On March 6, 2018 the Midwifery Advisory Committee met in person and by webinar at the Department of Health Office in Kent located at Creekside Two at Centerpoint, 20425 72nd Ave S, Suite 310, Room 309, Kent, WA 98032. In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notices were sent to individuals requesting notification of meetings.

MEMBERS PRESENT
CONSTANCE FREY, LM, CHAIR
VIVIANNE FISCHER, LM
MARGARET OSTERVOLD, PUBLIC MEMBER
ROBERT PALMER, JR., MD
COLEEN DONOVAN-BATSON, CNM
KAT BARRON, LM
ALI LEWIS, MD

STAFF PRESENT
KATHY WEED, PROGRAM MANAGER
TRINA CRAWFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SANDIE PEARSON, PROGRAM REPRESENTATIVE
JOANNE MILLER, CREDENTIALING SUPERVISOR
SERRA McWILLIAMS, AAG

OTHERS PRESENT
LESLEY GIESNER (VIA WEBINAR)
APRIL HAUGEN (VIA WEBINAR)
TIFFANI BUCK (VIA WEBINAR)

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 – 9:00 AM – Open Session

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Constance Frey, Chair at 9:07 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 December 5, 2017 Meeting Minutes
The committee reviewed the December 5, 2017 Draft Meeting Minutes. Item 7.1 Agenda Items for next meeting was corrected to remove the duplicated text “Exam validation update.” The committee moved to approve the meeting minutes as corrected. Committee members voted in favor of approving the December 5, 2017 meeting minutes as corrected.

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


Ms. Weed shared that Goal 1C – Review jurisprudence exam and WA State licensing exam per policies will be reviewed this year.

Committee members discussed whether to create a subcommittee for outreach and education. The committee will hold off on creating an outreach subcommittee since several of the current committee members terms will be expiring this year and new members will be appointed.

Ms. Weed asked members to email her with any updates or changes to the 2017 – 2019 Business Plan.

2.2 **Rules Update** – Ms. Weed provided members with a rules update. Ms. Weed shared that rules regarding legend drugs and devices was in a holding pattern. Per statute, the committee must consult with the Medical Quality Assurance Commission (MQAC) and the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (PQAC). The meeting with MQAC is scheduled for May 4, 2018 and a meeting with the PQAC will be held shortly after that. The committee shared concerns that the meeting with PQAC be scheduled soon since several of the current MAC members may no longer be on the committee due to their terms expiring.

2.3 **Recruitment update, member terms** – Ms. Weed reported that she has sent out a recruitment for two physicians and one licensed midwife. She has received a few applications. The recruitment closes soon and she anticipates conducting interviews at the end of March. She invited members interested in participating on the interview panel to let her know. Ms. Lewis shared she would like to be included on the interview panel for the physician positions.

2.4 **Birth Center statistics** – Ms. Weed provided members statistics regarding birth centers. There are 18 active birth centers. The department has received three complaints on birth centers from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The department doesn’t track ownership of birth centers, so it is unclear if they are hospital owned or privately. Community Health Systems, Office of Facilities receives birth center complaints.
Members discussed how the committee could form an education bridge between birth centers and the Office of Facilities. Ms. Fischer shared her recent experience that lead her to think that there were a lot of areas where staff working within the Office of Facilities, Construction Review needed clarification on birth centers. Ms. Fischer shared that this may be an opportunity for the MAC to help, and suggested inviting a representative from the Facilities office to attend the MAC meetings. Another suggestion included designating someone to act as a liaison.

Committee members discussed adding a goal to the Business Plan to address this. Ms. Donovan-Batson made a motion to add a goal to the Business Plan to develop a relationship with the Office of Facilities Birth Center Program and its Inspectors within the Construction Review Division to provide regular updates, information, and on-going communications regarding birth centers. The motion was seconded and the committee voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Weed will update the Business Plan and bring back to the committee for review at the next meeting.

3. PRESENTATION ON THE ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE  – Information included committee authority and work plan. Kathy Weed, Program Manager provided information to the committee. She shared a letter received from the Washington Alliance for Responsible Midwifery (WARM). The letter contained a list of midwifery issues derived from surveys and feedback from its members and non-members.

Ms. Weed shared that the midwifery advisory committee’s role is to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Health on issues including, but not limited to, continuing education, mandatory re-examination, and peer review. In recent years the MAC has worked on program issues such as:

- Licensing standards: MEAC, exams, expired to active, renewal requirements
- Discipline trends: PROM, charting
- Legend drugs
- Birth assistants
- Rule writing advice

Ms. Weed shared that the MAC does not have the authority over midwifery scope of practice, reimbursement rates, and the composition of the committee. In addition, since the committee’s purpose is to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary they don’t have the authority to write a letter to the department to request legislative changes. This would be the committee taking their own action and would fall outside of their statutory authority.

Ms. Weed reported that the letter she received from WARM had been forwarded to the Secretary for his consideration. The committee suggested staff respond to the letter from WARM. Ms. Weed will work with Ms. McWilliams, AAG in consultation with a committee member to draft a response.
4. **PRESENTATION ON STATE LICENSING EXAM** – Constance Frey, Committee Chair provided information to the committee. Ms. Frey reported that the subcommittee had met to work on the state licensing exam. The subcommittee discussed test validity, reviewed exam questions, and drafted new questions as needed. The subcommittee discussed creating an exam study guide to provide to candidates. Ms. Frey shared the subcommittee’s desire for a quality assurance program and test analytics. The subcommittee suggested a database of questions be developed to identify questions frequently missed on the exam.

Ms. Frey asked about the possibility of a line item in budget to cover the cost of exam validation. Ms. Crawford shared that the line item could be requested but the authority to raise fees to cover the cost is not within the department’s authority. The licensure fees have been capped by the legislature.

5. **CONSENT AGENDA** – There were no items placed on the consent agenda for the committee to review at this time.

6. **MEETING WRAP UP AND ADJOURNMENT**

6.1 **Agenda Items for next meeting** – The committee discussed adding the following items to future meeting agendas:
- Updated Business Plan
- Update on meeting with the Medical Commission regarding legend drugs and devices
- Exam subcommittee update
- Budget update to include costs related to discipline and investigations
- New member recruitment update

6.2 **Action items/meeting minutes emailed and reviewed**
- New member recruitment

7.3 **Next meeting location** – The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2018 and will be held in Kent. Updated meeting information will be posted to the Midwifery webpage.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The committee adjourned at 10:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: ____________________________

Approved: ____________________________

Kathy Weed
Program Manager

Constance Frey, Chair
Midwifery Advisory Committee

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