



**Midwifery Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 24, 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: Sunita Iyer, ND.LM
Ali Tromblay, LM
Colleen Donovan Batson, CNM
Robert Palmer, MD
Ali Lewis, MD

**Assistant Attorney
General:**

Elizabeth Baker, Assistant Attorney General

Staff:

Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager
Brett Cain, Medical Assistant Program Manager
Sherry Thomas,
Deborah Johnson

OPEN SESSION:

1. Opening– DISCUSSION/ACTION– Sunita Iyer, Acting Chair

- A. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m.
- B. Review of meeting protocol – Sunita Iyer reviewed the protocol and teleconferencing procedures.
- C. Introductions – Those attending the meeting introduced themselves.
- D. Order of agenda – The order of the agenda was changed to move item 5 up to item 4.
- 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. Approval of Agenda and Minutes—DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Approval of September 24, 2013 agenda - The agenda for September 24, 2013 was approved with minor changes.
- B. Approval of June 25, 2013 minutes –The June 25, 2013 minutes were approved as written.
- C. Approval of August 27, 2013 minutes – The August 27, 2013 minutes were approved as written.

3. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair—DISCUSSION/ACTION

The committee elected Sunita Iyer as Chair and Ali Tromblay as vice chair. Ms. Iyer continued to chair the meeting.

4. Presentation regarding implementation challenges for the Medical Assistant Credential – Brett Cain, Program Manager for the Medical Assistant Program, Department of Health.

Brett Cain, Program Manager for the medical assistant program explained that up until July 1, 2013, many of the medical assistants held a health care assistant certification. The health care assistant wasn't transferrable as it was tied to the facility and delegator. This certification has seven very specific categories. The Legislature passed a bill to eliminate the health care assistant certification and replace it with the medical assistant certification, which has four separate categories. These categories include the medical assistant-certified and the medical assistant-registered.

Prior to implementation of the medical assistant certification, the Department had to review the duties and determine what falls under the scope of practice. It was

determined that anyone in the health care setting that did not hold another credential would need to be licensed if they performed any clinical work and did not hold another credential that allows them to perform those duties. They would not need a credential if they performed only administrative duties in the health care setting. A medical assistant-certified (MA-C) has a broader scope of practice than a medical assistant-registered (MA-R).

The committee may want to look closer at birth assistant functions to determine if they need a MA-C, MA-R to perform the duties assigned. The medical assistant law defines which health care professionals can supervise a medical assistant. Mr. Cain indicated that licensed midwives are not included on that list. A change to this law would require legislation. Elizabeth Baker, AAG also noted that the midwifery law does not specify that licensed midwives can delegate to anyone. Changes to the midwifery law would also require legislation.

5. Presentation on Midwifery Assistants – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Micki Persons and Chelsea Doyle, Northwest Birth Assistants.

Micki Persons and Chelsea Doyle from Northwest Birth Assistants presented to committee members about their training program for birth assistants. They indicated they started the program when they saw that midwives had started using birth assistants more consistently. When developing the program, they looked to the “Midwives College of Utah” curriculum. They also contacted the Department of Health to ask what could be done regarding birth assistants. Nobody seemed to know.

They proceeded to create standards to use as guidelines for curriculum. Completion of the program shows midwives that the birth assistant has a set of skills that relate to the standards. Ms. Persons and Ms. Doyle indicated that tasks performed by birth assistants include setting up rooms, preparing and sterilizing equipment, charting labor and birth, and taking vitals to report to the midwife. They stated that the birth assistant is under the direct supervision of the midwife.

They shared a document with the Midwifery Advisory Committee comparing the tasks that are performed by birth assistant with those performed by medical assistants. It was noted that some birth assistant may require a credential.

Elizabeth Baker, AAG asked how the patient knows the difference between the midwife and the midwife assistant. She wondered if the client might think that the midwife assistant is another licensed midwife. It was noted that the communication to the patient is the responsibility of the licensed midwife.

Constance Frey, licensed midwife thanked the Midwifery Advisory Committee for looking at the midwife assistants. She indicated that she has been using assistants for eight years. A midwife may need two people in an emergency so having a midwife assistant is intended for safety. Terry Young agreed with Ms. Frey and indicated that birth assistants are also used in Idaho with similar training.

The committee agreed to look at this issue further at their next meeting. They will specifically look at what a licensed midwife can and can't do per the midwifery law.

6. Review of Reimbursement Procedures for Committee Members – Cece Zenker.

Cece Zenker explained the travel reimbursement policy for midwifery advisory committee members. She indicated that no receipts are required for anything under \$25. She also stated that if the final amount is under \$35, it will be held for two to three meetings. Ms. Zenker will send the required forms to committee members by e-mail.

7. Executive Director Report – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Blake Maresh, Executive Director.

The board reviewed the budget documents. It was noted that the documents still need to be updated to reflect the final numbers on the 2011-2013 biennium and that the numbers for the new biennium are also incomplete. The committee will review these documents further at the next meeting.

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

Ms. Pitzler shared with members a report indicating the number of midwifery applications currently in progress and where they are in the process, as well as one on reports that have been received on midwives. This report includes information about whether an investigation was opened and if there was final action.

9. Report on Rules Workshops for Revision of WAC 246-834-220 Credit Toward Educational Requirements for Licensure – DISCUSSION/ACTION - Kendra Pitzler

Ms. Pitzler shared that the rules are now open to change WAC 246-834-220 which allows midwives credit toward educational requirements for licensure. She indicated that two workshops were held in August, one in Spokane and one in Tumwater. The next step is to send draft rules to interested parties for comment. Once rules are complete, they will be reviewed internally within the Department

of Health and then filed with the code reviser. A rules hearing, allowing public comment will be held before the department determines whether or not to adopt the rules.

10. Department of Health Brochure to Inform Patients of the Qualifications of a Midwife – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Kendra Pitzler.

Kendra Pitzler indicated that the brochure developed to inform patients of the qualifications of a midwife is out of date and needs to be revised. It was noted that the Midwifery Association of Washington State (MAWS) developed a brochure in conjunction with the Department of Health's Community Health Office. Sunita Iyer agreed to obtain this brochure so that the committee can review it at the next meeting.

11. Committee Bylaws – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Kendra Pitzler.

The committee talked about developing bylaws. They asked that a prototype be brought to the next meeting for review.

12. Future Agenda items – DISCUSSION/ACTION

The committee indicated that the following items should be on the next agenda:

- Standing business such as the executive director and program manager reports.
- Birth assistants and what midwives can do.
- Update on rule-making.
- Discussion regarding by-laws
- Update on sunrise review.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.