



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA – DIVISION OF LICENSING
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Midwifery Committee

**Embassy Suites
Tiburon/Sausalito Room
250 Gateway Boulevard
South San Francisco, CA 94080**

July 25, 2007

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 Call to Order

The Midwifery Committee (Committee) of the Medical Board of California (Board) was called to order by Chair Hedy Chang at 5:00 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed to all interested parties.

Members Present:

Hedy Chang, Chair
Laurie C. Gregg, M.D.
Barbara Yaroslavsky

Staff Present:

Billie Baldo, MST, Administrative Assistant, Licensing Program
Stacie Berumen, Staff Services Manager I, Licensing Program
Kathi Burns, Staff Services Manager I, Licensing Program
Kurt Heppler, Senior Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs
Scott Johnson, Business Services Assistant, Business Services Office
Kim Kirchmeyer, Deputy Director
Armando Melendez, Business Services Assistant, Business Services Office
Kelly Nelson, Legislative Analyst, Legislative/Regulatory Unit
Gary Qualset, Chief, Licensing Program
Regina Rao, Analyst, Business Services Office
Kevin Schunke, Regulation Coordinator, Legislative/Regulatory Unit
Anita Scuri, Supervising Senior Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs
Dave Thornton, Executive Director
Linda Whitney, Chief, Legislative/Regulatory Unit
Curt Worden, Staff Services Manager I, Licensing Program

Members of the Audience:

Bruce Ackerman, Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA)
Karen Ehrlich, L.M., Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC)
Faith Gibson, L.M., MAC, California College of Midwives
Diane Holzer, California Association of Midwives (CAM), MANA
Carrie Sparrevohn, L.M., MAC, CAM
Alison Worcester, L.M., Jade Lotus Midwifery Service

Agenda Item 2 Approval of Minutes from the April 26, 2007 Meeting

It was M/S/C (Gregg/Yaroslavsky) to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2007, Committee meeting.

Agenda Item 3 Midwifery Advisory Council

Mr. Qualset provided an update of the June 12, 2007, meeting of the MAC. The MAC revisited their Roles, Responsibilities, Mission, and Vision statements and made minor amendments before readopting the statements.

The remainder of the MAC meeting focused on continuing development of the Midwife Annual Report Coding System for collection of midwife practice data in California as mandated by Business and Professions Code section 2516.

Additionally, the MAC discussed the lack of a midwife assessment and clinical evaluation program for licensed midwives who need remedial training as an option for disciplinary resolution or for re-entry to practice after a long absence. Mr. Qualset suggested the Division of Licensing (DOL) and Committee request MAC members further evaluate the concept and develop options based upon their expertise in the profession.

Faith Gibson, L.M., Chair of the MAC, echoed Mr. Qualset's comments.

Ms. Yaroslavsky commended the professionalism and effectiveness of the MAC since its establishment.

A. Midwife Annual Report Coding System Recommendation

Ms. Burns presented the Midwife Annual Report Coding System and stated it was the expectation of the MAC that the Committee approve the system, in concept, and recommend the DOL do the same.

Ms. Gibson stated she thought the system accomplished the intent of the legislative mandate in capturing data related to the practice of midwifery in California.

Dr. Gregg asked if or how multiple diagnoses are captured on the reporting form. Ms. Gibson explained that at this point, midwives are directed to choose only one primary diagnosis or reason for transfer of a patient. This may be changed in the future if deemed necessary.

Ms. Yaroslavsky requested assurance from Ms. Gibson that the report coding system has been made available to midwives in California and by all major stakeholders of the midwifery community. Ms. Yaroslavsky also inquired about reimbursement possibilities from insurance companies for midwives and whether or not the coding system would be utilized by midwives for billing purposes.

Ms. Gibson explained that the MAC meetings have been well attended by midwives and midwifery association members who have had ample opportunity to provide input. The system has received general acceptance by the midwifery community. Information was made available and input was solicited through various e-mail groups and web sites, including the Board, and CAM web sites. She stated this report coding system will not be related or linked to any insurance reimbursement.

Ms. Sparrevohn raised concerns regarding the coding system, instructions, and form, as the MAC had approved the coding system at the June 12th meeting, but had been unable to review the document as a whole and offer revisions due to time constraints. She suggested that the system and related forms be sent back to the MAC for editing and finalization at their September 6, 2007, meeting.

Ms. Scuri encouraged consideration of a potential motion to approve the coding system document, in concept, and send it back to the MAC for final revision. Mr. Qualset stated bringing the process back to the MAC on September 6, 2007, would be good, although it would delay getting the reporting form out to the midwives.

It was M/S/C (Yaroslavsky/Gregg) to approve the coding system, in concept, and send it back to the MAC for final revisions and request the DOL approve and authorize the MAC to issue final approval of the coding system.

B. Annual Reporting Form

Mr. Qualset introduced the Midwife Annual Reporting Form and instructions developed in collaboration with OSHPD, based upon the coding system developed by the MAC. Mr. Qualset advised the Committee that the form and instructions would be reviewed by the MAC at their September meeting and rollout of the form and instructions would follow shortly thereafter to allow licensed midwives ample time to complete the report and submit to OSHPD by March 31, 2008.

Ms. Burns asked the Committee to approve these documents, in concept, and, if needed, delegate authority to the MAC for final approval.

Ms. Scuri clarified the Board and DOL do not generally approve forms; thus, only the coding system requires approval.

Ms. Yaroslavsky questioned the intent of the statute requiring collection of midwifery practice data.

Ms. Gibson explained that during original conversations with Senator Liz Figueroa the legislative intent of this project was to gather data regarding the practice of midwifery to assist the Board in ensuring the safe practice of midwifery in California.

It was M/S/C (Yaroslavsky/Gregg) to approve the Midwife Annual Reporting Form and related instructions, in concept, and request the DOL grant the MAC the authority for final approval of the documents.

Agenda Item 4 Program Update

Mr. Qualset stated that earlier in the year all licensed midwives were informed of the new reporting requirements and that the information is posted on the Board's web site.

Pursuant to a request from Dr. Fantozzi, former President of the DOL and former Chair of the Committee, Mr. Qualset provided the following statistics regarding the licensing of midwives:

From July 1, 2006, through June 30, 2007, there were 9 licenses issued, 11 applications received, and 0 applications denied. There are 4 applications presently pending. 171 licenses are renewed and current, 17 delinquent, and 14 cancelled.

Agenda Item 5 Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Gibson asked that a future topic for the MAC be to determine reasons why midwives are disciplined. This could be done by evaluating complaints made and disciplinary actions taken against licensed midwives. From that, a remedial program could be developed to address these issues, but more importantly, this information could be provided to training programs to educate licensed midwives early on, thus preventing the identified issues.

Mr. Qualset noted that it would be important that the members of the MAC research this topic and identify a process to accomplish this goal.

No further public comments were made.

Agenda Item 6 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.