



**Midwifery Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 25, 2013**

Location: **This meeting was held by video conference. The meeting was open to the public at the following locations:**

Department of Health - Tumwater

Town Center 1, Room 362
101 Israel Road SE
Tumwater, WA 98501

Department of Health Laboratory –Shoreline

1610 NE 150th Street, Room S4
Shoreline, WA 98155-9701

Department of Health – Spokane Valley

River View Corporate Center, Suite 1500
Room 118
16201 E. Indiana Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

Board Members Present: Jessica Laing, Public Member, Chair
Beth Coyote, Licensed Midwife
Annie Iriye, MD, OB/GYN
Sunita Iyre, ND, Licensed Midwife

**Assistant Attorney
General:**

Elizabeth Baker, Assistant Attorney General

Staff:

Blake Maresh, Executive Director
Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager

OPEN SESSION:

1. **Opening– DISCUSSION/ACTION– Jessica Laing, Chair**
 - A. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
 - B. Review of meeting protocol – Jessica Laing, Chair, reviewed the protocol and teleconferencing procedures.
 - C. Introductions – Those attending the meeting introduced themselves.
 - D. Order of agenda – No changes were made to the order of the agenda.
 - E. Correspondence - There was no correspondence for review at this time.
 - F. Announcements – There were no announcements at this time.
 - G. Other- No further information was discussed at this time.

2. **Consent Agenda—DISCUSSION/ACTION**
 - A. Approval of June 25, 2013 agenda - The agenda for June 25, 2013 was approved as written.
 - B. Approval of April 12, 2013 minutes – A minor changes was made to correct a name in the minutes. The April 12, 2013 minutes were approved as revised..

3. **Discuss Items Removed from the Consent Agenda—DISCUSSION/ACTION**

No items were removed from the consent agenda.

4. **Executive Director Report – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Blake Maresh, Executive Director.**

Mr. Maresh indicated that the Department of Health is following the Governor’s order to make plans to allow for the agency shut down if a budget isn’t passed before July 1, 2013. However, it appears that the “shutdown” will be averted.

The committee was informed that the budget is looking fine. Ms. Pitzler will send members the final budget report for the biennium once it is available.

Mr. Maresh shared documents related to a sunrise review for licensed midwives. Representative Cody has recommended that the Department of Health perform a sunrise review on licensed midwives scope of practice in relation to care of the newborn. When finished, the Department of Health will report back to the Legislature. Committee members noted that continuity of care for mother and child is healthier for the consumer. The hearing for the sunrise review is scheduled for August 9, 2013. Ms. Iyer indicated that she would contact the Midwives Association of Washington State to assure consumer and pediatric testimony.

5. Program Manager Report – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager

A. Update on rules moratorium and progress on the midwifery rules process.

Ms. Pitzler reported that the rules moratorium has ended. The CR 101 document begins a rules process. This document has been drafted related to changing the rules relating to, “Credit toward educational requirements for licensure” and consideration of the Midwives Association of Washington State’s (MAWS) proposed “CPM Plus” process. This document is currently being reviewed internally. Once this document is filed with the Office of the Code Reviser, rules workshops will take place. Ms. Pitzler indicated that she plans to have a rules workshop in Spokane on August 1, 2013 and one in Tumwater on another date. Committee members suggested that the Tumwater meeting take place on the same day as the sunset review. Ms. Pitzler indicated that she would work to coordinate this.

B. Recruitment of Midwifery Advisory Committee Members and possible additional committee meeting in August.

The interviews for candidates for the Midwifery Advisory Committee took place in May. However, the packet for appointments is still being worked on. Ms. Pitzler suggested that a telephone committee take place near the end of August. This meeting would allow present members to inform new members of the committee’s work and to allow new members to ask questions. The committee asked Ms. Pitzler to set up a meeting date for the end of August.

C. Complaint Statistics.

The Committee members reviewed the complaint statistics. It was noted that there are currently many complaints related to unlicensed practice. Committee members wondered if this could relate to birth assistants. Birth assistants are trained to assist midwives but are not students and are not licensed. They are under the supervision of the midwife.

Mr. Maresh indicated that the new medical assistant credential has had similar issues. He offered to have Brett Cain, Program manager for the Medical Assistant program, talk with the committee about these issues and how they came to some of their decisions.

The Committee indicated they would like to hear from Mr. Cain and would also like to hear from those who teach birthing assistants to learn more about the functions and training of birthing assistants.

D. Licensing Update.

The committee members reviewed a report that shows the number of pending midwifery applications and where, in the process, the applications are. Categories includes applicants that are scheduled for state examination only, those that have failed the examination three times and must obtain further training before taking the examination again, along with those that are currently under review.

This document showed that there was a total of 18 applications. Nine applications were for the August NARM and state examination and three additional candidates were approved for the state examination.

**6. Suicide Prevention – Updates – Result of Survey– DISCUSSION/ACTION
– Elaine Walsh, PhD, RN and Carol Hooven, PhD.**

Carol Hooven from the University of Washington, spoke to the committee about the results of a survey given to health care professionals related to mental health and suicide prevention. Legislation required all mental health professionals to have education on suicide prevention. It also required this study to determine if other professions might benefit from suicide prevention education. The final report is to be presented to the Legislature in December, 2013.

The study looked at several aspects of the issue, including unbiased literature and experts, as well as those in charge of curriculum and health care professions. They also reviewed studies regarding military suicide prevention.

The two major questions they looked at were whether suicide prevention training assists health care professionals to better help their patients and, if so, are there specific health professionals that would benefit from suicide prevention training.

The answer to the first question is that training does help. However, they were unable to determine if it works better for some professions than others. The survey results from all health care practitioners showed that 85 percent across the board felt that the training is relevant. Fifty-six percent feel it should be mandatory. It was noted that not even half of patients who have mental health issues receive care from a mental health provider. However, they do tend to spend more time with other health care professionals.

7. Future Agenda Items - Adjournment.

The committee indicated that they want the normal agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting. This includes:

- Standing business such as the executive director and program manager reports.
- Role of the birth assistant.
- Sunrise Follow-up.
- Training for new members.
- Update on rule-making.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.