

Direct Entry Midwives Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2016

The August 12 meeting of the Direct Entry Advisory Committee was held on August 12, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Nursing Board room. The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairperson, Alexa Richardson. Those in attendance were: Harold Fox; Jan Kriebs, Kai Parker, Julia Perkins, Deana Frank, Sharon Allen, and Ann Tyminski. Present by telephone were: Sarah Pendley, Committee Counsel; and Elizabeth Reiner.

The minutes of the June 10, 2016 meeting were reviewed and approved.

The first item of business was an update on the meeting held with Dr. Howard Haft, Deputy Secretary, Public Health on July 19, 2016. Ms. Richardson said the meeting was a positive one and that Dr. Haft is supportive of the upcoming licensure of the DEMs. Those from Public Health who attended the meeting urged that the DEMs regulations include the requirement for taking a travel history from clients, particularly in light of the Zika outbreak. The Committee did not object to the request even though such language does not appear in other healthcare provider regulations.

Mrs. Tyminski reported to the Committee that the regulations and their fiscal impact have been approved by the Governor, and the Department was moving them through the regulatory process. This information was warmly received by the Committee. Ms. Reiner inquired as to the timeline for the approval. The regulation process was again outlined by Mrs. Tyminski who explained that we cannot give an exact timeline for final approval because of the comment period, work before the AELR Committee, etc. She did indicate the process for licensure would commence once the regulations are finally approved.

The Committee's responsibilities, as outlined in their Practice Act, was given to each Committee member. Mrs. Tyminski explained that outreach to hospitals as planned by the Committee is not one of the outlined responsibilities. Ms. Kriebs and others strongly disagreed. Ms. Kriebs verbalized that information should go to hospitals who may be receiving DEM clients and their babies from time to time, especially in light of the fact that the DEM is to accompany the client to the hospital. She said that Emergency Room personnel and those personnel who would be caring for the infant and mother are preferable contacts, more importantly than hospital administrations. It is important that the hospitals welcome the women and infants when they arrive at the hospitals, although it will be extremely rare that an admission to a hospital is required. Doctor Fox will talk with Maryland Hospital Association about this issue. Further, the Committee felt that physicians should also be recipients of outreach. Mrs. Tyminski explained that she would be out of the Country on the date of the September 9 meeting but she would ask Ms. Shirley Devaris to attend the meeting for further discussion on this issue. The Committee acknowledges that the outreach process will need BON approval. Ms. Kriebs and Ms. Richardson are willing to attend the BON meeting to be held September 28th for discussion about the Outreach matter.

The Draft Informational Packet for newly licensed Direct-Entry Midwives was reviewed. Ms. Pendley expressed concerns about the packet. She felt that some of the information should not be disclosed and a court could order disclosure. She is trying to protect the BON. Dr. Fox said that all information is peer-review protected. Ms. Pendley was particularly concerned about the information on medications which is presented in what she termed, "regulations format". She feels it is presented in such a way that it says to a DEM, "this is what you should do". She further cited the fact that DEMs do not have prescriptive authority. It was explained that Doctor Woods of DHMH Public Health felt that the formulary needs to be given to the DEMs and it was a compromise that this would be done through an information packet rather than put into regulation since an information packet can be more easily updated or changed than regulations that have to go through the regulatory process. Ms. Pendley wondered if in the medications section they could add references or give the indications or contraindications for the various medications such as drug companies do in their advertisements. Again, Mrs. Tyminski said that she would discuss this matter with Ms. Devaris, and request her to talk with Ms. Pendley and also attend the September 9 meeting of this Committee.

Remaining on the Informational Packet, another suggestion was the on the DHMH Morbidity Report to add testing for syphilis and HIV. Under law, the provider has to offer the testing and must note if the client accepted the testing or not.

The next item of business was an in-depth review of the Maryland Collection Form - Licensed Direct Entry Midwives (LDEM). Ms. Richardson explained that since the June meeting she has had difficulty in obtaining additional information from California regarding the issue of capturing information about mothers and newborns versus obtaining inflated numbers of transfers and outcomes. This Committee wanted to learn why California made the decision that they did. It was agreed if Ms. Richardson is unable to obtain this information by the September meeting, the Committee will make its best decision possible. During the discussion, the Committee acknowledged that it would be difficult for them to manage all the information that will be received and prepare the required submission to the Legislature. It was agreed as the data comes in, the Committee members will call the licensed DEM if there are questions as to how the licensee reported data. Ms. Pendley questioned the reason for the form and whether such a long form might be outside the statute. Ms. Richardson explained she used as a template the California form because it was the only one she could find.

In reviewing the form the Committee was advised to use the wording patient/client. Ms. Pendley advised that the Committee remove any reference to outside associations such as MANA (Midwives Alliance of North America). As the Committee went through the form item by item, there were numerous suggested changes such as wherever it documents post-partum

transfers, the language will be immediate post-partum transfers. Ms. Richardson carefully documented each suggested change and will prepare an updated version of the Maryland Data Collection Form for the September 9 meeting.

Mrs. Tyminski reported that Ms. Devaris has been unable to make contact with Doctor Horon at Vital Records regarding the issuance of birth certificates for births attended by Direct Entry Midwives. A meeting was attempted for sometime in June but was never confirmed by Dr. Horon. Vital Records is in the process of moving from their present location.

The two informational documents included on the agenda were: "Sexual & Reproductive Healthcare" and "The Committee on Obstetric Practice on Planned Home Birth" from The American College of Obstetrics & Gynecologists. Doctor Fox and Jan Kriebs urged the members to read the documents.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann E. Tyminski,
Administrator to the Direct Entry Midwives Committee

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