



**Midwifery Advisory Committee
Minutes
March 22, 2011**

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: **This meeting was held by videoconference
at the following locations:**

Department of Health
Point Plaza East, Room 153
310 Israel Road NE
Tumwater, WA 98501

Department of Health Laboratory – Shoreline
1610 NE 150th Street, Room S4
Shoreline, WA 98155-9701

St. Joseph’s Hospital
500 E Webster Ave
Chewelah, WA 99109-9523

Contact Person: Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager
(360) 236-4723

Board Members Present: Jessica Laing, Public Member, Chair
Dana Combest, Licensed Midwife, Vice 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– Dana Combest, Vice Chair**
 - A. Call to order - The meeting was called to Order at 9:09 a.m.

- B. Review of meeting protocol and teleconferencing procedure – Dana Combest, vice-chair, reviewed the protocol and teleconferencing procedures.
- C. Introductions - Committee members, staff and public attending 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 - No announcements were made at this time.
- G. Other - No further information was discussed at this time.

2. Consent Agenda—DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Approval of March 22, 2011 agenda - The agenda was approved as written.
- B. Approval of December 7, 2010 minutes – The minutes were approved as written.

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

No items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

4. Legislation – DISCUSSION/ACTION

- A. Update from the Midwives Association of Washington State (MAWS) –
Audrey Levine, President, MAWS

Ms. Levine updated the Midwifery Advisory Committee members about legislation that MAWS has been involved in. She indicated that the Midwifery Advisory Committee was removed from the bill that eliminates many boards and committees.

In addition, the bill that would give midwives access to the University of Washington Health Electronic Resource for Washington (HealWA) data base is still moving. If passed, this will add an additional \$25 to the midwifery licensure fee.

Ms. Levine indicated that MAWS has also worked to keep the midwifery application and renewal fees at the current fees except for the money that would be collected as a fee for the HealWA.

Ms. Levine indicated that MAWS supported two other bills, one which creates a collaborative to look at evidence based care and one that establishes a maternal health task force. However, the bill to establish the maternal task force has now died.

She indicated that MAWS is concerned about a bill that requires greater transparencies with regards to health care complaints because it allows the

complainant to amend the complaint and may require additional response from practitioners. Another bill MAWS was concerned about would have required a written plan for each midwifery client and removed the requirement for a midwife to consult with a physician when there are significant deviations from normal. This bill died at the first cut-off date.

B. Information regarding bills affecting the midwifery licensure program – Dana Combest, Vice-Chair, Blake Maresh, Executive Director; Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager.

In addition to the bills that Audrey mentioned, Dana indicated that a bill that would have placed a moratorium on rule making for three years did not pass. Mr. Maresh indicated that the Governor's moratorium on rule making will stay in place until December 1, 2011 but, if this bill had passed, there would have been a longer moratorium on rule making.

C. Letter to Karen Jensen, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance, regarding midwifery fees – Blake Maresh, Executive Director.

Mr. Maresh indicates that the letter was sent to Kristi Weeks to review and forward to Karen Jensen. However, Ms. Weeks was unaware that she was to forward the letter so it was not forwarded in a timely fashion. Ms. Jensen has now received the letter and will provide a response. At this time, the Legislature has not discussed fee restructure. It may still come up in the budget discussions. Mr. Jensen and Ms. Weeks are fully aware of the Committee's position if it does.

Mr. Maresh noted that fee structures were brought up at the December, 2010 stakeholders meeting between Health Systems Quality Assurance Division and members of the professional associations. Other professions are beginning to express interest a new model.

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

Mr. Maresh shared information about the state budget. He indicated that the Legislature still needs to trim an additional 5.1 billion out of 14.5 billion for the 2011-13 biennium budget. In addition, the state is facing another 80 million dollar deficit in the current budget. Mr. Maresh also reviewed the midwifery program budget and answered questions from committee members.

6. Program Manager Report – Kendra Pitzler – DISCUSSION/ACTION

Ms. Pitzler had no information to report at this time.

7. Complaint Statistics– DISCUSSION/ACTION– Kendra Pitzler, Program Manager.

The Committee reviewed the updated midwifery complaint reports. This included a document that listed the number of complaints received each year and the final results of those complaints.

8. Providing Investigators More Access to Information – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Dana Combest, Vice Chair

At the last Midwifery Advisory Committee Meeting, committee members wondered if there was any way to provide the investigators with greater access to the Committee’s licensed midwife members for information not accessible on the web-sites in the letter provided to the investigators by the Committee.

After discussion, the committee decided that they should update the letter to the investigators. They will add information to the letter that indicates that Midwifery Advisory Committee members can speak to any concerns or questions. In addition, committee members indicated that web-sites in the letter should be updated to include more specific sites, such as the specific site for the MAWS Indications for Consultation document.

Jessica Laing agreed to work to update this letter and bring it to the next meeting for review. Committee members should send her the specific web-sites that need to be included.

9. Review of Midwifery Applications from Candidates who apply for Licensure by Providing Credit toward Educational Requirements. – DISCUSSION/ACTION - Dana Combest, Vice Chair.

Rules concerning application requirements were scheduled to be revised until the Governor placed a moratorium on rule making in November, 2010. The rules moratorium will be lifted on December 31, 2011. The Committee noted that it is currently difficult to review applications for students who come in through the route that allows credit toward the educational requirements under RCW 18.50.040 (3). Discussion centered on how to make the current process of reviewing these applications easier until new rules can be adopted.

Beth Coyote indicated that Charlene Campbell, who was in attendance at this meeting, is working on a sub-committee from the Midwives Association of Washington State regarding instructions and forms to assist with review of the midwifery educational requirements. Ms. Campbell indicated that this sub-committee is working to create smoother licensing procedures because MAWS

has realized that Washington needs more licensed midwives. They have found that the majority of students at Bastyr will not be staying in Washington State so they want to create a model for other students. This is important to assure that Washington has the amount of midwives needed in the future. Jodylyn Owen also spoke, indicating that she is also assisting with this project. She stated that there are many unlicensed midwives who would obtain licensure if there is another avenue to do so.

Dana and Beth would like to participate or collaborate with this MAWS workgroup. However, there were concerns that this could be in violation of the MAC role and/or ethics laws. Ebeth Baker, AAG indicated that she would research this and let them know if participation by a midwifery advisory committee member is allowed.

10. Future Agenda Items – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Dana Combest, Vice Chair

- Legislation – Final Disposition.
- Complaint Statistics
- Executive Director Report to include update regarding budget issues and actions that are affecting other professions.
- Investigator Letter
- Review state examination questions.

CLOSED SESSION:

11. Review of the proposed State Examination Questions from the State Examination Sub-Committee – Beth Coyote and Sunita Iyer

Committee members reviewed the questions. While they believe the questions were appropriate, they suggested that there be a separate section for complications and that there be more questions that address state law, including legend drugs and devices.

The examination sub-committee will work to further update the questions and bring them back to the next meeting.

OPEN SESSION:

12. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.