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Midwifery Advisory Committee Draft Minutes
March 19, 2025

Department of Health, TC2 Room 139, 111 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501

Members Present: Steven Maynard, Obstetrician; Katelyn Yoder, Physician; Rachael Cook, Midwife, Chairperson; Camilla Hellmeister, Midwife; Katherine Sauerlender, Midwife; Taylor Mallory, Public Member.

Members Absent: Laura MacPherson, Certified Nurse Midwife, Vice Chairperson

Staff Present: Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Brandis Brandt, Credentialing Supervisor; Mackayla Murphy, Credentialing Specialist; Ginger Grout, Credentialing Lead; Marianne Ritcher, Policy Analyst; Prina Patel, AAG; Catherine Roner-Reiter; Britni McLucas; Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst.

Guests and Other Participants: Deborah Gleisner, ND, Licensed Midwife, Birth Center Owner; Cynthia Flynn Co-Owner of Columbia Birth Center, Certified Midwife; Melissa Kundur, HCA Staff; Tyler Langford, policy analyst for Office of Insurance commissioner; Lynette Pettibone, Public Attendee; Tom Vasquez, DSHS Observer.

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Cook called the public meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., providing a comprehensive overview of the day's proceedings.

1.1. Introductions- Committee, Welcome New Members, Audience Members

Chairperson Cook extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Each participant introduced themselves, highlighting their roles and affiliations.

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Cook presented the agenda to the committee for approval.

Motion: Dr. Maynard made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Dr. Yoder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

1.3. Approval of September 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Cook presented the December 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion: Dr. Yoder made a motion to approve December 11, 2024 meeting minutes. Dr. Maynard seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

1.4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were received.

2. Unlicensed Practice Procedures

Ms. Santiago provided an overview of unlicensed practice procedures and updated the committee on disciplinary statistics and costs.

3. Department of Health Discipline Process

Ms. Roner-Reiter provided a presentation on the discipline process to the midwifery committee.

4. Committee Bylaws and the Role of Committee

Ms. Weed provided an overview of information about the committee's bylaws and the role of the committee.

5. OPMA and Ethics

Ms. Patel presented information on the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) and ethics in public service to the committee, ensuring proper procedures and protocol are followed at public meetings and when conducting committee business.

6. Executive Director Operational Report

Ms. Santiago, Executive Director, provided the committee with updates regarding program information.

6.1 Budget

Ms. Santiago reviewed the budget report with the committee, this report was from July 1, 2023 to January 31, 2025. The committee receives funds via the state general fund and from the licensing fees received for the profession. The committee began with a negative fund balance in July 2023, the budget shows revenue to date and expenses with an ending fund balance of \$189,752.00 She reviewed the estimated revenue graph, and the expenses associated with the account.

6.2 HELMS Update

Ms. Santiago provided an update regarding HELMS. HELMS has been delayed due to system corrections that need to be made. HELMS is hoping to launch in the spring of 2025.

6.3 Legislative Update

Ms. Santiago provided the committee with the latest legislative updates. She shared a bill that could potentially relate to midwifery and practicing midwives, which is substitute house bill 1824, which is related to inspections of accredited birthing centers.

7. Program Manager Report

Kathy Weed, Program Manager, provided the committee with updates regarding program projects.

7.1 Birth Center Rules Updates

Ms. Weed provided the committee with an update regarding the process of the birthing center rules. The rules are now in the CR-102 stage, which is when the public hearing and proposed rules are established. The rules are being reviewed and awaiting approval from leadership.

8. Meeting Wrap-up

8.1 Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Invite John Hilder to provide the committee with an update on the birthing center rules.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Cook concluded the meeting at 11:46 a.m., expressing sincere gratitude for everyone's participation and contribution to today's meeting.

Washington State Midwifery Advisory Committee

On File

Rachael Cook, Chairperson MW

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