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**Midwifery Advisory Committee Draft Minutes  
December 06, 2023**

Washington State Health Care Authority, 626 8<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Olympia, WA 98501

**Members Present:** Steven Maynard, Obstetrician; Katelyn Yoder, Physician; Laura MacPherson, Certified Nurse Midwife; Katherine Sauerlender, Midwife, Vice-chairperson; Rachael Cook, Midwife; Robin Vazquez, Public Member, Chairperson

**Members Absent:** April Haugen, Midwife

**Staff Present:** Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Michael Walker, Policy Analyst; Rachael Campbell, Management Analyst; Melissa Kundur, Occupational Nurse Consultant; Madissen Schatz, Administrative Assistant

**Guests and Other Participants:** Deborah Gleisner, Naturopathic Physician, Midwife, Sprout Birth Center & Natural Health; Serenity Quiggle, Midwife, Vancouver Community Midwives; Catriona Munro, Midwife, Bellingham Birth Center; Sage K, Conjuring Moments Birthwork; Kirsten Campbell-Davenport, Melanated Maternity Essentials; Maya Johnson, Midwife, Sprout Birth Center & Natural Health; Sara Alvarado, Naturopathic Physician, Midwife, Rainy City Midwifery; Hannah Rasmussen, Midwife, The Birth Cottage; Nancy Spencer, Midwife, Lakeside Birth Center; Camila Hellmeisterc, Licensed Midwife, Sprout Birth Center & Natural Health; Tabitha Milian, Rainier Valley Birth & Health Center; Cynthia Flynn, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner Midwife, FlynnCNM; Meshell Orozco, Raices Midwifery & Community Care; Lynette; Audrey Levine, Midwife, Arcadia Home Midwifery Care

**1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Vazquez called the public meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., providing a comprehensive overview of the day's proceedings.

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

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

**1.2. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Vazquez presented the agenda.

*Motion:* Ms. Cook, with a second from Vice-chairperson Sauerlender, moved to approve the agenda, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **1.3. Approval of June 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Vazquez addressed the absence of the September meeting, then presented the June 14, 2023, meeting minutes.

*Motion:* Ms. Cook, seconded by Vice-chairperson Sauerlender, moved to approve the June 14, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **1.4. Public Comment Opportunity**

Chairperson Vazquez invited attendees to share public comments. However, as there were none, she informed the participants that written comments could be submitted at a later time.

## **2. Community Birth Data Registry Presentation**

The committee received an insightful presentation from Ms. Levine, a retired midwife with over 14 years of experience. Ms. Levine detailed the approved Community Birth Data Registry (CBDR), emphasizing its significance in addressing U.S. birth outcomes. The presentation included key points on the collaboration between OBCOAP and CBDR, highlighting the potential benefits for hospitals. Ms. Levine concluded with a call to action, encouraging participation and feedback.

## **3. Presentation on Discipline**

Ms. Santiago and Ms. Campbell provided a thorough presentation on discipline trends and expenses. They covered the total cases from 2019 through 2023, types of disciplinary actions, and a breakdown of costs. The detailed overview included insights into the committee members' expertise utilization in case reviews, the monitoring of sanctions by compliance officers, and future discussions on cost-saving measures.

Ms. Campbell highlighted a notable increase in 2023 cases, prompting discussions on expenditures and the fee cap of \$525.

## **4. Executive Director Report**

Ms. Santiago presented updates on legislative changes, office reorganization, and military spouse training.

### **4.1. Legislative update- 2SHB 1724**

Ms. Santiago provided a concise overview of 2SHB 1724, a bill addressing health profession licensure laws. She elaborated on its provisions, including recognition of a national certification and its applicability to all health professions.

During the discussion, participants raised reciprocity questions.

#### **4.2. Office Reorganization**

Ms. Santiago outlined the integration of 60-80 credentialing staff into existing teams. The strategic reorganization aims to address concerns raised during the pilot pathway project, enhance efficiency, and ensure timely licensure processing.

Key points included the growth of Ms. Weed's team by 8 members, ongoing coordination for a smooth transition, and the careful monitoring of the reorganization's impact on efficiency.

#### **4.3. Military Spouse Training**

Ms. Santiago provided a comprehensive overview of House Bill 1009, emphasizing its focus on military spouse training. She highlighted the Washington Veterans Affairs' 35-minute online video for regulatory entities and stressed the importance of completing the training by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Certificates of completion were to be shared with Ms. Weed, who would resend the email with the training link for those who had yet to fulfill the requirement.

### **5. Program Manager Report**

Ms. Weed provided updates on rules drafting, legislative calls, and the selection of 2024 meeting dates and leadership.

#### **5.1. Rules Update**

Ms. Weed reported on the completion of draft language for rules and announced upcoming collaborations with Medical and Pharmacy Commissions in the next month. An anticipated public hearing for the rules will be scheduled for February or March. The committee discussed other department rules in process related to birth centers, separation of responsibilities, including considerations on malpractice insurance options and needed revisions for Medicaid payments.

Action items included obtaining draft rules from John Hilger, health services consultant, and exploring the possibility of inviting Mr. Hilger to the next meeting.

#### **5.2. Legislative Calls**

Ms. Weed updated the committee on Wednesday's 8:30 a.m. calls during the legislative session. Ms. Weed highlighted their optional but valuable nature for insights into proposed legislative. Chairperson Vazquez would attend calls in January, and Ms. MacPherson would take over thereafter.

#### **5.3. Select 2024 Meeting Dates**

Ms. Weed facilitated the selection of 2024 meeting dates, ensuring consensus among the committee members:

1. March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 AM
2. June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 AM
3. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 AM
4. December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 10:00 AM

#### **5.4. Select Chair and Vice-chair for 2024**

Ms. Weed led a comprehensive discussion on selecting the chairperson and vice-chairperson for 2024. The outcomes were as follows:

- Chairperson (2024): Vice-chairperson Sauerlender
- Vice-chairperson (2024): Ms. MacPherson

No additional nominations were received. The discussion also focused on future recruitment efforts.

## **6. Meeting Wrap Up**

### **6.1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

Chairperson Vazquez confirmed the inclusion of agenda items for the next meeting, highlighting a presentation on birth center rules and an update on licensure extension rules.

## **7. Adjournment**

Chairperson Vazquez concluded the meeting at 11:50 a.m., reiterating holiday wishes and expressing sincere gratitude for everyone's valuable contributions.

### **Washington State Midwifery Advisory Committee**

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Robin Vazquez, Chairperson

#### **Contact:**

Kathy Weed, Program Manager

(360) 236-4883

[kathy.weed@doh.wa.gov](mailto:kathy.weed@doh.wa.gov)