

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session meeting minutes for October 18, 2024
 Approved by the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee on November 1, 2024

**Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee
 Maryland Board of Nursing
 4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215**

**Open Session Meeting Minutes
 October 18, 2024**

NAME	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Committee Members			
Paige Barocca, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: June 22, 2022 – December 31, 2025	X	
Tess Brody, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026		X
Brittany Coffman, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: January 26, 2022 – December 31, 2025		X
Dr. Mairi Breen Rothman, CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife Member and Chairperson 1 st Four-Year Term: January 31, 2023 – January 31, 2027	X	
Darcie Tough, CNM, MSN, RN	Certified Nurse Midwife Member – term expires December 31, 2024 (Appointment by the Board 3/27/2024 to fill vacancy Note: Vacancy because prior member resigned. A member appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-11(g)(4).		X
Dr. Ann B. Burke, M.D.	Representative of Maryland Hospital Association Member, 1 st Four-Year Term: January 31, 2022 – December 31, 2026 Note: Vacancy because prior member resigned. A member appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-11(g)(4).	X	
Jessica Watkins	Consumer Member 2 nd Four-Year Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025	X	
Board Staff			
Monica Mentzer	Manager of Practice, Maryland Board of Nursing	X	
Board Counsel			
Michael Conti, AAG	Assistant Attorney General	X	

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Katherine Cummings	Assistant Attorney General		X
Guests (Members of Public), if Applicable			
Allison Honeycutt	Applicant for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery	X	

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
1. Call to Order	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM, Committee Chair, called the October 18, 2024, Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session meeting to order. The following Committee members were present at the time the meeting was called to order, sufficient for a quorum: 1. Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM; 2. Paige Barocca, LDEM; 3. Dr. Ann Burke, MD; and 4. Jessica Watkins.	Dr. Mairi Rothman, Committee Chairperson, called October 18, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.
	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.	
2. Review and approval of the September 6, 2024, Open Session	Monica Mentzer (Board staff)	Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes for review and discussion.	

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<p>Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)</p>	<p>Following the Committee’s review and discussion of the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, Dr. Mairi Rothman asked for the Committee to vote to approve the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, with a few non-substantive minor changes to the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved and Jessica Watkins, seconded, to approve the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, with minor changes. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Mentzer will make the minor changes as discussed to the September 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes.</p>
<p>3. Proposed changes to COMAR 10.64.01.01(B)(14) and COMAR 10.27.01.01(2)(U)</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer notified the Committee that Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, and Board staff, presented to the Board, on September 25, 2024, at the Board’s Open Session meeting, a proposal of regulatory changes to COMAR 10.64.01, including the following changes to COMAR 10.64.01.01 Definitions., addition to: COMAR 10.64.01.01(B)(14) “Newborn” means an infant in the first 28 days after birth.” and COMAR 10.64.01.02 “Scope of Practice”, an addition of: COMAR 10.64.01.02)(U) “Complying with applicable State and federal law.” The Board approved the</p>	<p>The Committee was not required to and did not take any action regarding this agenda item.</p>

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<p>5. Review of all FY '24 Annual Data Collection forms and discussion of the Committee's recommendations to the Board to be included in the Committee's Annual Report to the Board (ref.: Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations § 8-6C-12(c)(1)-(4))</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p>	<p>The Committee was provided with a copy of each of the additional Annual Data Collection forms (assigned numbers 11 through 34, with all identifiable information from the submitter removed and randomly assigned a number) for review.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer advised the Committee that there were four licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, one active status and three Direct-Entry Midwives that did not renew their licenses in October 2023, that did not submit an Annual Data Collection form with their FY '24 data. The Committee was provided with a sample letter of non-compliance for review.</p> <p>Additionally, Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a draft document "FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board" with the aggregated data from review of each submitted Annual Data Collection form received by the Board for review and discussion.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the FY '23 Annual Report to the Board to review the Committee's prior Annual Report to</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will send the letter of non-compliance by certified mail and regular mail to the mailing address on file, to each of the four identified licensed Direct-Entry Midwives that an Annual Data Collection form with FY '24 data, was not received by the Board</p> <p>The Committee reviewed the draft document "FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board" for any suggested changes. Ms. Mentzer will make the requested changes to the draft document for the Committee's final review and approval at the next</p>

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	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee Chairperson)</p>	<p>the Board for FY '23 recommendations to the Board.</p> <p>Dr. Mairi led the discussion of the Committee members of the Committee’s recommendations to be included in the FY ‘2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee’s Annual Report to the Board.</p> <p>Following the Committee’s review and discussion of each of the Committee’s FY ‘24 recommendations to be included in the Committee’s Annual Report to the Board, Dr. Rothman asked for the Committee members present to vote on the following recommendations to the Board to be included in their FY ‘2024 Annual Report to the Board:</p> <p>1. Any Committee’s recommendations regarding the continuation and improvement of the licensure of licensed direct-entry midwives in the State.</p> <p>The Committee makes the same recommendations made for FY ‘2023, with the additional recommendations, which were as follows:</p> <p>First, the Committee recommends to the Board to eliminate the requirement that all licensed Direct-Entry Midwives are required to submit an Annual</p>	<p>scheduled Committee meeting on November 1, 2024.</p>

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		<p>Data Collection form to the Board. The Committee discussed that the Annual Data Collection forms that have been submitted since 2017 served the purpose that was intended, and that no other health occupation requires annual data be reported to the Board. Additionally, the Committee noted that similar data is available on birth certificates and forms submitted to the Vital Statistics Administration.</p> <p>Dr. Rothman requested a motion to approve this additional recommendation to the Board for support to eliminate the requirement for all licensed DEMs to submit an Annual Data Collection form to the Board to be included in the FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board.</p>	<p>Paige Barocca, LDEM, motioned and Jessica Watkins seconded, to make a recommendation to the Board to support the elimination of the required Annual Data Collection form. There was one opposed, and no abstentions. The motion carried by a majority vote.</p> <p>.</p>

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	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee Chairperson)</p>	<p>[Second], Committee has concerns regarding the lengthy procedures for timely renewal of licenses for DEMs in Maryland. Specifically, the Committee is concerned that the renewal applications may not be received sufficiently in advance for the Committee to review and provide its recommendation to the Board for final action prior to expiration.</p> <p>The Committee recommends amending Title 8, Subtitle 6c to offer a grace period for renewals. Such grace period already is available to licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-312(d) and § 8-6A-08(f), respectively, providing that the Board “may grant a “30-day extension”, beyond the expiration date of the license or certificate so the licensee or certificate holder may renew the license or certificate before it expires.</p> <p>Dr. Rothman requested the Committee to vote to delete the following recommendation from the FY ‘2023 Annual Report to the Board: [In addition, the Committee is considering amending the DEMs’ licensure renewal application material to clarify the process for renewal and notify licensed DEMs of the deadline to submit renewal applications, well in advance</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved and Jessica Watkins seconded, to remove the recommendation from the FY ‘2023 Committee’s Annual Report to the Board, from the FY ‘2024 Committee’s Annual</p>

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	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM</p>	<p>of expiration of the license to permit Committee and Board review.]</p> <p>[Third], the Committee recommends that the Committee and Board re-examine the application fees set forth in COMAR 10.64.01.18 in accordance with Health Occ. § 8-6C-15. The Committee proposes that the fees be reasonable comparable to other licensed and certified professionals under the Board’s jurisdiction to the extent that the fees cover the approximate cost of the Board providing licensure and other services to DEMS.</p> <p>2. Any recommendations regarding expanding the scope of practice of licensed direct-entry midwives.</p> <p>Following a review of the FY ‘2023 recommendations in the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board, the Committee proposed to recommend to the Board the following:</p> <p>The Committee continues to recommend to the Board expansion of the scope of practice of DEMs to include vaginal birth after cesarean delivery, in certain limited circumstances, as set</p>	<p>Report to the Board. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

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	<p>(Committee Chairperson)</p> <p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>forth in SB376 and HB351, of the Fiscal Year 2023 Legislative Session.</p> <p>Following a discussion of this recommendation, Dr. Mairi Rothman requested the Committee vote to approve the recommendation continue to be included in the FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board, to recommend the expansion of the scope of practice of DEMs to include vaginal birth after cesarean delivery, in certain limited circumstances, as set forth in SB376 and HB351, of the Fiscal Year 2023 Legislative Session.</p>	<p>Paige Barocca, LDEM, moved, and Jessica Watkins seconded, to continue to recommend the expansion of the scope of practice of DEMs to include vaginal birth after cesarean delivery, in certain limited circumstances, as set forth in SB376 and HB351, of the Fiscal Year 2023 Legislative Session. There was one opposed, there were no abstentions. The motion carried by a majority vote.</p> <p>Paige Barocca, LDEM, will provide any additional information available regarding this recommendation to Ms. Mentzer to be included in the FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee's Annual Report to the Board</p>

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	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>The Committee proposes to recommend to the Board, to support the ability of DEMs to practice to the fullest extent of their practice, within the laws that govern the practice of Direct-Entry Midwives, and in accordance with the national certification for certified professional midwives in Maryland.</p> <p>Following a discussion of the above proposal, Dr. Mairi Rothman requested the Committee vote to add a recommendation to the Board in the FY '2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board, that the Board support the ability of DEMs to practice to the fullest extent of their practice, within the laws that govern the practice of Direct-Entry Midwives in Maryland, and in accordance with the national certification for certified professional midwives in Maryland.</p>	<p>Paige Barocca, LDEM, moved and Jessica Watkins seconded, to recommend adding a proposal that the Committee recommend to the Board to support the ability of DEMs to practice to the full extent of their practice, within the laws that govern the practice of Direct-Entry Midwives in Maryland, and in accordance with the national certification for certified professional midwives. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
<p>6. Quarterly Report to the Board 1st Quarter FY '25 (July 1, 2024 – September 30, 2024)</p> <p>7. Public Business</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p>	<p>3. Any recommendations, including recommendations for legislation, regarding the scope of practice of licensed direct-entry midwives to include vaginal birth after cesarean delivery.</p> <p>See response to #2.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with the 1st Quarter FY '25 Quarterly Report to the Board for review and discussion. Following the review and discussion of the 1st Quarter FY '25 Quarterly Report to the Board, the Committee voted to approve the Quarterly Report to be presented to the Board at the October 23, 2024, Open Session Board meeting.</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved and Paige Barocca, LDEM, seconded the motion to keep the response to recommendation #3 as “See response to #2.” On the FY ‘2024 Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved and Jessica Watkins, seconded the motion to approve the 1st Quarter FY '25 Quarterly Report to the Board. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>Dr. Rothman asked if any members of the public present at today’s Committee meeting wanted to address the Committee</p>	<p>The public in attendance at the October 18, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting did not have any</p>

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<p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee chairperson)</p>	<p>Dr. Rothman requested a motion to adjourn the October 18, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting.</p>	<p>items to address the Committee.</p> <p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved, and Jessica Watkins, seconded the motion to adjourn the October 18, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting at 11:56 a.m. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board Staff)</p>	<p>The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 1, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m.</p>	