

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes February 2, 2024
Approved by the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee on April 5, 2024

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee
Maryland Board of Nursing
4140 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215

Open Session Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2024

NAME	TITLE	PRESENT	ABSENT
Committee Members			
Paige Barocca, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: June 22, 2022 – December 31, 2025	X	
Tess Brody, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2026	X	
Brittany Coffman, LDEM	Licensed Direct-Entry Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: January 26, 2022 – December 31, 2025	X	
Dr. Mairi Breen Rothman, CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife Member 1 st Four-Year Term: January 31, 2023 – January 31, 2027	X	
	Certified Nurse Midwife Member (VACANT)		
Dr. Ann B. Burke, M.D.	Representative of Maryland Hospital Association Member, 1 st Four-Year Term: January 31, 2022 – December 31, 2026 Note: Vacancy because prior member resigned. A member appointed after a term has begun serves only for the rest of the term and until a successor is appointed. Md. Code Ann., Health Occ. § 8-6C-11(g)(4).	X	
Jessica Watkins	Consumer Member 2 nd Four-Year Term: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2025	X	
Board Staff			
Monica Mentzer	Manager of Practice, Maryland Board of Nursing	X	
Board Counsel			
Carla Boyd	Assistant Attorney General	X	
Katherine Cummings	Assistant Attorney General		X
Michael Conti	Assistant Attorney General		X
Guests (Members of Public), if Applicable			

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Elizabeth Reiner, LDEM		X	
Caitlyn McDonough	Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland , and the Maryland Families for Safe Birth	X	
Karen Carr, LDEM		X	
Dianna Shu	Maryland Hospital Association	X	
Hadaffah Bellot		X	

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
1. Call to Order	Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)	<p>Brittany Coffman volunteered to lead the meeting in the absence of Roxann Gordon, CNM, who submitted email notification of resignation, on February 1, 2024, effective date February 1, 2024. Ms. Coffman requested a motion to call the February 2, 2024, Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session meeting to order.</p> <p>The following Committee members were present at the time the meeting was called to order, sufficient for a quorum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brittany Coffman, LDEM' 2. Tess Brody, LDEM; 3. Paige Barocca, LDEM; 4. Jessica Watkins; and 5. Dr. Ann Burke, MD. 	Brittany Coffman, LDEM, called the February 2, 2024, Committee meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.
	Monica Mentzer (Board staff)	The meeting was held via conference call and the call-in information and agenda were posted on the Board's website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.	Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved, and Tess Brody, LDEM, seconded, to approve the January 5, 2024, Open Session

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<p>2. Review and approval of the January 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the January 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes for review and discussion.</p> <p>Following the Committee’s review and discussion of the January 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, the Committee voted to approve the January 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, as written.</p> <p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM, and Committee member, joined the Committee meeting.</p>	<p>Committee meeting minutes, as written. The motion passed unanimously; there were no objections and no abstentions.</p>
<p>3. Review of an Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery, received by the Board, from Heather A. Walker</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p> <p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery received by the Board from Heather A. Walker on January 11, 2024, for the Committee to review and discuss.</p> <p>Brittany Coffman assisted the Committee with the review and discussion of Heather Walker’s Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery, page by page, and Ms. Mentzer assisted the Committee with utilizing the Initial Direct-Entry Midwife Application Checklist – for Review and Recommendations for Approval, to review Heather Walker’s Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery.</p>	

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<p>4. Review of Committee assignments: -Survey of surrounding states for fees/charges for initial and renewal Direct-Entry Midwifery Licenses</p> <p>-Subcommittee report</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p> <p>Tess Brody, LDEM (Committee member)</p> <p>Paige Barocca, LDEM (Committee member), Tess Brody, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with the report of a survey of surrounding states and jurisdictions (District of Columbia), of the fees/charges for initial and renewal applications for Direct-Entry Midwifery Licenses for states surrounding Maryland, submitted by Tess Brody, LDEM, for the Committee’s review and discussion. The survey report was requested by Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director at the Maryland Board of Nursing.</p> <p>It was noted by Ms. Brody that Maryland fees/charges for initial (\$900.00) applications for licensure to practice Direct-Entry Midwifery and renewal applications (\$800.00) for Direct-Entry Midwifery Licenses are significantly higher than the average for states and jurisdictions surrounding Maryland.</p> <p>Ms. Brody reports that the Subcommittee determined that most of the Direct-Entry Midwifery COMAR regulations are also in statute and that Maryland is one of the most restrictive when compared to other states and jurisdictions regarding the statutes and regulations governing the practice of licensed Direct-Entry Midwives.</p> <p>Ms. Brody and Ms. Bacocca reported the members of the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland continue to work with</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will provide the report of the survey of surrounding states and jurisdictions (District of Columbia) to Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, at the Maryland Board of Nursing.</p>

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<p>5. Review and discussion of HB 355 and SB 62</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p> <p>Caitlyn McDonough (Guest)</p>	<p>lobbyists on the legislative process, for any changes to the statutes to effect regulatory changes in the (COMAR) regulations.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of HB 355/SB 62 documents for review and discussion.</p> <p>Ms. McDonough provided the Committee with an update on the status of HB 355/SB 62 and provided notification to the Committee that the hearings scheduled were cancelled and that both bills have been withdrawn by the sponsors of the bills. The final status/action on the bills will be determined by vote today in the Maryland General Assembly.</p> <p>Ms. McDonough was asked when this occurred and reported to the Committee that the sponsors of the bills make their decision and met with Committees when the decision is made to withdraw a sponsored bill in the House and Senate.</p>	
<p>6. Public Business</p>	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)</p>	<p>There were no items to be addressed by the Committee from the audience or public present at today’s Committee meeting.</p>	

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<p>7. Upon completing the Open Session Agenda, the Committee expects to close the meeting in accordance with Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 3-305.</p>	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Coffman, LDEM. and Acting Chairperson, presiding over the Committee today, read the statement to close the Open Session Committee meeting to move the Committee into Closed Session, as required by Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 3-305.</p>	<p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, moved, and Tess Brody, LDEM, seconded, to move the Committee into Closed Session, at 10:38 a.m. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>
<p>8. Adjournment</p>	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)</p>	<p>Ms. Coffman moved to adjourn the February 2, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting at 11:34 a.m. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for March 1, 2024, beginning at 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM, moved and Paige Barocca, LDEM, seconded the motion, to adjourn the February 2, 2024, open session Committee meeting. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.</p>