



Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Meeting Minutes

Alaska Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at 12:00 PM AKST – 1:30 PM AKST
@ 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, November 27, 2024, by chair Bethel Belisle at 12:02 Pm.
- ii. Board members present: Bethel Belisle, Chair; Holly Steiner and Darcy Lucey.
- iii. Staff present: Reid Bowman, Program Coordinator 2; Shane Bannarbie, Program Coordinator 1; and Sheri Ryan, Licensing Examiner 3 Advanced.
- iv. Quorum established. 3 of 3 appointed board members present. Two vacant seats available on this board - public member available since November 1, 2024 and physician seat available since March, 2023. Physician seat required to be licensed by the Alaska State Medical Board who has an obstetrical practice or has specialized training in obstetrics.
- v. Public present: Susan Terwilliger, licensed Midwife

B. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest

Each board member present declared no conflict of interest to report.

C. Accept Agenda

Holly Steiner moved to accept the agenda for the November 27, 2024 Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Darcy Lucey. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Approve Minutes

Darcy Lucey moved to accept the minutes from the October 30, 2024 Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives meeting as written. Motion seconded by Holly Steiner. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Public Comment

Public comment opened 12:09 pm. Susan Terwilliger, licensed midwife been in practice 36 years in practice, 19 years in practice in Chugiak/Eagle River area. She does home births in Mat-Su Valley, Anchorage bowl gave public comment. Ms. Terwilliger urged the board not to adopt any statutory/regulatory language that would box in who can or cannot assist the licensed midwife as she fel it ws unneeded since the the responsibility of what happens at the birth is on the licensee. If the licensed midwife has someone there to help her, the actions of that helper are the responsibility of the midwife. Any language that would imply in any way that an assistant, or if there even is an assistant, needs to be quote "licensed or deemed qualified" according to this board or a board in the future does not rest with the reality of attending out of hospital births.

No other public comment given. Public comment period ended 12:12 pm.

3. Notice Regarding Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery - Draft

Board members reviewd the draft prepared on Notice Regarding Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery. Discussion regarding language in the notice. The board wants to clarify that at no time has anyone on the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives ever suggested that statutory or regulatory language was being considered for introduction for a second person to be required in attendance at a birth as there appears to be a misunderstanding from public comment on the October 30 and today's meeting.

Board discussed modifying the Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery Notice. Decision to remove "often called birthkeepers or birth assistants" passage entirely. Update draft to "Adopted by the Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives on November 27, 2024" meeting date" instead of 10/30/2024 meeting date. Remove wording "Please note that social media and other private platforms are not an official way to engage with state boards or conduct state business."

Darcy Lucey motioned to publish as corrected the Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery Notice. Motion seconded by Holly Steiner. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Items:

1. Updated Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery Notice to be posed on Midwives website.
2. Staff to collect statutory and regulatory language on delegation of services from AK Medical Board and Nursing Board.

4. Regulations

Board reviewed Regulations “Cleanup” Changes document from 10/30/2024.

#1 eliminated.

#2 – Clarify “in good standing” – agreed to changes as suggested. (**now #1**) - The board chose to add the “in good standing” definition to 12 AAC.14.990 as item 7, and keep the definition listed in Section 2. “In good standing” means: “(7) A license that is not conditioned, limited, or restricted in any way. Discipline may have been present in the past but has been resolved and any terms satisfied”. 12 AAC 14.130(g) will remain the same.

#3 – eliminated.

#4 – eliminated.

#5 – Clarify period of time to retain records in 12 AAC 14.445.(**now #2**). Updated wording to include “of participation”. Peer review should never include patient records - only that the review occurred:

12 AAC 14.445. Peer review. (g) A certified direct-entry midwife is responsible for maintaining adequate and detailed records of peer review participation performed under (a) of this section and of a case submitted under (b) of this section and shall make the records **of participation** available to the board upon request.

#6 – Consider aligning supervisor requirements across all sections of regulations – tabled to next meeting for discussion. (**now #3**)

#7 – eliminated

#8 – Update peer review requirements to include review of Reports of Client Death – (**now #4**). It was settled to not remove 12 AAC 14.540(f), but instead edited to read:

12 AAC 14.540(f) Not later than 3 days after the delivery or transfer of care of a client for whom a certified direct-entry midwife had primary responsibility, the certified direct-entry midwife shall report to the Department of Health as required in AS 08.65.140 (3) if that client died.

Motion by Darcy Lucey to initiate a regulations project regarding 12 AAC 14.990; 12 AAC 14.540(f) and 12 AAC 14.445 by approving the language in the Regulations Clean up document from 11-27-2024 for public comment, unless substantive changes are made by the regulations specialist or Department of Law. Seconded by Holly Steiner. All in favor; none opposed. Motion passes unanimously.

Action Items:

Bethel Belisle to complete Opening Questionnaire for Regulations Specialist. Staff to forward form to Chair Belisle.

Board member Darcy Lucey left the meeting at 1:13 pm. Board meeting lost quorum.

5. Legislative Discussion

- Committee Report/Recommendations
- Next Steps for Board Legislation
 - HB175 reintroduce + Sponsor(s)
 - Add placeholder language in HB175 for Sunset Bill

No discussion held on this topic. First day of 2025 AK Legislative session 01/21/2025.
Tabled for next meeting.

6. Board Administrative Business

A. Set Next Meeting Date(s)

Next meet scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm as long as no conflicts with Ms. Lucey. Staff to confirm availability and schedule.

7. Next Steps

1. Staff to post approved 10/30/2024 board meeting minutes on website.
2. Staff to update Notice Regarding Unlicensed Practice of Midwifery as discussed 11-27-24 and post on website.
3. Regulations Clean-up - "aligning supervisor requirements across all sections of regulations" tabled to next board meeting.
4. Staff to forward Regulations Opening Questionnaire to Bethel Belisle for completion for 12 AAC 14.990; 12 AAC 14.540(f) and 12 AAC 14.445 changes as discussed.
5. Staff to collect statutory and regulatory language on delegation of services from AK Medical Board and AK Nursing Board.
6. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 - 9:00 am - 12:00 pm.

8. Adjourn

The Board of Certified Direct-Entry Midwives Board meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm on Wednesday, November 27, 2024 as member Darcy Lucey left at 1:13 pm and the meeting lost quorum. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 8, 2025 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Approved by unanimous board vote January 8, 2025.