

DIRECT-ENTRY MIDWIFERY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

APRIL 14, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. by Alexa Richardson, Chair. Those present were Jan Kriebs, Harold Fox, Julia Perkins, Kai Parker, Jessica Watkins, Sarah Pendley, Board Counsel; Shirley Devaris, Ann Tyminski, and Sharon Allen. Absent was Elizabeth Reiner.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 10 Committee meeting were reviewed and approved with minor corrections.

Continuing Education

Ms. Richardson and Ms. Kriebs presented a list of organizations which may offer acceptable continuing education for direct-entry midwives. Continuing education for direct-entry midwives must be directly relevant to the practice of midwifery. Ms. Devaris questioned why courses offered by an accredited college or university that would be relevant to the practice of direct-entry midwifery were not listed. The Committee agreed to that addition. As discussion progressed, the Committee added the following to the list: ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists); AANP (American Association of Naturopathic Physicians); ANCC (American Nurses Credentialing Center) for courses directly relevant to practice of direct-entry midwifery.

For the October 28, 2017 renewal of presently licensed DEMs, the Committee will review the continuing education. Continuing education presented with the initial license for two years prior to October, 2017 will be acceptable for the renewal application. On a motion made and voted, the Committee will present the updated list of continuing education organizations to the Board of Nursing for approval at its May meeting.

An e-mail sent by Wild Iris, a continuing education provider, said certain of their courses listed on the application for DEMs were no longer being given or were outdated. The Committee voted to remove courses from the website, and in its place refer the applicant to e-mail the Board office to obtain an updated list of approved continuing education organizations. Mrs. Tyminski will prepare a request that the BON concur and present the list at the BON's May meeting.

There was further discussion regarding required education for licensure of DEMs. Ms. Devaris suggested that a focus group be formed to clarify acceptable education.

Filing of Home Birth Information for Birth Certificates

The Emergency Bill that requires the exact same process for filing birth certificate information from institutions to apply to births occurring outside an institution passed quickly through both houses of the legislature. However, on April 6, 2017, a process that does not concur with the recently passed Bill, was disseminated by Vital Records to all attending clinicians. The attending clinicians were defined as a physician, nurse midwife, or direct-entry midwife in charge of a birth outside an institution. This new procedure made the process of registering births even more cumbersome than the previous process. There is no ability to file electronically, rather, Vital Records wants to receive information via U.S. mail or in person. Ms. Devaris explained it is all part of growing pains for the DEMs, that Vital Records is concerned about fraudulent filing of birth certificates.

It was reported that the Associations are taking the lead in resolving the matter with the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene. There is a meeting scheduled with the Deputy Director of Public Health. The Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee was advised that it is not their role to try to resolve the issue within the Department. In the meanwhile, births occurring outside an institution must be filed according to the present directive.

Renewal Application

Mrs. Tyminski explained the Board will not renew the DEMs licenses electronically. There are not a sufficient number of them to warrant programming the renewal application electronically. She has requested Ms. Pendley to review the marked-up version of the electrology license renewal application. The Committee will review it at its May meeting and then it will be sent for printing as a rush order so that it will be available 3 months prior to the renewal date.

Professionalism

Ms. Devaris passed out the section of the statute that refers to the duties of the Committee. Now that DEMs are licensed professionals, the Committee members' roles have transitioned from advocating for the profession to providing direction to licensed DEMs, resolving issues that come before the Committee, protection of the public, etc. She pointed out that it is a fine line to travel and involves a learning process for all members of Committees and Boards as they learn when it is appropriate to share information that is discussed at Committee meetings. She cautioned them to stay within their scope. One example of problem areas would be holding an official position in the professional association and serving on a Board or Committee. The open session of the Committee can be attended by the public, and minutes of the open sessions are available once they have been approved by the Committee.

Unlicensed Practice

Mrs. Tyminski reminded the Committee that there are currently only 7 licensed DEMs and practicing without a license in Maryland is against the law. The consensus was that most probably more DEMs will not seek licensure until after the October 28, 2017 renewal period.

The hope certainly is that there will not be complaints filed against these unlicensed Direct-Entry Midwives.

Renewal Date

The group that had threatened to attend the April DEMs meeting did not appear. The anger regarding the upcoming October renewal date seems to have diminished.

House Bill 518

during pregnancy. The Committee felt that DEMs were already required to offer that testing.

Practice Act Review

As time was running out, the Committee decided that further review of the Practice Act would take place at its May 12, 2017 meeting. Ms. Allen was requested to send out a link to the statute via e-mail. Committee members were requested to review the Act thoroughly and to come to the meeting with suggestions for changes, corrections, etc. Ms. Devaris reported she would like to retire at year's end.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann E. Tyminski, Administrator

Sharon Allen, Administrative Specialist