

MEDICAL BOARD STAFF REPORT

DATE REPORT ISSUED: July 21, 2010
ATTENTION: Medical Board of California
DEPARTMENT: Licensing Operations
SUBJECT: Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program
STAFF CONTACT: Cheryl Thompson, Midwifery Analyst

REQUESTED ACTION:

Determine if the Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program, formerly the Seattle Midwifery School, should be granted recognition.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board grant recognition to the Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program as it is identical to the program offered by the Seattle Midwifery School that was previously approved by the Board.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

In 1994, the Seattle School of Midwifery (SMS) was approved by the Board as a three-year midwifery education program meeting the qualifications required by the Business and Professions (B&P) Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. On March 23, 2010, SMS merged with Bastyr University. The program, now known as the Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program, is identical to the one offered by SMS that has previously been approved by the Board.

The Seattle School of Midwifery has been accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) since 1996. When the change of ownership was approved by the MEAC, MEAC accreditation was conveyed to the new Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University.

The Bastyr University Department of Midwifery has submitted a substantive change in curriculum application which is currently being reviewed by MEAC. The proposed change is related to its plan to add graduate level research courses leading to a Masters Degree in Midwifery and does not impact the entry-level midwifery curriculum. The program is in the regular cycle for re-accreditation review by MEAC and the timeline for completing that review has been extended to accommodate the change in ownership, submission of updated self-evaluation materials, and completion of the requisite site visit. MEAC anticipates making a final accreditation decision no later than April 2011.

The Bastyr program remains in good standing and is fully accredited while the re-accreditation review is in process. Should MEAC have any issues with the curriculum change, staff might need to bring these to the Board for consideration in April/May 2011 .

Medical Board staff recommends that the Board grant recognition to the Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program with retroactivity to June 2010, when the first class graduated from Bastyr instead of SMS.

FISCAL CONSIDERATIONS:

There is no fiscal impact to the Medical Board of California granting recognition to the Bastyr University Department of Midwifery Program. If the Board grants recognition to the school's midwifery program, graduates of the program will be able to apply for licensure in California.

PREVIOUS MBC AND/OR BOARD ACTION:

The Board previously granted approval to the Seattle Midwifery School as it met program qualifications as listed in the B&P Code and Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations.

An applicant who has satisfactorily completed the three-year program at one of the approved midwifery schools must ask the school to submit directly to the Board a verification of graduation.

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Timothy C. Callahan, PhD
Senior Vice President and Provost

April 22, 2010

Medical Board of California
Midwifery Program
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815

Attention: Abbie French, Licensing Operations Manager
Re: Bastyr University Department of Midwifery

To whom it may concern:

This letter supports the application of the Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University to the Medical Board of California for approval of its midwifery training program. In addition, we are requesting that our application for approval be expedited to enable our June graduates to apply for licensure in California.

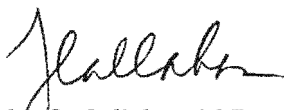
In 1994 Seattle Midwifery School (SMS) was approved by the Medical Board of California as a three-year midwifery education program meeting the qualifications required by the Business and Professions Code and Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. Its graduates were able to apply and sit for licensure as midwives in the State of California.

On March 23, 2010, SMS merged with Bastyr University. We are, therefore, requesting approval of the program now offered through the Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University. The program is identical to the one offered by SMS and has already been approved by the Medical Board.

Additionally, we have a substantive change application pending with the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities for a Master of Science degree in Midwifery. The only difference between the proposed master's program and the program currently being offered is a master's level research project required of all graduates. We believe that this degree, offered through a regionally-accredited university, will have a positive impact on direct-entry midwifery education and the profession as a whole.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 425-602-3110, especially with regard to expediting our application for approval.

Sincerely,



Timothy C. Callahan, PhD
Senior Vice President and Provost

Enclosure

cc: Mary Yglesia, Program Supervisor – Department of Midwifery, Bastyr University



Midwifery Education Accreditation Council

Setting the Standards for Midwifery Education

Midwifery
Education
Accreditation
Council

May 18, 2010

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Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko,
MPH

To: Abbie French
Manager, Licensing Operations Section
California Medical Board
Fax: 916-263-8936

From: Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko
Executive Director

Thank you for your call yesterday concerning the accreditation status of the Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University (formerly Seattle Midwifery School).

Bastyr University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities, a regional accrediting agency. The Seattle Midwifery School has been accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council since 1996. When the change of ownership was approved by MEAC and NWCCU, MEAC accreditation was conveyed to the new Department of Midwifery at Bastyr University.

The program has submitted a change of curriculum application which is currently being reviewed by MEAC. The proposed change is related to their plan to add graduate level research courses leading to a Masters Degree in Midwifery and does not impact their entry-level midwifery curriculum. The degree offering has already been approved by NWCCU. Meanwhile, the program is also in the regular cycle for re-accreditation review and the timeline for completing that review has been extended to accommodate the change in ownership, submission of updated self-evaluation materials, and completion of the requisite site visit. MEAC anticipates making a final re-accreditation decision no later than April 2011.

The program remains in good standing and fully-accredited by MEAC while the re-accreditation review is in process. Please let me know if you have further questions or require additional documentation.

cc. Mary Yglesia
Program Supervisor
Department of Midwifery
Bastyr University