



To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email doh.information@doh.wa.gov.

**Draft Minutes
December 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; Laura MacPherson, Certified Nurse Midwife, Vice Chairperson.

Members Absent: Katherine Sauerlender, Midwife, Chairperson.

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.

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; Wendy Gordon, public attendee; Terah, Midwife; Tyler Langford, policy analyst for Office of Insurance commissioner.

1. Call to Order

Ms. Weed called the public meeting to order at 10:08 a.m., providing a comprehensive overview of the day's proceedings.

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

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

Motion: Ms. Cook 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

Vice-Chairperson MacPherson presented the September 11, 2024 meeting minutes.

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

1.4. Public Comment Opportunity

No public comments were received.

2. Executive Director Operational Report

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

2.1 Budget

Ms. Santiago reviewed the budget report with the committee, this report was from July 1, 2023 to July 31, 2024. 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 \$152,876. She reviewed the estimated revenue graph, and the expenses associated with the account.

2.2 HELMS Update

Ms. Santiago provided an update regarding HELMS. HELMS had a soft launch and has been implemented internally to prepare for the hard launch in February of 2025. This launch will take place over Presidents Day weekend to help minimize any delays and processing issues for licensees applying or re-applying for licensure.

2.3 Historical license numbers

Ms. Santiago provided the committee with the historical license numbers. Ms. Weed provided a graph with a 10-year difference, the active license has increased by 41. There are 14 inactive licenses. They also reviewed the total population and percent change from the Office of Financial Management map was also provided that showed a breakdown of the number of licensed midwives within each county.

3. Program Manager Report

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

3.1 Birth Center Updates

Mr. Hilger will present the rules at a public hearing once all aspects of the rules are completed and reviewed. They will be shared for public comment.

3.2 Recruitment Updates

Ms. Weed provided an update regarding the public member position that is open on the committee. The public member packet has been put forward to the Secretary's office and the committee should be receiving a new member to participate in the 2025 meetings.

3.3 Legislative Session

The legislative session updates and bills will be sent out in weekly emails to the committee for their review and questions.

3.4 Resources on midwifery page

Ms. Weed shared that the Midwifery webpage has information regarding the HELMS freeze and what to expect during that holiday weekend. She also shared the medical preferential loading link that has been added to the webpage, along with Health Care Authority pregnancy services, and the birth center rules and updates. She also encouraged the committee to provide feedback and topics to include on the Midwifery webpage to ensure the public is getting current and up to date information relating to topics of interest and providing helpful resources.

3.5 Meeting dates, cadence 2025

Ms. Weed suggested that the committee consider meeting 3 times rather than 4 to help reduce costs and ensure efficiency. The committee agreed to meet 3 times a year. The 2025 meeting dates were approved to be held March 19, 2025, July 16, 2025, and November 12, 2025.

3.6 Vote for 2025 Chair and Vice-Chair

The committee nominated Rachel Cook as the Chair and Laura MacPherson as the Vice-Chair for the 2025 elections. Dr. Maynard motioned to nominate Racheal Cook as Chair and Laura MacPherson as Vice-Chair, Dr. Yoder seconded the morion. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Meeting Wrap Up

Ms. Weed asked the committee if they had any items they would like to see at the next meeting in March. Ms. Weed suggested that the committee review the bylaws, disciplinary presentation, and the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) presentation.

5. Adjournment

Ms. Weed concluded the meeting at 11:02 a.m., expressing sincere gratitude for everyone's participation and contribution to today's meeting.

Midwifery Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2024

Page number 4

Washington State Midwifery Advisory Committee

On File

Laura MacPherson, CNM, Vice Chairperson

Contact:

Kathy Weed, Program Manager

(360) 236-4883

kathy.weed@doh.wa.gov