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**Midwifery Advisory Committee Draft Minutes
July 16, 2025**

Department of Health, TC2 Room 153, 111 Israel Rd SE Tumwater, WA 98501

Members Present: Steven Maynard, Obstetrician; Camilla Hellmeister, Midwife; Taylor Mallory, Public Member, Laura MacPherson, Certified Nurse Midwife, Vice Chairperson

Members Absent: Katelyn Yoder, Physician; Rachael Cook, Midwife, Chairperson; Katherine Sauerlender, Midwife.

Staff Present: Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Ginger Grout, Credentialing Lead; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Rachel Campbell, Fee & Data Manager; Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst; Marie Carp, AAG.

Guests and Other Participants: Deborah Gleisner, ND, Licensed Midwife, Birth Center Owner; Melissa Kundur, HCA Staff; Tyler Langford, policy analyst for Office of Insurance commissioner; Lynette Pettibone, Midwife, Bridge Birth Center Owner; Kristin Effland, Faculty Staff for Department of Midwifery, Bastyr University; Wendy Gordon, Midwife, Program Administrator JUA; Sarah Chianglin, Public Attendee.

1. Call to Order

Vice-Chairperson MacPherson called the public meeting to order at 10:17 a.m., providing a comprehensive overview of the day's proceedings.

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

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

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairperson MacPherson presented the agenda to the committee for approval.

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

1.3. Approval of March 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice-Chairperson MacPherson presented the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes.

Motion: Dr. Maynard made a motion to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes pending a correction to the ending fund balance within the budget report. Ms. Hellmeister seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

1.4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were received.

2. DISCIPLINE COSTS, TRENDS, AND STATISTICS

The committee received information on the midwifery program discipline costs by Rachel Campbell, Fee and Data Manager and Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director. She shared operational data that contributes to the committee's costs. Ms. Weed also shared discipline statistics based on a variety of professions that assist in births, this chart was broken down in different professions and biennium's.

3. NORTH AMERICAN REGISTRY OF MIDWIVES EXAM UPDATES

The committee received information regarding the NARM exam not meeting its accrediting body's requirements and were requested to defer the exam until updates have been made. The committee discussed the timeframe on updates to the NARM exam, how this exam may impact students and delay their entrance into midwifery. The committee said that this exam is essential to becoming a licensed midwife. The committee came back to this item to further discuss their potential involvement in this exam's requirement as a condition of licensing as a Midwife. The committee asked for additional information before determining if a recommendation to the Secretary of Health to defer the exam is necessary.

4. JURISPRUDENCE EXAM

Ms. Weed provided a review on the jurisprudence exam, she asked the committee if they felt that this exam was still necessary to be a requirement for licensure or if the committee felt that they would like to make it a continuing education requirement, or optional as a continuing education. There was no strong agreement on this item, the committee shared other options such as adding it to the state exam or as an option on the department's midwifery webpage.

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Santiago provided updates to the committee's budget as well as a HELMS update since the new database has been implemented and what changes have come from this implementation.

5.1. Budget

Ms. Santiago reviewed the committee's budget report reflected the timeframe of July 1, 2023 through May 31, 2025. The starting fund balance as of July 1, 2023 was -\$3,556.00 and ended at \$219,173.00 as of May 31, 2025.

5.2. HELMS update

Ms. Santiago shared how the new licensing system has impacted and changed the day-to-day work of communicating, gathering, processing, and issuing licenses. She also shared when the final phase of the system will be implemented.

6. PROGRAM MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Weed provided updates to the birth center rules and state exam to the committee.

6.1. Birth center rules update

Ms. Weed shared that there was a public rules hearing for the birth center rules, which allowed the public to make comments on the rules. The birth center rules language were adopted as proposed and the CR-103 process has begun.

6.2. State exam updates

Ms. Weed shared that the subcommittee has been updating and changing the state exam questions to ensure that the questions are relevant and accurate. They have also drafted new questions as well as removed some to ensure this exam is informationally correct and accurate. The committee was asked what they felt was an appropriate length of questions to ask for this exam. The committee provided their feedback and that will be taken into consideration when continuing to update this exam.

7. MEETING WRAP UP

7.1 Agenda items for next meeting

- Discipline Trends
- Updates on the State Exam
- North American Registry of Midwives Exam Updates

8. ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chairperson MacPherson adjourned the meeting at 12:09 pm.

Washington State Midwifery Advisory Committee

On File

Laura MacPherson, Vice-Chairperson

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