

Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session Meeting Minutes May 3, 2024
Approved by the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee on June 7, 2024

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

Open Session Meeting Minutes
May 3, 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 and Chairperson 1 st Four-Year Term: January 31, 2023 – January 31, 2027	X	
Darcie Tough, CNM, MSN, RN	Certified Nurse Midwife Member – term expires December 31, 2024 (Appointment by the Board 3/27/2024 to fill vacancy 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	
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	

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Katherine Cummings	Assistant Attorney General		X
Michael Conti	Assistant Attorney General		X
Guest: (State of Maryland)			
Tiffani Shannon	Assistant Attorney General	X	
Guests (Members of Public), if Applicable			
Hadaffah Bellot, CPM		X	
Caitlyn McDonough	Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland (“AIMM”), and Maryland Center for Safe Births	X	
Marsha Jackson, CNM	Birth Care & Women’s Health, Alexandria, VA	X	
Martha Weaver, CNM	Birth Care & Women’s Health, Alexandria, VA	X	
Heather Walker	Direct-Entry Midwifery Applicant	X	
Dorothy Lee, CNM	Birth Care & Women’s Health, Alexandria, VA	X	
Elle Schnetzler, Midwife	Birth Care & Women’s Health, Alexandria, VA	X	
Shannon Serrano	Mercy Action College of Midwifery	X	

Agenda Item (Subject)	Responsible Party	Discussion	Results
1. Call to Order	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM, called the May 3, 2024, Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee Open Session meeting to order. The following Committee members were present at the time the meeting was called to order, sufficient for a quorum: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM; 2. Brittany Coffman, LDEM; 3. Paige Barocca, LDEM; 4. Darcie Tough, CNM; and 5. Jessica Watkins, Consumer member; and 6. Paige Barocca, LDEM. 	Dr. Mairi Rothman addressed calling the May 3, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

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<p>2. Maryland General Assembly 2024 Legislative Session updates (HB 119)</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD, Committee member, joined the Committee meeting after Roll Call occurred.</p>	
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of HB 119 Public Health – Giving Infants a Future Without Transmission (GIFT) Act, passes in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly, with an effective date of October 1, 2024, that is currently pending Governor Wes Moore’s signature, for review and discussion.</p>	
	<p>Carla Boyd, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Boyd provided an overview of the contents of HB 119 and provided the Committee members and opportunity to discuss the contents of HB 119, that passed the House and Senate chambers, and once enacted and effective, will have a direct impact on all health care providers that provide care for pregnant women and their infants in Maryland.</p>	
	<p>Brittany Coffman, LDEM (Committee member)</p>	<p>Ms. Brittany Coffman acknowledged that she is also certified as a physician assistant in Maryland and noted that laws that are passed in the Maryland General Assembly that have a direct</p>	

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	<p>Carla Boyd, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>impact on the practice of physician’s assistants are communicated to the physician’s assistants by the Maryland Board of Physicians Licensing Board that certifies physician assistants in Maryland. Ms. Coffman expressed concerns that the information in HB119, that directly impacts the clinical practice health care providers in Maryland that provide care for pregnant persons and their newborn infants in Maryland, is not specifically shared with the licensees and certificate holders, licensed and certified by the Maryland Board of Nursing, in an easily accessible format. Ms. Coffman asked who is the responsible authority for sharing this type of information to the licensed and or certified individuals who are licensed and regulated by the Maryland Board of Nursing?</p> <p>Ms. Boyd clarified that the regulatory authority who has authority over licensees and certificate holders in Maryland, may share this information directly with the licensees and certificate holders, in a format accessible to provide awareness of any laws that are passed in the Maryland General Assembly, following the close of the 2024 Legislative Session.</p> <p>Following further discussion by several of the Committee members, regarding the concern identified by Ms. Coffman, the Committee requested Ms. Mentzer, to provide information to</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer will prepare and send an email memorandum to Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive</p>

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	Monica Mentzer (Board staff)	Ms. Rhonda Scott, Executive Director, and to Dr. Camille Forbes-Scott, Deputy Director, in written format, to consider sharing information regarding the bills passed in the 2024 Legislative Session with licensees and certificate holders in an accessible format. The Committee requests a response to this information by the next scheduled Committee meeting, scheduled for June 7, 2024.	Director at the Maryland Board of Nursing, and Dr. Camille Forbes-Scott, Deputy Director of the Maryland Board of Nursing, requesting the Board provide a mechanism to share critical information to licensees and certificate holders, regarding HB119, passed in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session, in an accessible format. Ms. Mentzer will request that Ms. Scott, and Dr. Camille Forbes-Scott provide a response to the Committee regarding this their request by June 7, 2024, the date of the next scheduled Committee meeting.
3. Review and approval of the April 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes	Monica Mentzer (Board staff)	Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the April 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes for review.	

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4. Review and approval of the April 5, 2024, Closed Session Committee meeting minutes 2024, and Closed Session Committee meeting Summary	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)	Following the Committee’s review and discussion of the April 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, Dr. Rothman asked the Committee for a motion to approve the April 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, as written.	Ms. Tess Brody, LDEM, moved, and Paige Barocca, LDEM, seconded the motion to accept and approve the April 5, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting minutes, as written. There were none opposed, and one abstention. The motion carried.
	Tess Brody, LDEM (Committee member)		
	Paige Barocca, LDEM (Committee member)		
	Monica Mentzer (Board staff)	Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of the April 5, 2024, Closed Session Committee meeting minutes for review.	
	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member)	Following the Committee’s review and discussion of the April 5, 2024, Closed Session Committee meeting minutes, Dr. Rothman asked the Committee for a motion to approve the April 5, 2024, Closed Session Committee meeting minutes, and Closed Session Committee meeting Summary, as written.	

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<p align="center">Other (HB149)</p>	<p>Tess Brody, LDEM (Committee member)</p> <p>Dr. Ann Burke, MD (Committee member, Acting Chairperson)</p>		<p>Ms. Tess Brody, LDEM, moved, and Dr. Ann Burke, MD, seconded the motion, to accept and approve the April 5, 2024, Closed Session Committee meeting minutes as written. There were none opposed, and no abstentions. The motion carried.</p>
	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer provided the Committee with a copy of HB149 “Medical Records – Destruction – Notice and Retrieval” passed by the House and Senate Chambers, of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly.</p>	
	<p>Carla Boyd, AAG (Board Counsel)</p>	<p>Ms. Boyd provide the Committee with an overview of HB149, once signed by the Governor and enacted, would become effective October 1, 2024.</p> <p>While not explicitly identified in HB149, Ms. Boyd clarified that due to the Maryland Board of Nursing licensing and regulating Direct-Entry Midwives in Maryland, that HB149 would apply to all Maryland licensed Direct-Entry Midwives.</p>	

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<p>5. Annual Financial Disclosure Forms due to the State Ethics Commission by April 30, 2024</p>	<p>Monica Mentzer (Board staff)</p>	<p>Ms. Mentzer reminded the Committee members of their obligation to comply with the requirement to submit their Annual Financial Disclosure Forms, that were due to the State Ethics Commission by April 30, 2024, and that each Committee member should have received an email from Financial Disclosure Administrator with the State Ethics Commission, regarding their obligation to submit the completed Financial Disclosure Form by April 30, 2024.</p> <p>Ms. Mentzer will send an email to each Committee member with the contact information for Ms. Young Smith, Maryland State Ethics Commission Administrator, with her email and phone number. A Committee member may contact Ms. Smith if they are unsure if they have already submitted a 2023 Annual Financial Disclosure Form or if they require any further assistance to comply with the requirement.</p>	<p>All Committee members are required to submit an Annual Financial Disclosure form to the State Ethics Commission by April 30th of each calendar year.</p>
<p>6. Public Business</p>	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)</p>	<p>Dr. Rothman requested that each attendee from the public acknowledge to the Committee why they attended today’s Committee meeting and if there is any information to share with the Committee.</p> <p>All members from the public introduced themselves to the Committee and provided information to the Committee as follows:</p>	

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		<p><u>Tiffani Shannon</u>, AAG, introduced herself as a new attorney with the State of Maryland, and provided the Committee with the knowledge that she was a county prosecutor and public defender in Prince George’s County, Office of Law, and Veteran’s Affairs.</p> <p><u>Martha Weaver</u>, CNM, introduced herself as a Maryland resident employed at Birth Care and Women’s Health, in Alexandria, VA, and she is present today in support of Ms. Heather Walker.</p> <p><u>Hadaffah Bellot</u>, CPM, introduced herself as a Certified Professional Midwife, and resident of Maryland, and is seeking to obtain licensure as a licensed Direct-Entry Midwife in VA and MD, who acknowledged to the Committee that she regularly attends the Open Session Committee meetings to better understand the impact of Direct-Entry Midwives and how the practice of Direct-Entry Midwives affects community members.</p> <p><u>Caitlyn McDonough</u> identified herself as an attorney that represents both the Association of Independent Midwives of Maryland and the Maryland Center for Safe Births.</p> <p><u>Dorothy Lee</u>, CNM, introduced herself as a CNM, licensed in three jurisdictions, also employed by Birth Care and Women’s Health,</p>	

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		<p>Alexandria, VA, and is present today in support of licensed Direct-Entry Midwife applicant, Heather Walker.</p> <p><u>Marsha Jackson</u>, CNM, introduced herself as a resident of Maryland, who is employed at Birth Care and Women’s Health, Alexandria, VA, present today to support Heather Walker.</p> <p><u>Heather Walker</u>, CPM introduced herself as an applicant for licensure to practice as a Direct-Entry Midwife in Maryland, who is licensed to practice as a Direct-Entry Midwife in VA and is orienting with the Birth Care and Women’s Health, Practice in Alexandria, VA, while awaiting a license to practice as a Direct-Entry Midwife, in Maryland.</p> <p><u>Elle Schnetzler</u> introduced herself as the owner of Birth Care and Women’s Health, who is also a midwife, and is present today, acknowledged that Ms. Heather Walker’s integrity for the profession of direct-entry midwifery, and that it is made clear to the Committee that applicant Heather Walker is not practicing as a Direct-Entry Midwife in Maryland.</p> <p><u>Shannon Serrano</u>, identified as a member of Mercy Action, College of Midwifery</p>	

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<p>Upon completion of the Open Session Agenda, the Committee Chairperson addressed the Committee</p>	<p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM</p> <p>Carla Boyd, AAG (Board Counsel)</p> <p>Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)</p>	<p>Dr. Rothman suggested the Committee meet in a Closed Session, to further discuss Heather Walker’s pending application with the Board, however, the May 3, 2024, Open Session agenda, which is required to be posted 24 hr. prior to a Committee meeting, did not provide for the Committee to enter into Closed Session.</p> <p>Ms. Carla Boyd reminded the Committee that although the Committee reviewed Ms. Heather Walker’s Application for Licensure to Practice Direct-Entry Midwifery, that the status of Ms. Walker’s application is in the hands of the Board and that the Committee does not have the authority to approve a pending application for licensure.</p> <p>Ms. Boyd advised Dr. Mairi Rothman that if the Committee chooses to do so, it may schedule an ad hoc Committee meeting to conduct closed session business in the future.</p> <p>Following a discussion by the Committee as to whether or not the Committee requests to hold an ad hoc Committee Open and Closed Sessions, Dr. Rothman requested a vote to schedule an additional Committee meeting (Open and Closed Sessions) on Friday, May 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p>Ms. Brittany Coffman, LDEM, moved, and Ms. Paige Barocca, LDEM, seconded the motion to schedule an ad hoc Committee meeting on Friday, May 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.</p>

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			Ms. Mentzer will seek approval from Ms. Rhonda Scott, Maryland Board of Nursing, Executive Director, for approval to schedule a Committee meeting (Open and Closed Sessions) on Friday, May 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
7. Adjournment	Dr. Mairi Rothman, DM, CNM (Committee member, Chairperson)	Dr. Mairi Rothman, requested a motion to adjourn the May 3, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting at 11:15 a.m. Ms. Mentzer will send out notification, if approval is obtained, to the Committee regarding the scheduling of another Committee meeting (Open and Closed sessions) on Friday, May 10, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m.	Tess Brody, LDEM, moved, and Dr. Ann Burke, MD, seconded the motion to adjourn the May 3, 2024, Open Session Committee meeting at 11:15 a.m. There were none opposed and no abstentions. The motion passed unanimously.