



**Midwifery Advisory Committee
Minutes
June 28, 2011**

Location: This meeting was held by phone conference. The meeting was open to the public at the following location:

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

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

Board Members: 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– Jessica Laing, Chair**
Estimated Time: 10 minutes
 - A. Call to order – The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m.
 - B. Review of meeting protocol – Jessica Laing, 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

Estimated Time: 5 minutes

- A. Approval of June 28, 2011 agenda – The amended agenda was reviewed and approved.
- B. Approval of March 22, 2011 minutes – The Committee approved the March 22, 2011 minutes with minor changes.
- C. Approval of June 1, 2011 minutes – The Committee approved the June 1, 2011 minutes with minor changes.

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

No items were removed from the consent agenda for discussion.

4. Legislation – Final Disposition of Bills – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Kendra Pitzler

Ms. Pitzler reported that the 2011-13 Omnibus Operating Budget includes a supplement for the midwifery program.

Ms. Pitzler reported that SSB 5071 which allows licensed midwives access to the HEAL WA data base passed the Legislature, was signed into law and is effective July 22, 2011. This bill also allows for an additional fee on the midwifery license of up to \$25.

Ms. Pitzler also reported that SHB1311, a bill that Audrey Levine, Midwives Association of Washington State (MAWS) reported on at the last meeting, also passed and takes effect on July 22, 2011. This bill establishes a collaborative to identify health care services for which there are substantial variations in practice patterns or high utilization trends in Washington State, without producing better care outcomes for patients that are indicators of poor quality and potential waste in the health care system. They are to also identify strategies to increase use of evidence-based best practice approaches. Committee members believe that cesarean sections could be a procedure reviewed by this collaborative.

Ms. Pitzler reported that SHB 1493 passed and will go into effect on July 22, 2011. This bill changes some of the requirements of the Uniform Disciplinary Act and may require changes to investigative and disciplinary processes. However, most of the requirements of this law are already in place.

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

Mr. Maresh reported on the budget. Due to the general fund subsidy for the midwifery program, there will be no midwifery fee increase other than what is necessary to implement SSB 5071, allowing licensed midwives access to the HEAL WA data base.

Other professions have been identified for fee increases, partially due to “decision packages” passed by the Legislature. These packages include hiring more investigators and attorneys, hiring more credentialing staff to process increased numbers of applications, and implementing on-line renewals and applications. Pharmacy Technicians and naturopathic physicians will be the first professions to pilot on-line renewals.

Mr. Maresh also informed the Committee that staff will be moving to another building across the street from their current office. This move is to consolidate staff and reduce spending. This is scheduled to take place in September or October but should not adversely affect program support.

6. Complaint Statistics– DISCUSSION/ACTION– Kendra Pitzler, Program Manger.

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.

7. Revision of Letter to Investigators– DISCUSSION/ACTION – Jessica Laing, Chair

DISCUSSION: Committee members reviewed the proposed changes to the updated investigator letter. It was agreed that there was no need for midwifery training program sites to be included with the other web-sites.

There was a concern about the possible lack of knowledge of the investigators. Specifically, some cases had been reviewed by a midwifery advisory committee member who noted that not all documentation had been requested. There was a concern that midwives aren’t being contacted or consulted by investigators when needed.

DECISION: The letter should more strongly advise that the Committee encourages them to make use of their expertise. Ms. Laing will revise the letter as requested and bring it back for review at the September meeting. Committee members should forward suggestions for changes to the letter to Ms. Pitzler. She will put the comments together and forward them to Ms. Laing.

In addition, Ms. Pitzler will ask a representative from the Office of Investigations and Inspections to make a presentation at the September meeting.

The committee also indicated that they may want to work on alternatives which would allow them to provide information to the Office of Investigations and Inspections.

8. Future Agenda Items – DISCUSSION/ACTION – Jessica Laing, Chair

Committee members agreed on the following agenda items for the next meeting:

- Presentation by Karen Jensen, Assistant Secretary, Health Systems Quality Assurance Division of Department of Health.
- Presentation by the Office of Investigations and Inspections.
- Presentation from the Midwives Association of Washington State (MAWS) regarding their findings on comparing Washington requirements for a Licensed Midwife (LM) with the North American Registry of Midwives requirements for a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM.)
- Executive Director Report.
- Program Manger Report to include midwifery statistics.
- Review State Examination Questions

CLOSED SESSION:

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

This item was moved to the September meeting as the material was not yet ready for this meeting.

OPEN SESSION:

10. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.