

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON MIDWIFERY

Minutes

October 8, 2021

The Advisory Board on Midwifery met on Friday, October 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center; 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia, 23233.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rebecca Banks, CPM, Vice-Chair
Erin Hammer, CPM

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kim Pekin, CPM, Chair
Ami Keatts, M.D.
Natasha Jones, MSC, Citizen

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Colanthia Opher, Deputy Executive Director, Administration
Beulah Baptist Archer, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Marinda Schindler, Virginia Midwives Alliance
Kelsey Wilkinson, Medical Society of Virginia

Call to Order

Rebecca Banks called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. and made brief remarks noting the lack of a quorum for the meeting.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the Emergency Egress Procedures.

Roll Call

The roll was called; no quorum was declared. Dr. Harp noted that even though there was no quorum present for the meeting, the members could discuss the items on the agenda but not take action on any of them.

Approval of Minutes

No vote was held to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2021 meeting as there was no quorum. This item was tabled until the February 4, 2022 meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

There was no vote to adopt the agenda as a quorum was not established.

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

1. 2021 Legislative Update and 2022 Proposals

Dr. Harp provided an update on legislative actions from the 2021 General Assembly that held interest for members and briefly mentioned 2022 legislative proposals.

2. Update on High-Risk Pregnancy Disclosures Guidance Document

Ms. Yeatts reported that revised Guidance Document 85-10 on high-risk pregnancy disclosures became effective on August 19, 2021. It was later posted on the Board of Medicine website on September 20, 2021.

3. Licensed Certified Midwives

Ms. Yeatts discussed the legislation passed by the 2021 General Assembly for regulation of a new category of midwives, the Licensed Certified Midwife to be jointly regulated by the Board of Nursing and the Board of Medicine. She highlighted a provision in the legislation which required the Department of Health Professions (DHP) to convene a workgroup to discuss an appropriate regulatory framework for all three midwifery professions. The DHP report is due back to the Governor and the General Assembly by November 1, 2021.

4. Report of Midwifery Regulatory Study Workgroup

Dr. Harp reported that the Midwifery Regulatory Structure Workgroup met on two occasions to discuss options for regulating the different midwifery professions under the Board of Nursing and Board of Medicine. He reported that there was no consensus reached on how these professions might be regulated by the two boards. The decision, for now, was to keep the status quo until other acceptable options could be decided upon.

5. Review of Licensure Requirements

Michael Sobowale said this topic was placed on the Advisory Board's agenda at the request of the Credentials Committee for the Advisory Board to review the licensing requirements and application questions to determine if they can be further streamlined. The Credentials Committee met on September 20, 2021 to review and recommend which documents required in the licensing process should be primary-source verified, which ones may be submitted as copies, and those that are no longer be needed in the licensing process. The Credentials Committee will be making recommendations on how the licensing process for all professions could be streamlined. The Committee asked that any recommendation made by the Advisory Board be reported at its next meeting on November 8th.

There was lack of a quorum at this meeting to vote on how the application process for certified professional midwives license applicants could be further streamlined. However, consensus reached by members present was as follows:

A license applicant should submit primary source verification of the following documents: Certification from the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM), National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) self-query report, and one state license verification.

Copies of the following documents could be accepted: Other state license verifications, if submitted; a digitally-certified electronic copy of the NPDB report in lieu of a mailed report, and supporting documentation for any question answered 'Yes' on the application form that is deemed non-routine.

It is no longer necessary for applicants to submit a "Form B" employment verification and a "Form A" Claims History Form.

6. Approval of Meeting Calendar

There was no vote on the proposed meeting dates for the Advisory Board on the 2022 calendar. This item was tabled to the next scheduled meeting on February 4, 2022.

7. Election of Officers

Announcements:

Ms. Archer provided the licensing report. There are 74 current active licensed midwives in Virginia, with 25 out-of-state. There is 1 inactive out-of-state midwife for a grand total of 100 licensed midwives.

Next Meeting Date:

February 4, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

Rebecca Banks adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Rebecca Banks, CPM, Vice-Chair

William L. Harp, MD
Executive Director

Beulah Baptist Archer, Licensing Specialist