



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 10:00 AM AKDT
@ Zoom Videoconference

1. Call to Order

A. Roll Call

- i. The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives board meeting was called to order on Wednesday, September 4, 2024, by chair Bethel Belisle at 10:02 am.
- ii. Board members present: Bethel Belisle, Chair; Hannah St. George, Darcy Lucey, Holly Steiner.
- iii. Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1; Sara Chambers, Boards and Regulations Advisor, Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3 Advanced, Melissa Dumas, Administrative Operations Manager 1, and Christina Bond, Investigator 3.
- iv. Quorum established. 4 of 4 appointed board members present. One vacant seat available since March, 2023 on this board - a physician licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who has an obstetrical practice or has specialized training in obstetrics.
- v. Public present: Maddy Grimes, CDM - [Midwives Association of Alaska](#) joined the meeting at 10:19 am.

B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Each board member declared no conflict of interest to report.

C. Accept Agenda

Darcy Lucey moved to accept the agenda for the September 4, 2024, Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Hannah St. George. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

No public comment given.

3. Board Administrative Business

A. Board Reappointment/Recruitment

- Darcy Lucey - 3/1/2025
- Physician seat - vacant since 3/1/2023

Ms. Lucey expressed her intent to seek reappointment in March 2025. Staff to assist with process and suggested language for Boards and Commissions. The physician seat has been open since March 2023, and a notice has been posted on the program website. The board discussed potential outreach opportunities to recruit for open physician's seat. Pros/cons of options to obtain best qualified individual were discussed.

Action Items:

1. Bethel Belisle to work with Midwives Association of Alaska to write letter of recruitment for open board seat.
2. Bethel Belisle to contact designated individual with OB Hospital Group at Providence for assistance in reaching out regarding open board seat.

B. Strategic Planning - (Tools for potential session)

Strategic planning materials provided as resources for future meeting planning session.

C. MID Fee Analysis + Recommendation for 2025/2027 Renewal

Melissa Dumas, AOM1, joined the meeting and gave an overview of the anticipated revenue and expenses of the board. This board has seen lower expenses because the Deputy Director and Boards and Regulations Advisor have been staffing the program, and their costs have been attributed through indirect costs, not directly charged to the program. With licensing staff now issuing licenses and providing board support directly, as well as the recent reclassification of licensing examiners and a 20% reduction in applicants since 2019, it was Ms. Dumas's recommendation that licensing fees not be reduced for this renewal cycle. She advised to stay the course now so a large fee increase is not necessary next cycle. Renewal fees will remain at \$2800.00 for the March 31, 2025, expiration date, with the renewal cycle opening late January 2025.

D. Set Next Meeting Date(s)

The board discussed needs for meetings for the remainder of 2024 as well as the 2025 calendar year.

- Investigative Group Training - Thursday, October 10, 2024 - 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm - virtual meeting
- Introduction of legislation updated HB 175 plus board sunset bill - Wednesday, October 30, 2024 - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm - virtual meeting
- Strategic Planning - table to discuss in 2025
- No February 2025 meeting date scheduled; however, a potential in-person meeting was included in annual report.

Action Items:

Staff will set up public notices for the board meetings for October 10, 2024, and October 30, 2024, as discussed.

The board discussed creating a work group with licensees to review their proposed legislation previously introduced in HB175 and make recommendations to the board for modifications.

Motion made by Darcy Lucey to create a work group to review the previous legislation HB 175 and make recommendations for changes to the board. The work group will include Bethel Belisle and Holly Steiner and include 2 delegates appointed by the Midwives Association of Alaska. Motion seconded by Hannah St. George. All in favor; none opposed. The motion passes unanimously.

The work group will meet before the October 30, 2024, scheduled board meeting.

Action Item:

Bethel Belisle and Holly Steiner will coordinate scheduling the legislative work group meeting through staff.

4. Meet and Greet with Director Sylvan Robb

Director Robb was unexpectedly called away and unavailable to attend the meeting. She will be invited to attend the next board meeting.

5. Legislative Discussion

- Next Steps for Board Legislation
 - o Strategies and timeline for reviewing [former HB 175](#)
 - o Additional possible statute change proposals
- Executive Session for Legislative Audit Update

Legislative discussion on strategies and potential statutory changes to HB175 was tabled to the next meeting on October 30, 2024, after the work group meets.

6. Regulations

A. Review Regulation Wishlist

The board briefly discussed potential regulation changes brought forward by division staff and which the board had discussed at previous board meetings.

1. Remove continuing education requirements no longer applicable in 12 AAC 14.120(b)(8)
2. Clarify "in good standing" in 12 AAC 14.130(g)
3. Eliminate 12 AAC 14.210(a)(5)
4. Consider whether 12 AAC 14.210(a)(2) is consistent with the board's desire for all preceptors to hold NARM certification.
5. Clarify period of time to retain records in 12 AAC 14.445
6. Consider aligning supervisor requirements across all sections of regulations.
7. Consider allowing midwives to delegate certain routine practices to unlicensed personnel. A statute change may be required to add the ability for licensees to delegate services to unlicensed personnel.
8. Update peer review requirements to include review of Reports of Client Death.

Action Item:

Darcy Lucey to review Regulation Wishlist in depth, prioritize, and make recommendations to the board at their October 30, 2024, meeting.

- Adopt regulations project to make recommended changes
- Hold on any regulations changes until statutory changes are made with a new version of HB175
- Identify any further research/clarification needed to move forward with regulations changes

Short 5 minute break taken. Recording stopped at 11:50 am. Recording resumed at 11:55 am.

7. Investigations (Presenter: Christina Bond)

Christina Bond, Investigator 3, joined the meeting and informed the board there were no investigative cases to report May 15, 2024, through August 19, 2024. This includes cases, complaints, and intake matters handled since the last report.

8. Next Steps

Action Items:

1. Bethel Belisle will work with the Midwives Association of Alaska to write a letter publicizing recruitment for the open board seat.
2. Bethel Belisle will contact the designated individual with the OB Hospital Group at Providence for assistance in reaching out regarding the open board seat.
3. Staff will set up public notices for the board meetings October 10, 2024, and October 30, 2024.
4. Bethel Belisle and Holly Steiner will coordinate scheduling legislative work group meetings through staff. The work group meeting will be held before the next board meeting October 30, 2024.
5. Darcy Lucey to review Regulation Wishlist in depth, prioritize, and make recommendations to the board at their October 30, 2024, meeting.
 - Adopt regulations project to make recommended changes
 - Hold on any regulations changes until statutory changes are made with a new version of HB175
 - Identify any further research/clarification needed to move forward with regulations changes

9. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Darcy Lucey. Seconded by Holly Steiner. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am on Wednesday, September 4, 2024.

Next meetings are scheduled for Thursday, October 10, 2024, at 12:00 pm for Investigative Training and Wednesday, October 30, 2024, for a regular board meeting.

Minutes approved October 30, 2024 by unanimous board vote.