

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

December 3, 2014
9:00 AM

Department of Health – Kent
Creekside Two at CenterPoint
20425 72nd Avenue S. Suite 310, Room 307
Kent, WA 98032

On December 3, 2014 the Midwifery Advisory Committee met at the Department of Health, Creekside Two at CenterPoint, 20425 72nd Ave, S, Suite 310, Room 307, Kent, WA and by webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT

ALI TROMBLAY, VICE-CHAIR
COLLEEN DONOVAN-BATSON, CNM
ALI LEWIS, MD
ROBERT PALMER, JR., MD
CONSTANCE FREY, LM

STAFF PRESENT

TRINA CASTLE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
KATHY WEED, PROGRAM MANAGER
SANDIE PEARSON, PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE
DANIELLE WELLIEVER, POLICY & LEG. ANALYST
KRYSTL MURPHY, AAG
JENNIFER HERBRAND, CREDENTIALING MANAGER

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBINAR

SUNITA IYER, ND, LM, CHAIR

GUESTS PRESENT IN PERSON

NO GUESTS WERE PRESENT IN PERSON

Monday, December 3, 2014 – 9:00 AM – Open Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Ali Tromblay, Vice-Chair at 9:08 a.m.

1.1 Introductions

Committee members, staff, and guests introduced themselves.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

The committee reviewed and approved the agenda as presented.

1.3 Approval of the September , 2014 Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and discussed the September 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes. Constance Frey suggested that more details be added to the minutes regarding the discussion of Item 3 Newborn Screening Rule. Ms. Frey would like the minutes to include a brief outline of the audience concerns raised during the discussion. Staff will amend the minutes of the September 10, 2014 meeting and will bring back for committee approval at the March 17, 2015 meeting.

1.4 Correspondence

There was no correspondence received for the committee to review at this time.

1.5 Announcements

There were no announcements made at this time.

1.6 Other

There were no other items discussed under this agenda item.

2. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Trina Castle, Executive Director provided information to the committee.

2.1 Current Budget Report

Trina Castle, Executive Director, presented the updated budget report. Currently the budget is at a deficit. The budget deficit is mostly due to disciplinary cases and lengthy investigations. Ms. Castle is hopeful that through the 2015 legislation session the program will gain some advocacy and support. Ms. Castle explained that when a program's budget is struggling, monies from other professions help to offset the negative balance. Committee members asked questions regarding the cost of an investigation; does the investigated practitioner pay for the investigation if they are found "guilty"? Ms. Castle shared that the respondent may be charged for cost recovery. Program staff will continue to monitor and update the committee regarding the program budget. An updated report will be provided at the next meeting.

2.2 Legislative Update / Meet-Me-Call Update

The committee discussed designating a committee member to act as the representative for the legislative meet-me-calls. The calls are on Tuesday mornings and last approximately 30 minutes each. At the September meeting committee members had designated Sunita Iyer to participate in the calls. Ali Tromblay volunteered to serve as Ms. Iyer's back-up on the calls.

2.3 Citrix and secure web access accounts for committee members

Electronic correspondence is subject to public disclosure laws. To help protect the personal devices used by Board/Committee/Commission (BCC) members the department is looking into providing emails and Citrix accounts to all BCC members. The department is currently working on the infrastructure for a secured server that will be used for committee related business. Early summer is the anticipated timeframe to begin issuing committee members Citrix licensing. Citrix is a secure web-based application committee members will use to log into the secured DOH network. Committee members will also be assigned a DOH email address to use when conducting committee related business. Committee members will receive training once the system is in place.

3. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT – Information was provided to the committee by Program Manager, Kathy Weed

3.1 Bylaws

Ms. Weed presented the committee with the updated Bylaws that contained the changes suggested at the September meeting. The committee made no other suggestions or changes. Ms. Weed will bring to the March meeting for the committee chair to sign.

3.2 Licensing statistics – number of active and pending licenses

Committee members were provided an updated report on the midwives licensing statistics and the midwives in training statistics. The reports included the statistics from December 2014 and showed the following:

Midwifery Credentials	December 2014
Active Licenses	130
Active in Renewal	21
Expired Licenses	236
Pending Licensure	14
Suspended License	3
Active on Probation	2

Midwives in Training	December 2014
Active (not renewable)	3
Pending Licensure	1

Committee members were also presented a map detailing the number of licensed midwives per county.

Ms. Weed shared with the committee that she had administered the exam to 15 to 20 applicants since April 2014. She also added that most of those that took the exam are now credentialed.

Jennifer Herbrand, Credentialing Manager shared with the committee that a credentialing representative will attend future meetings and be available to answer any questions regarding credentialing that may come up during the meeting. Ms. Herbrand shared that comparatively the Midwifery profession is a very small profession. In 2014 the credentialing office issued 27 midwife credentials. Credentials were issued in an average of nine days after all required documents are received by the department.

- 3.3 Recruitment update for vacant committee position – Ms. Weed updated the committee regarding the committee public member recruitment. Ms. Weed reported that she had received five applications for the public member position. Two of the applicants qualified and met the requirements set forth in statute. Ms. Weed has forwarded the application packets to the Secretary and is hopeful an appointment will be made soon.
- 3.4 Performance measures and disciplinary statistics – Ms. Weed presented disciplinary statistics to the committee. She explained that the case closure codes are for all professions, not only for the midwifery profession. Ms. Lewis asked why the number of complaints has increased. Ms. Castle shared that the increase in complaints may be due to an increase in the number of licensed midwives.

4. BIRTH ASSISTANTS – Information was provided to the committee by Sunita Iyer, Chair

A request was sent to the department asking to create a new regulated profession, birth assistants. Tasks would be delegated and may include needle skill (Intravenous and Intramuscular). Legislation is needed to create a licensure requirement for a health profession. At this point there is no legislative sponsor associated with regulating birth assistants. It is unknown whether the 2015 legislative session will include legislation regarding birth assistants; however it may be introduced during the 2016 session. Ms. Frey asked what the Midwifery Advisory Committee’s role is in regards to creating the birth assistant profession. Dr.. Iyer shared that the first step is legislative and she also was not sure what the role of the committee would be, and whether the committee could write a letter of support at that time. Dr. Palmer asked committee members if they

viewed the birth assistant profession as a stepping stone to midwifery licensure and how the IV and IM training would be obtained. Ms. Iyer said that the birth assistant profession may be a stepping stone to midwifery licensure for some. Training programs are in place and most include an on-the-job training component.

5. MIDWIVES AND INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENTS – Information was provided to the committee by Sunita Iyer, Chair

Ms. Iyer shared that midwives are struggling with receiving insurance reimbursements. The issue began with the new legislation that passed in 2014 regarding newborn care. Insurance companies appear to be scrutinizing midwives scope of practice and determining whether service is within their scope of practice. Ms. Weed reported that the Department of Health provided a letter to a licensed midwife, clarifying the scope of practice. Dr. Palmer shared that insurance companies are not singling out midwives and that the tasks that are billed are bundled together and can't be un-bundled. He also mentioned that the midwifery profession is not currently a nationally recognized profession and is not regulated in all 50 states. Dr. Palmer added that billing issues are not within the realm of the committee's mandate. Ms. Frey shared that the fact midwives are not regulated in all 50 states is an important distinction when discussing insurance reimbursements and billing issues.

6. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL LEGISLATION FOR NEWBORN SCREENING BILLING – Information was provided to the committee by Sunita Iyer, Chair

Work is being done in collaboration with the Department of Health Lab to create an insurance form that will be submitted with the newborn screening form to the lab. The lab will bill the insurance companies and will assume the cost difference. The department is hopeful that legislation during the 2015 legislative session will address this issue. The Assistant Attorney General sent a letter to the newborn screening unit clarifying that midwife practitioners are not facilities and therefore can't bill as a facility. Detailed specifics regarding this process will be determined in the future.

7. RULES UPDATE – Information was provided to the committee by Program Manager, Kathy Weed. The committee discussed and provided feedback to the Department.

Ms. Weed shared that she has been working on the CPM draft language. She has received very few comments and hopes to have the rules in effect in spring or summer of 2015.

Ms. Weed also shared that she would like to see the entire chapter opened to work on "housekeeping" throughout the chapter over the next few years.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS – The committee requested the following items be placed on the agenda for a future meeting:

- Amended September Meeting Minutes
- Discipline presentation on unlicensed practice
- Newborn Screening Update
- Legislative update
- Midwifery exam update

9. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 10:41 a.m. The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is March 17, 2015 in Kent. Updated meeting information will be posted on the Midwifery website.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Kathy Weed
Program Manager

Sunita Iyer, Chair
Midwifery Advisory Committee