

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

September 15, 2015  
9:00 AM

Department of Health – Kent  
Creekside Two at CenterPoint  
20425 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue S., Suite 310, Room 306  
Kent, WA 98032

---

---

On September 15, 2015 the Midwifery Advisory Committee met at the Department of Health, Creekside Two at CenterPoint, 20425 72<sup>nd</sup> Ave S., Suite 310, Room 306, Kent, WA and by webinar. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBINAR**

ALI TROMBLAY, LM, VICE CHAIR  
CONSTANCE FREY, LM  
ALI LEWIS, MD  
MARGARET OSTERVOLD, PUBLIC MEMBER  
ROBERT PALMER, JR., MD

**STAFF PRESENT**

KATHY WEED, PROGRAM MANAGER  
SANDIE PEARSON, PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE  
KRYSTL MURPHY, AAG

**MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBINAR**

COLLEEN DONOVAN-BATSON, CNM

Tuesday, September 15, 2015 – 9:00 AM – Open Session

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Ali Tromblay, Vice-Chair at 9:10 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 March 17, 2015 and June 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The committee reviewed and approved the March 17, 2015 and June 9, 2015 Meeting Minutes as presented.

1.4 Announcements

There were no announcements made at this time.

**2. PRESENTATION ON MIDWIFERY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION COUNCIL (MEAC) FOR MIDWIFERY SCHOOLS**

– Information was provided to the committee by Mary Yglesia, Practicum Coordinator, Bastyr University. Ms. Weed explained that currently the state has approved midwifery programs from two schools; Bastyr University and National College of Natural Medicine in Portland, OR. When candidates that have not attended one of the two approved schools apply for licensure, program staff must review their application to ensure the educational and clinical requirements have been met.

Ms. Yglesia explained that MEAC is a non-profit organization and is approved by the U.S. Secretary of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency for programs and institutions. MEAC's purpose is to establish standards and criteria for the education of competent midwives. Ms. Yglesia shared that MEAC looks at the quality and "health" of the educational program. Committee members asked how MEAC was different from the states licensure requirements. Ms. Yglesia explained that MEAC only deals with the quality of the educational component of state licensure.

Ms. Frey suggested the committee consider including MEAC for Midwifery Schools, but did not want to limit only accepting MEAC Schools. Dr. Palmer shared he would like to see a side by side comparison of the state educational requirements for midwifery programs vs. the MEAC requirements. Ms. Yglesia suggested that a Bastyr student could conduct the comparison as part of their community service requirement. Ms. Frey asked whether educational programs for other health professionals require accreditation. Ms. Yglesia explained that schools must apply for MEAC accreditation and that accreditation leads to the credibility of a program. She added that it is a lengthy process and programs/schools must meet specific benchmarks during the review.

Ms. Frey made a motion to have a Bastyr student conduct a comparison of MEAC requirements vs. state educational requirements for the committee to review at a future meeting. Dr. Palmer seconded the motion. Committee members voted in favor of the motion.

**3. PRESENTATION FROM STAFF ATTORNEY** – Information was presented to the committee by Alex Lee, Staff Attorney regarding the department's definition of "compensation" and when midwifery care is not gratuitous.

4. **WASHINGTON STATE COMPETENCY EXAM** – Information was provided to the committee by Ali Tromblay and Constance Frey on the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) exam and the state exam. Ms. Tromblay explained that candidates must pass both the NARM and state exams prior to licensure. She explained that the state exam should cover what is not covered in the NARM exam, such as medication use, transfer of care, complications management, etc. Ms. Frey shared that currently a sub-committee is working to update the state exam. She also shared that she would like to see the committee adopt a process for reviewing the state midwife exam for licensure. Ms. Frey proposed the process include:

- An examination sub-committee consisting of one licensed midwife, one OB/GYN, and one DOH staff member.
- A sub-committee review of the exam every other year with expert opinion sought as needed.
- Findings of sub-committee review to be presented to full committee

Ms. Frey suggested the committee adopt this review process and implement the process once the current exams are updated. Committee members discussed the state exam and the need to have a process for review in place. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the proposed exam review process as stated above.

5. **RULES WORKSHOP** – Information was provided to the committee by Program Manager, Kathy Weed and sub-committee members. Committee members were presented copies of suggested draft language to review. Ms. Weed shared that she had sent the suggested draft language out for comment twice.

The committee discussed and provided feedback on the draft language regarding legend drugs and devices. Ms. Frey shared her concerns and would like to consider not being so detailed in the rule. Ms. Murphy, AAG suggested the committee may want to consider using phrases such as: “including but not limited to” and “as determined by the Secretary of Health” as a way of not being detailed in the rule. The committee discussed whether language about specific medical devices and services should be removed from the draft language. Committee members provided comments and suggested removing “ultra sound” and “nitrous oxide” from the draft language. Ms. Weed will make the suggested changes and send the updated draft language to listserv for comment.

6. **SUNRISE REVIEW ON BIRTH ASSISTANTS** – Ms. Weed updated the committee on the department’s recommendations to the Secretary regarding the sunrise review for birth assistants. Ms. Weed shared that the department has been working on gathering information for the sunrise review. The department will be releasing the sunrise review within the next week. There will be a ten day rebuttal period. The sunrise review will be posted to the listserv upon its release.

7. **JURISPRUDENCE EXAM** – Kathy Weed, Program Manager provided a draft version of a jurisprudence exam. Ms. Weed asked committee members for feedback and whether

there were specific items they would like to see on the exam. Committee members suggested the jurisprudence exam contain questions regarding:

- Timing of PKU
- Pulse oximeter
- Magnesium
- Eye Ointment

Ms. Weed will work to include the suggested topics on the jurisprudence exam.

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT** – Information was provided to the committee by Program Manager, Kathy Weed.

**8.1** Current Budget Report – Ms. Weed shared that the 2015 – 2017 biennium began on July 1, 2015. The midwifery program continues to be overspent.

**8.2** Birth center inspections – Ms. Weed shared with the committee that the department has started conducting birth center inspections. She shared that the inspectors have several questions regarding birth centers. It was suggested that Ms. Weed invite a representative from the Inspections Office to the next meeting to provide additional information to the committee. Ms. Weed will contact the Inspections Office and invite a representative to present information to the committee regarding birth center inspections at a future meeting.

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

**9.1** Business Plan and action items document – Ms. Weed presented the Business Plan for 2015 – 2017 to committee members. She shared that the Business Plan can be updated by the committee as needed. Ms. Weed explained that the Business Plan is a living document and will be included on future meeting agendas.

**9.2** Recruitment efforts – Ms. Weed updated the committee regarding committee member recruitment. She shared that she and a few of the current committee members had interviewed five applicants. Ms. Weed submitted the appointment package to the Office of the Secretary. She anticipates a new committee member will be appointed soon.

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

- Election of chair and vice-chair

- Birth center inspections presentation
- Exam sub-committee update
- Rules update
- Citrix update
- MEAC requirements vs state requirements
- Sunrise review update

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

The committee adjourned at 12:47 p.m. The next regularly scheduled committee meeting is December 8, 2015. Updated meeting information will be posted on the Midwifery website.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

---

Kathy Weed  
Program Manager

---

Ali Tromblay, Vice-Chair  
Midwifery Advisory Committee