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**Draft Minutes
March 13, 2024**

Lacey Community Center, 222 Columbia ST NW 2nd floor, Olympia, WA 98501

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

Members Absent: NA

Staff Present: Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Johanna Martinez, Staff Attorney; Marianne Ritcher, Policy Analyst; Tessa Harvey; John Hilger, DOH Birth Center Program Manager; Jessica Holloway, DOH Program Manager for Medical Test Sites, Lisa Kelley Christensen, Assistant Attorney General

Guests and Other Participants: Deborah Gleisner; Catriona Munro; Cynthia Flynn; Ashley, Brandy, and Miranda, True North Birthing Center; Michael Walker; Xenia Maynard; Andy Carmichael; Heike Hornsby; Jazmin Williams; Melissa Kundur

1. Call to Order

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

1.2. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Sauerlender presented the agenda.

Motion: Ms. Vasquez and Ms. Cook, with a second from Mr. Maynard, moved to approve the agenda, and the motion passed unanimously.

1.3. Approval of March 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Sauerlender presented the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes.

Motion: Ms. Vazquez, seconded by Ms. Cook, moved to approve the March 13, 2024, meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

1.4. Public Comment Opportunity

Chairperson Sauerlender invited attendees to share public comments. However, as there were none, she proceeded to the first presentation from Jessica Holloway about the medical test site program.

2. Medical Test Site Presentation

The committee received an insightful presentation from Ms. Holloway. She presented updated information about medical test site program and licensing which required rulemaking activities, Under chapter 7042, RCW and 246338 WAC. There was a discrepancy with the Provider Performed Microscopic Procedures License (PPMP License), which means we are not currently complying with the federal rules.

3. Presentation on Birth Center Rulemaking

Mr. Hilger provided a thorough presentation updating the committee on the status of the birth center rules. Mr. Hilger explained the timeline of the rules. The detailed overview included insights into the process of updating the rules. Mr. Hilger provided time to the committee and members participated in the meeting to ask questions. Mr. Hilger discussed the timeline and process of the CR 102 and financial impact of changing the rules.

4. Executive Director Report

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

4.1. Legislative update- Senate Bill 6178

Ms. Santiago provided a concise overview of Senate Bill 6178, which addressed adding midwives to the pharmacy. The bill was passed and helped to resolve some issues within the department of Health and the Pharmacy Commission.

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 the team by 8 members starting May 1, 2024, ongoing coordination for a smooth transition, and the careful monitoring of the reorganization's impact on efficiency.

4.3. HELMS Update

Ms. Santiago provided a comprehensive overview of what HELMS is and how it will be implemented into our department. Ms. Santiago explained how eventually for new applicants the process will be different, new applicants will be applying online. December of 2024 we will have the new licensing database system and then in mid-2025, the enforcement module will be added to that database system.

5. Program Manager Report

Ms. Weed provided updates on rules drafting, the announcement went out that we're having a public hearing on the limited prescriptive license extension on April 4th at 9:00 AM. The second update is on recruitment because we are down one LM on this committee and the recruitment has finally made its way to the leadership team at DOH.

6. Meeting Wrap Up

6.1. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Chairperson Sauerlender confirmed the inclusion of agenda items for the next meeting, highlighting recruitment for a member of the public to join the committee and bringing Mr. Hilger back to provide updates on the rules and the changes to the rules.

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Sauerlender concluded the meeting at 12:30 a.m., expressing sincere gratitude for everyone's valuable contributions and well wishes.

Washington State Midwifery Advisory Committee

Katherine Sauerlender, Vice-Chairperson

Contact:

Kathy Weed, Program Manager

(360) 236-4883

kathy.weed@doh.wa.gov