

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session meeting minutes for December 6, 2024
 Approved by the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee on January 3, 2025

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

**Open Session Meeting Minutes
 December 6, 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). The Board reappointed Ms. Darcie Tough, CNM, to the Committee for a full 4-year term that will expire on December 31, 2028	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	

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Board Counsel			
Michael Conti, AAG	Assistant Attorney General	X	
Katherine Cummings	Assistant Attorney General		X
Guests (Members of Public), if Applicable			

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
1. Call to Order	Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, acting chairperson)	Ms. Brittany Coffman, LDEM, volunteered to lead the December 6, 2024, and called the December 6, 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. Paige Barocca, LDEM; 2. Dr. Ann Burke, MD; 3. Darcie Tough, CNM; 4. Jessica Watkins; 5. Brittany Coffman, LDEM.	Brittany Coffman, LDEM, and acting chairperson, to call the December 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting to order at 10:08 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.	

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<p>2. Review and approval of the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p> <p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, acting chairperson)</p> <p>Tess Brody, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes for review and discussion.</p> <p>Following the Committee’s review and discussion of the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, Ms. Coffman asked for a motion to vote to approve the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, as written. Ms. Coffman abstained from the vote as she was absent at the November 1, 2024, Committee meeting,</p> <p>Tess Brody, LDEM, joined the Committee meeting after the Roll Call and the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee minutes were reviewed and approved by the Committee.</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, motioned, and Jessica Watkins seconded, to approve the November 1, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, as written. There were none opposed and one abstention. The motion passed.</p>
<p>3. Results of the Maryland Board of Nursing review, discussion, and approval, of the FY 2024, Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with the Board’s review of the results of the FY ‘2024, Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Annual Report to the Board, presented to the Board at the November 20, 2024, Board of Nursing open session meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a summary of the November 20, 2024, Board of Nursing’s review and discussion of the FY 2024</p>	

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	<p>Michael Conti, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee’s Annual Report to the Board: The Board voted to accept Section I (data summary) of the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee’s Annual Report, as submitted and without any changes. Following review of Section II (Committee’s recommendations), the Board voted to accept the Committee’s recommendation to seek an amendment to Health Occ. § 8-6C-18 to permit a 30-day extension, beyond a licensee’s expiration date, so that the licensee may renew the license before it expires, thereby bringing direct-entry midwifery licensees in parity with other licensees regulated by the Board. The Board also voted to accept the Committee’s recommendation to re-examine the application fees set forth in COMAR 10.64.01.18 in accordance with Health Occ. § 8-6C-15(a). The Board voted not to accept the Committee’s recommendation to eliminate the requirement that all licensed Direct-Entry Midwives submit an Annual Data Collection form to the Board. The Board also voted not to accept the Committee’s recommendation to expand the scope of practice of licensed Direct-Entry Midwives, to include vaginal birth after cesarean under certain circumstances.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the next steps for the Committee to provide to the Board with a report of the data collected in 2024 by Ms. Tova Brody, LDEM, with a summary of the current fees for initial and renewal of Direct-Entry Midwifery</p>	

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	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Licensure in the surrounding states and jurisdictions.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer notified the Committee that the Board approved a fee increase for licensees and certificate holders and is conducting Town Hall sessions in November and December for constituents to have the opportunity to speak to phase one of the Board’s approval of a proposal to regulations that will increase licensure fees for LPNs and RNs for initial and renewal of licenses issued by the Maryland Board of Nursing.</p> <p>The Board will be further reviewing their approved proposal for an increase in current fees for LPNs and RNs at its next Board of Nursing Open Session meeting, scheduled for December 18, 2024. Ms. Mentzer will seek approval to add to the December 18, 2024, Board of Nursing Open Session agenda, the results of Ms. Brody’s research on surrounding states and jurisdictions that currently license Direct-Entry Midwives for the Board’s review and further discussion.</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will send an email to all Committee members to consider attending the December 18, 2024, Board of Nursing open session meeting, to address any questions from Board members on the request for the Board to consider a regulatory change to adjust the current fee schedule for applicants seeking initial licensure to practice Direct-Entry Midwifery in Maryland, and to the fees to renew a</p>

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	<p>Michael Conti, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Mr. Conti, AAG, addressed the Committee with information to consider in proceeding with the Board’s approval to address the Committee’s recommendation that the Board re-examine the current fees for initial licensure to practice Direct-Entry Midwifery (\$900.00) and for renewal of licensure to practice Direct-Entry Midwifery (\$800.00).</p> <p>Mr. Conti, AAG, explained the process for the review of all regulatory proposals, including the review of proposed regulations by the Board of Nursing, Department of Health approval, and the AELR Committee (Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, & Legislature Review), the Committee that reviews all regulation proposals. There is a 30-day comment period that provides an opportunity for the public to comment on any regulatory proposals.</p> <p>Mr. Conti, AAG, advised the Committee that Ms. Mitzi Fishman, Director of Legislative Affairs, is the staff member at the Board of Nursing responsible for providing aid and assistance to the Committee to internally develop a draft document on fees and regulations, for the Committee’s approval, and that once the document is approved by the Committee, the Committee may make a recommendation to the Board for Ms. Fishman to</p>	<p>Direct-Entry Midwifery License in Maryland.</p>

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
<p>4. Committee assignments</p> <p>Review of COMAR 10.64.01.14 and Md. Code Ann., Health Occupations § 8-6C-12</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>present the proposal to the Board of Nursing for review and approval.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer notified the Committee of the Board’s approval at the November 20, 2024, Board of Nursing Open Session Board meeting, to reappoint Ms. Darcie Tough, CNM, as a registered nurse certified as a nurse midwife to extend her appointment to the Committee for a full 4-year term, as her initial appointment to fill a vacancy on the Committee will expire on December 31, 2024.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer advised Ms. Tough that she will receive a letter of notification by U.S. Postal Service of the Board of Nursing’s decision to approve her reappointment for a full 4-year term (1/1/2025 through 12/31/2028) member of the Committee.</p>	<p>The Committee confirmed the suggested dates for the scheduled Committee meeting for the 2025 calendar year, as were approved, at the November 1, 2024, Committee meeting, without any changes.</p>
<p>5. Confirmation of 2025 Committee meetings</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with the following dates, approved by the Committee at the November 1, 2024, Committee meeting, for confirmation of the schedule of Committee meetings for the 2025 calendar year:</p> <p>January 3, 2025 February 7, 2025 March 7, 2025 April 4, 2025 May 2, 2025</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will seek approval to submit a helpdesk ticket to post the 2025 Calendar Schedule</p>

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<p>6. Public Business</p> <p>7. Adjournment</p>	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, acting chairperson)</p>	<p>June 6, 2025 July 11, 2025 (July 4, 2025, is a State holiday) August 1, 2025 September 5, 2025 October 17, 2025 November 7, 2025 December 5, 2025</p> <p>Ms. Coffman asked if any members of the public present at today’s Committee meeting wanted to address the Committee</p>	<p>of the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee meeting on the Board of Nursing’s website.</p> <p>There were no members from the public in attendance on December 6, 2024, to present any items to the Committee.</p>
	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, acting chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Coffman requested a motion to adjourn the December 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting.</p>	<p>Tess Brody, LDEM, moved, and Ann Burke, MD seconded, to adjourn the December 6, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting at 10:59 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, January 3, 2025, beginning at 10:00 a.m.</p>	

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