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**Draft Minutes  
September 11, 2024**

Labor and Industries Headquarters Linderson Way SW Tumwater, WA 98501

**Members Present:** Steven Maynard, Obstetrician; Katelyn Yoder, Physician; Rachael Cook, Midwife; Camilla Hellmeister, Midwife.

**Members Absent:** Laura MacPherson, Certified Nurse Midwife, Vice-chairperson; Katherine Sauerlender, Midwife, Chairperson; Robin Vazquez, Public Member.

**Staff Present:** Kathy Weed, Program Manager; Jennifer Santiago, Executive Director; Madissen Schatz, Assistant Program Manager; Na'Taya Harris, Administrative Assistant; Marianne Ritcher, Policy Analyst; Luke Eaton, AAG; Prina Patel, AAG.

**Guests and Other Participants:** Deborah Gleisner, Licensed Midwife, Birth Center Owner; Cynthia Flynn Co-Owner of Columbia Birth Center, Certified Midwife; Melissa Kundur, HCA Staff; Elliot Leslie, Wellspring Midwifery Clinic, Licensed Midwife; Sarah Simmons, Licensed Midwife, Birth Center Owner; Nancy Spencer, Public attendee; Rose Spencer, Public attendee.

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Weed called the public meeting to order at 10:07 a.m., providing a comprehensive overview of the day's proceedings. Mr. Eaton suggested that since neither chair nor vice chair were present at today's meeting that the committee nominate a temporary chair to handle today's meeting proceedings. The committee nominated a temporary chair to facilitate the meeting. Dr. Maynard nominated himself as temporary Chairperson, the committee agreed and voted to let Dr. Maynard to be Chair.

*Motion:* Dr. Maynard made a motion to vote on the temporary chair position. Dr. Yoder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

**1.2. Approval of Agenda**

Chairperson Maynard presented the agenda to the committee for approval.

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

### **1.3. Approval of March 13, 2023, Meeting Minutes**

Chairperson Maynard presented the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes.

*Motion:* Ms. Cook made a motion to approve March 13, 2024 meeting minutes. Dr. Yoder seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Weed invited attendees to share public comments. No public comments were shared.

## **2. Status on Preferential Loading Ferries**

Zale Noah provided the committee with a presentation on the status of Washington State Ferries medical preferential program. Ms. Noah discussed an online program that was created to certify medical professionals that need the ferry preferential loading status, in cases of medical needs and emergencies. These improvements and security measures are continuously improving to better serve healthcare professionals and their patients. This program is to help onboard healthcare professionals quickly, loading first, minimal waiting times, and unloading first. Dr. Yoder asked if there are restrictions regarding pass options for both healthcare professionals and the patients who made need to utilize this service. Ms. Noah responded that the passes do not have restrictions, it is up to the provider to use their best discretion regarding pass options for themselves and their patients.

## **3. Executive Director Operational Report**

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

### **3.1 Budget**

Ms. Santiago reviewed the budget report with the committee, this report was from July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024. The first report was about the funds that are provided by the state. The fee revenue estimation was a little less than predicted, but overall is still in good standing. The revenue data shows a revenue loss in May and an increase in June, this was due to a programming issue through HELMS that was an electronic error. Ms. Santiago assured the committee that this does not affect the committee's budget as it was a system error and has since been resolved and restored.

### **3.2 Board Commission Committee Leadership conference recap**

Ms. Santiago provided a report from the June BCC conference, Chair Sauerlender and Dr. Macpherson attended this conference. Ms. Santiago provided a brief overview of what this conference entailed and what was presented at this conference. The key takeaways from the committee/board members perspective were networking with other healthcare professionals and learning more about how to better serve their committee/board/commission. Ms. Santiago suggested that Dr. Macphersson and Chair Sauerlender provide their takeaways from this conference at the next Midwifery meeting.

### **3.3 Healthcare Enforcement Licensing Management System (HELMS) update**

Ms. Santiago provided the committee with an update regarding the HELMS timeline and coming stages that have been and will be implemented within the next several months.

### **3.4 Credentialing stats, including license extensions**

Ms. Santiago updated the committee on active midwifery licenses, new applicants, and where those licenses are active around Washington State. She reviewed the number of active, inactive, revoked, and pending licenses. Ms. Weed discussed the extensions of licenses for the pharmaceutical category. Medical devices have not had any extension requests.

## **4. Program Manager Report**

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

### **4.1 Birth Center Updates**

Ms. Weed provided the virtual meeting information to the committee regarding the updates to the birth center rules. This meeting will be held October 11, 2024 to provide feedback on the rules.

### **4.2 Exam Updates**

Ms. Weed discussed the process and has begun to update the midwifery exam questions. This update needs to include a DOH staff member, one LM and one physician and a member of the committee to update these questions and to be a part of the exam subcommittee.

### **4.3 Business plan**

Ms. Weed presented the goals of the committee, these goals included protecting the public, ensuring healthcare professionals are being properly educated and credentialed to ensure ongoing competence. Serving the public to the best of the ability of the department and committee. The second goal was for the committee to protect the

public from unprofessional practices, the committee uses their budget to support these requirements by budgeting for discipline. Dr. Yoder asked to include a disciplinary presentation from the department to the committee in a future meeting. This presentation will be held at the next Midwifery meeting on December 11, 2024.

#### **5. Meeting Wrap Up**

Ms. Weed asked the committee if they had any items they would like to see at the next meeting in December. Ms. Weed suggested that the committee review the bylaws, disciplinary presentation, and the BCC report out from Dr. Macpherson and Chair Sauerlender. The committee would like to see the presentation of the updates on the birth center rules by John Hilger.

#### **6. Adjournment**

Ms. Weed concluded the meeting at 11:07 a.m., expressing sincere gratitude for everyone's participation and contribution to today's meeting.

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

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

On File

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Steven Maynard, Acting Chairperson

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