provide feedback to the Committee.</p> <p>This item will be revisited at the Committee's December 2, 2022.</p>
<p>9. Other</p>	<p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee Chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Webster requested guidance from Board Counsel regarding a Department of Health notification, signed by Dr. David Blythe, MD, MPH, Director, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, and Peter DeMartino, PHD, Director Infectious Disease Prevention and Health Services Bureau, dated March 2, 2020, alerting colleagues, to ongoing significant increases</p>	

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	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p> <p>Katherine Cummings, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>in syphilis and congenital syphilis in Maryland.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided Mr. Conti and Ms. Cummings with a link to information regarding “State Statutory and Regulatory Language Regarding Prenatal Syphilis Screening” on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) website at the following link: https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/syphilis-screenings.htm The most recent legal assessment on the CDC website was in July 2021.</p> <p>Ms. Cummings pointed the Committee to MD Code, Health – General, § 18-307, Blood tests for syphilis., including § 18-307(b)(1) The individual attending a woman for pregnancy shall submit to a medical laboratory: i. A blood sample taken from the woman at the time that the individual first examines the woman; and ii. A blood sample taken from the woman during the third trimester of the pregnancy., and § 18-307(b)(2) The medical laboratory to which a blood sample is submitted shall do a standard</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will send an email to the Committee members with a link to both the March 2, 2020, Maryland Department of Health letter and to the CDC website to the “State Statutory and Regulatory Language Regarding Prenatal Syphilis Screening” information.</p>

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<p>10. Adjournment</p>	<p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee Chairperson)</p>	<p>serological syphilis test that is approved by the Department.</p> <p>Ms. Webster requested a motion to adjourn the November 4, 2022 open session Committee meeting.</p> <p>The next scheduled Committee meeting is December 2, 2022.</p>	<p>At 12:05 p.m., a motion was made by Jessica Watkins and to close the November 4, 2022 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>