

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee
Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215
Open Session Committee Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2022

NAME	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Committee Members			
Jessica Watkins	Committee member (Consumer) 1 st Term ended 12/31/2021; Reappointed by the Board to 2 nd term on 1/26/2022; 2 nd Term ends 12/31/2025	X	
Karen Webster, LDEM	Committee member (LDEM) Current Term ends 12/31/2022	X	
Brittany Coffman, LDEM	Committee member (LDEM) Appointed by the Board to the Committee on 1/26/2022; 1 st Term ends 1/31/2026	X	
Jan Kriebs, CNM	Committee member (CNM) 2 nd Term ends 12/31/2022		X
Roxann Gordon, CNM	Committee member (CNM) 1 st Term ends 12/31/2024	X	
Dr. Monica Buescher, MD	Committee member (MHA Representative) Appointed by the Board to the Committee on 1/26/2022; 1 st Term ends 1/31/2026		X
Vacant (LDEM)	A replacement for this LDEM position on the Committee by the Board is pending		
Board Staff			
Michael Conti, AAG	Board Counsel		X
Margaret Lankford, AAG	Board Counsel	X	
Monica Mentzer	Manager of Practice, Board Staff	X	
Additional Board Staff			
Iman Farid	Health Policy Analyst	X	
Guests:			

Subject	Responsible Party	Action Item/Discussion	Results
<p>1. Call to Order</p>	<p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Ms. Karen Webster volunteered to lead the Committee meeting today. There were 4 Committee members present, meeting the requirement for a quorum.</p> <p>1. Ms. Jessica Watkins; 2. Ms. Brittany Coffman; 3. Ms. Karen Webster; and 4. Ms. Roxann Gordon.</p> <p>The meeting was held via conference call and the call-in information and agenda were posted on the Board's website.</p>	<p>At 10:20 a.m., a motion was made by Karen Webster, and seconded by Jessica Watkins, to call the meeting to order. The motion passed; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
<p>2. Minutes – Review and approval of the February 4, 2022 open session meeting minutes</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer, (Board staff member)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee members with the February 4, 2022 open session meeting minutes for review and discussion.</p> <p>In discussion, Committee members reviewed the February 4, 2022 open session meeting minutes.</p> <p>The Committee did not note any changes necessary in its discussion of the February 4, 2022 open session meeting minutes.</p>	<p>A motion was made to accept and approve the February 4, 2022 open session meeting minutes by Jessica Watkins. The motion was seconded by Brittany Coffman. There were no abstentions and none opposed. The motion carried to accept and approve the February 4, 2022 open session minutes.</p>
<p>3. Committee member assignments – discussion regarding election of Committee Chairperson</p>	<p>Margaret Lankford, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee of the statutory provision governing election of officers for the Committee. The Maryland Annotated Code, Health Occupations Article, Section 8-6C-11(f) provides that: "The Committee shall elect a chair from among its members to a 2-year term."</p>	<p>After discussion, the consensus of the Committee was to table this topic for further review and discussion at the next Committee meeting.</p>

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	<p>Jessica Watkins (Committee member)</p> <p>Roxann Gordon, CNM (Committee member)</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Watkins commented that she recalls that, when the Committee last elected a chairperson, the Committee members believed that the chairperson elected should be a licensed direct-entry midwife (LDEM) member of the Committee.</p> <p>Ms. Gordon agreed with Ms. Watkins that the Committee should consider again electing a LDEM member of the Committee as its chairperson.</p> <p>The Committee members asked for clarification of their terms of service as this information may impact who they consider electing to the Chair position.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford further advised to the Committee of the statutory provisions governing the Committee members' terms. The Maryland Annotated Code, Health Occupations Article, Section 8-6c-11(g)(1), (3), (4), and (5) specifically provide that: (1) the term of a member is 4 years; (2) at the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies; (3) a member who is appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed and qualifies; and (4) a member may not serve more than two consecutive full terms.</p>	

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	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff member)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer updated the Committee members that the Board sent a letter to the President of Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (AIMM) from Ms. Karen E. Evans, Executive Director of the Board, dated January 27, 2022, requesting that AIMM provide the Board with additional names of potential candidates that meet all of the criteria for a potential appointment to the Committee for the Board to consider, in accordance with the Maryland Annotated Code of Maryland, Health Occupations Article, Section 8-6c-11(b)(3)(ii), which provides that the Board may request an additional list of qualified individuals from AIMM if the initial list is determined to be inadequate. The Board requested an additional list of potential candidates be submitted to the Board from the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland to fill the LDEM position for Ms. Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM.</p> <p>The Board did not provide for an appointment to fill the position for an LDEM to replace Ms. Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM, whose term expired on 12/31/2021. In addition, Ms. Reiner is no longer eligible to continue as a member of the Committee, until the Board appoints a member who is an LDEM to the Committee.</p>	

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		<p>Ms. Mentzer also updated the Committee members regarding an email response received from the newly appointed Committee member, Dr. Monica Buescher, MD. In this e-mail, Dr. Buescher advised that she will be able to change her clinic schedule to accommodate the dates of the Committee meetings beginning in July, 2022. Ms. Mentzer reported that she shared this information with Ms. Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director at the Maryland Board of Nursing.</p>	
<p>4. COMAR 10.64.02 Code of Ethics for Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives posting link on the Maryland Board of Nursing website</p> <p>5. Review of the currently approved Maryland Annual Data Collection form and discussion of terms requiring Definitions</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p> <p>Monica Mentzer, Board Staff</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer notified the Committee members that the link to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), Title 10, Subtitle 64, Chapter 02 Code of Ethics for Licensed Direct-Entry Midwives has been posted on the Maryland Board of Nursing website for easy reference for all LDEMs and other members of the public to review.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee members with a copy of the currently approved “Annual Data Collection form” to review and discuss. Pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-10, LDEMs must complete this form, as approved by the Board, on an annual basis, addressing specific questions set forth in § 8-6C-10. This form is posted on the Maryland Board of Nursing website.</p>	<p>No action is required by the Committee at this time.</p> <p>The Committee members opined that it is necessary to make the changes to clarify certain terms on the form. The Committee members discussed and reviewed each term on the Annual Data Collection form that they believe will need to be clarified with a Definition Sheet to accompany the form.</p>

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	<p>Jessica Watkins (Committee consumer member)</p> <p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member)</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>The Committee members reviewed each item listed on the Annual Data Collection form beginning with number 1 – through number 10 to determine which terms need definitions.</p> <p>Discussion on Question #1:The Committee members agreed the term “Onset of Care” needs a clarified definition to accurately capture “How many clients did you care for as the primary caregiver?”</p> <p>Ms. Coffman, LDEM, raised the scenario of a client miscarrying at 10 weeks after an LDEM first sees them between 4 to 10 weeks.</p> <p>The Committee also discussed whether, and to what extent, Question #1 should capture clients that the LDEM may serve outside of Maryland, if only for a portion of their care. Committee members raised various scenarios, including in their own practice, highlighting the difficulty in determining the geographical scope of the data that this annual report needs to capture.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee that the Board, including the Committee, has jurisdiction when an LDEM, licensed and/or practicing in Maryland, provides any care to</p>	<p>Ms. Jessica Watkins will check if the files that she used to work on the form the last time the document was updated are available to her to assist with the Committee’s review and revision process at the next Committee meeting.</p> <p>The Committee members will need to mull over the discussion and bring to the next meeting any further identification of the issues discussed today in preparation for the Committee members to review and discuss final revisions to the form.</p>

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	<p>Jessica Watkins (Committee member)</p> <p>Margaret Lankford, AAG (Board Counsel)</p> <p>Jessica Watkins</p>	<p>any individual within the State of Maryland. Ms. Lankford agreed to follow-up with Mr. Michael Conti, to see if he has any additional information to clarify the geographical scope of Question #1.</p> <p>Ms. Watkins commented that she believes that the intent of the annual data collection is to include outcomes of home births and what is occurring in the State of Maryland regarding home births with LDEMs.</p> <p>Ms. Lankford advised the Committee regarding the specific statutory language governing this annual reporting requirement. Specifically, Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-10(a) provides that a LDEM must report to the Committee “the following information regarding <i>cases in which the licensed direct-entry midwife assisted during the previous fiscal year when the intended place of birth at the onset of care was an out-of-hospital setting.</i>” (Emphasis added). Ms. Lankford advised that this language does not specify whether the LDEM’s care or the out-of-hospital setting must be within Maryland or in another state or the District of Columbia to be included in this annual report.</p> <p>Ms. Watkins recalled the last time the Committee updated the Annual Data Collection form, in 2019, that she was</p>	

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	<p>(Committee member)</p> <p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff member)</p> <p>Roxann Gordon, CNM (Committee member)</p>	<p>instrumental in drafting the word document for the Committee. Therefore, she may have a copy for the Committee to use in making any revisions, as well as a history of revisions the Committee made previously.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer commented that the clients are required to sign an informed consent to establish care with a client and that when the client signs the informed consent, could that not be considered as establishing the onset of care with the LDEM?</p> <p>Ms. Gordon agreed that obtaining the signature of the client on the required informed consent is the onset of care. Many LDEMs to practice in other states but that the information collected on the Annual Data Collection form should be capturing information for Maryland clients.</p> <p>Discussion on Questions #2 – 3: The Committee agreed that the terminology in these questions did not require any further definition or clarification.</p> <p>Discussion on Questions #4 – 7: The Committee reviewed and discussed the reasons for transfers in these questions and whether the addition of the word “primary” reason for the transfer, or other language, would notify the LDEM</p>	

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	<p>Jessica Watkins (Committee consumer member)</p>	<p>completing the form to choose only one of the listed reasons. If there are multiple reasons, the Committee noted that the LDEM may choose the option “based on the LDEM’s clinical assessment” of the client needing to be transferred.</p> <p>Discussion of Question #8: Ms. Watkins noted that the Committee may want to consider clarification on this question to capture data regarding clients who entered care with a LDEM, but did not complete and deliver a baby during this reporting period.</p> <p>The Committee noted that such clarification may be helpful to account for the number of clients who are still receiving on-going care by a LDEM, in addition to the currently identified information collected under Question #8.</p> <p>Discussion on Question #9: The Committee agreed that the terminology in this question did not require any further definition or clarification. The Committee reviewed this question and noted it is correct as is, requesting a brief description for further information for the specific codes identified to address in more detail any complications resulting in the morbidity or mortality of a mother or neonate.</p>	

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<p>6. Review of the 2nd Quarter FY '22 Quarterly Report to the Board</p> <p>7. Reminder to complete Financial Disclosures to the</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer, (Board Staff)</p>	<p>The Committee noted that the Form contains an additional page (page 13), which provides a place for the LDEM to have an opportunity to provide any other additional information, as the LDEM believes is necessary, to the Committee and the Board in their in Annual Data Collection Report.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer noted that the Committee's statutory duties in reviewing these annual reports are to provide a summary of the data contained in these annual reports to the Board and maintain the confidentiality of each individual report received. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. §§ 8-6C-10(d) and 8-6C-12(b), (c).</p>	<p>There is no action required by the Committee at this time regarding the 2nd Quarter FY '22 Quarterly Report to the Board.</p> <p>All Committee members should submit their required 2021 Financial Disclosure Statements to the State Ethics</p>
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the 2nd Quarter FY '22 Quarterly Report to the Board for review and discussion. The Committee members did not recommend there be any changes to the document. Ms. Mentzer further noted that quarterly reports to the Board were tabled in January 2022 with a date yet to be determined to resume presentation of the Quarterly Reports to the Board.</p>	
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer reminded the Committee members of their obligation to complete and submit their annual financial disclosure forms (for calendar year 2021) to the</p>	

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<p>State Ethics Commission</p> <p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>Karen Webster, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Maryland State Ethics Commission before the due date of April 30, 2022.</p> <p>Each Committee member should have received an e-mail from the State Ethics Commission to complete the requirement and if there are any questions regarding the information required to be submitted, the Committee member may contact the State Ethics Commission directly for clarification or further assistance.</p> <p>At 12:04 p.m., the meeting was adjourned.</p> <p>The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 1, 2022.</p>	<p>Commission before the due date of April 30, 2022.</p> <p>At 12:04 p.m., a motion was made by Karen Webster, LDEM, to close the open session meeting. The motion was seconded by Brittany Coffman, LDEM. The motion to adjourn the open session meeting carried; there were none opposed and no abstentions.</p>