

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program**

Midwifery Advisory Council Member Application

The Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) is an advisory council responsible for making recommendations on matters presented by the California Medical Board (Board) members, Board staff, or designees. The MAC represents the midwifery community and licensed midwives in the State of California. The MAC is comprised of three licensed midwives, one physician and surgeon, and two public members. Public member representatives have an interest in midwifery, but are not licensed midwives. The MAC members volunteer to serve and attend all MAC meetings for up to a three-year term. This application form has been developed to review volunteers interested in serving on the MAC. To be considered for appointment, please mail, email, or fax your MAC Member Application form no later than January 31, 2021 to:

Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attention: Midwifery Program
FAX: (916) 263-8936
tonya.moralry@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last <u>Breglia</u>	First <u>Claudia</u>	Middle initial <u>R</u>	Suffix
Address:	Street	City	State	Zip Code
Phone:	Call#	Home #	Work#	Fax#
Email:				

Are you a California Licensed Midwife? [Redacted] License Number: LM# 139

Are you a California Licensed Physician? [Redacted] License Number: _____

If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist?
 [Redacted]

Are you, or have you ever been, a board member of a midwifery or physician related entity? [Redacted], please list the name of the board(s):

Name	Dates of Membership
<u>Midwifery Advisory Council</u>	<u>Current</u>
<u>Midwives Association of North America</u>	<u>2015-2019</u>

Organization/Association:
(If volunteering as a non-licensed "public member" please insert the word "SELF - PUBLIC Interest")

Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery

Position within the Organization/Association:
(Board member, executive, or member)

Executive Director

Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC Advisory Council? [Redacted]

Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the Advisory Council, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? [Redacted]

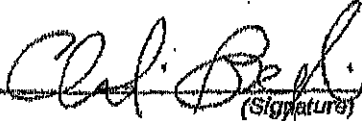
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? [Redacted]

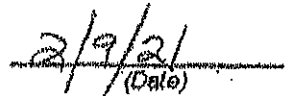
MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program

Please attach your resume or curriculum vitae.

Please attach a letter outlining your qualifications and interest in midwifery and home birth, including prior involvement with midwifery-related organizations.

Please attach three letters of recommendation from licensed midwives or clients in your area.
(If applying for midwife position at least 2 of the letters must be from practicing midwives in your area)


(Signature)


(Date)

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February 9, 2021

Midwives Advisory Council
Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento CA, 95815

Dear Members of the Council,

The realization that the provision of care outside of the medical system cannot be separated from the politics of providing care outside of the medical system came shortly after I began practice in 1993. That year, California became the 12th state to legalize the practice of midwifery, and the CPM credential was still a year away from its introduction. The immediate needs to advance the profession of midwifery were decriminalization, the creation of standards for education and practice, and the strengthening of midwifery organizations to create a culture of support and accountability.

My commitment to those goals led me to a position on the Board of the Tennessee Midwives Association culminating with 2 terms as president. Once established in California, I remained actively involved in midwifery leadership as a regional representative and then served 2 terms as president of the California Association of Midwives (CAM). I led the development of an organized peer review system in Tennessee and represented midwives to legislators in both states. As CAM president I was the organizational liaison to the Medical Board, and later the Midwifery Advisory Council. Additionally, I spent 3 years on the board of directors of the Midwives Alliance of North America, our national professional organization. As Executive Director of the Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery I have a working relationship with NARM, our national credentialing body, MEAC, our educational accrediting agency, and midwifery school directors across the country.

I have finally succeeded in retiring from active practice, and now spend my time midwifing students through their educational process. I look forward to advancing the practice of Licensed Midwifery in the state of California through a second term on the Midwives Advisory Council.

Sincerely,



Claudia Breglia, LM, CPM

Qualifications

Claudia possesses over 25 years of experience in a wide range of clinical, administrative, and organizational aspects of midwifery and women's health care. She is a creative thinker, adept at finding solutions and alternative ways to bypass barriers and achieve goals. Maintains high standards and a strong work ethic, with a demonstrated ability to learn new skills as needed, and a reputation for honoring commitments and delivering sustainable results on time and under budget. Recognized for leadership in state and national midwifery organizations, and successful engagement with legislative bodies and regulatory agencies. Her commitment to the future of midwifery is evidenced by the students she has trained and mentored over the years, most of whom have gone on to become CPMs and CNMs. She has caught over 800 babies, and remains determined to change the world.

Clinical Experience

Provides evidence-based individualized care to low risk women from diverse ethnic, racial, and social backgrounds throughout the childbearing year, including prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care of the mother, postpartum care of the newborn, and well woman care.

- Provides families with information on all tests and procedures, encourages shared decision-making, and is a strong proponent of client led care.
- Incorporates discussions about all aspects of pregnancy, birth, postpartum, and newborn care and feeding, including social and emotional factors affecting health and well being in all visits.
- Creates a supportive environment during routine care conducive to non-judgmental discussion of sexual history, and screening for depression, inter-partner violence, and substance abuse.
- Orders lab tests and ultrasounds, and administers medication according to written practice guidelines, local community standards, and client choice, confirms that client remains within the normal range, and consults, refers, and transfers care appropriately.
- Works cooperatively with physicians and other medical providers to ensure that clients received optimal care according to individual needs.

Administrative Experience

Executive Director Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery

- Responsible for all aspects of running an accredited midwifery school

Per Diem Clinic Coordinator and Administrative Support:

- Supervised flow during busy 4 hour prenatal clinics with multiple midwives and medical assistants, handled last minute problem solving and crisis control.
- Performed end of clinic medical record reviews to assure completeness, confirm all orders and referrals had been sent out, and flag for follow-up.
- Checked patient's insurance status, supervised billing by midwives, and corrected billing errors.
- Created multiple practitioner/multiple clinic schedules in electronic medical records.

Administrator of Clinic Services:

- Oversaw the day-to-day operation of four women's health clinics and three satellite sites including supervision of four Clinic Managers and Quality Assurance Manager.
- Conducted regular site visits and inspections to ensure quality of care and compliance with all local, state, and federal regulations and funding agency contracts.
- Facilitated communication between contracted medical staff and administration, created and updated protocols and standardized procedures in consultation with Medical Director and credentialed medical staff, gathered and kept statistics, and investigated complications and unusual occurrences.
- Developed training programs and manuals, maintained and updated Standardized Procedures, Policy and Procedure manuals, OSHA and CLIA manuals, and job descriptions.
- Investigated and implemented new clinic services, and changes to existing services.

Small Business Ownership and Management

- Performed all aspects of running a small healthcare business: marketing and advertising, community relations and public education, budget and financial management, insurance and client billing, ordering and storing supplies.
- Remained current on and in compliance with laws and regulation regarding midwifery practice, informed consent, testing, and patient privacy.

Professional Leadership

Midwifery Advisory Council:

June 2016 - Appointed to the Midwifery Advisory Council of the Medical Board of California

Midwives Alliance of North America:

Maintained an overview of MANA from a business perspective. Worked with other board members to assess organizational strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and assist in focusing strategic direction. Ensured that all programs were consistent with MANA's mission, vision, and goals. Oversaw and directed the activities of the Membership Committee, Nominations and Elections Committee, Sales and Merchandising Committee and others as needed. Maintained and updated organizational core documents and website.

Notable achievements:

California Association of Midwives:

Provided leadership and direction to the CAM Board of Directors; oversaw, supported and directed the Secretary, Chief Financial Officer, Membership Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor in their specific duties. Facilitated quarterly meetings of the CAM Board of Directors. Kept abreast of all legislation, regulation, and public actions affecting midwives in California. Served as liaison to the Medical Board of California (MBC) and the Midwives Advisory Council, met with MBC members and staff, other midwifery activists, representatives of medical associations, and state legislative staffers to work on specific projects outside of meetings. Created the Barriers to Care packet, influential in gaining Medical Board support for greater LM autonomy during sunset review.

Tennessee Midwives Association (TMA)

Took control of an organization in disarray, with no clear leadership, membership, or direction. Inspired renewed interest and involvement of midwives across the state. Established a culture of accountability through the development of a peer review process. Instituted regular peer review on a regional basis, and a statewide peer review process for addressing fetal/neonatal deaths and consumer complaints involved in writing and lobbying for midwifery legislation passed in 2000.

Work History

- 2017 - present Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery Executive Director, COO/CAO
- 2016 - present Midwives Alliance of North America Director of Organizational Development
- 2016 - 2017 Natural Birth and Women's Center, Winnetka, CA Staff Midwife
- 2015 - 2017 Birthwell LA, and other local midwives: Assistant/Co-primary midwife
- 2013 - 2015 Communicare Health Centers, Yolo County CA Per Diem Midwife, Per Diem Clinic Coordinator/Administrative Support
- 2010 - 2012 Women's Health Specialists, Sacramento CA Administrator of Clinic Services
- 2006 - 2010 California Association of Midwives President
- 1994 - 1998 Tennessee Midwives Association President
- Primary Midwife in Homebirth Practice
 - 2008 - 2010 Born at Home, Sacramento CA (partnership)
 - 2000 - 2008 Birthstream Midwifery Service, Davis CA (group practice)
 - 1993 - 2000 Independent Homebirth, Clarksville TN (solo practice)

To Whom It May Concern,

I have had the pleasure of working with Claudia Bregalla for many years in both her role as California Association of Midwives (CAM) president, and as a midwife providing out of hospital births in Los Angeles, CA. As a professional peer and mentor, she has always provided guidance and support to those in the field. Recently, she became the director of our only Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) accredited Midwifery program at Nizhoni Midwifery College. She continues to inspire and connect the members of our practice throughout the midwifery world. Claudia is an active member of the California Association of Licensed Midwives (CALM) and attends these conferences and events. She consistently encourages and participates with local midwives during peer reviews, offering insights and direction. Along with her history of providing care and her roles in leadership, I feel she would make an empowering member of the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) on the California medical board.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for any further information that may help you in your decision to appoint her to the board.

Many Blessings,

Amy Tinney RN CPM LM

Laura Murray

February 15, 2018

TO: Medical Board of California
RE: Claudia Breglia, Midwifery Advisory Council Applicant

Dear Medical Board and Midwifery Advisory Council:

I understand the vision of the MAC is to "provide ongoing sound and reliable expert advice in serving as a vehicle for further positive discussion on the practice of midwifery and homebirths in the state of California."

The MAC would be beyond fortunate to have Claudia Breglia in service. The fact that she is the Executive Director of the Nizhoni Institute represents her decades of both homebirth midwifery practice and positive communications on the subject of homebirth midwifery practice.

I am just one of hundreds of women who could tell you that Claudia made a transformative impact on my life in how she tended the births of two of my children. As all care providers to pregnant women should do, Claudia communicated effectively and patiently with me and with each concentric circle of community around me. She can move beautifully between direct communications with a pregnant mother, with her family, with her extended family, with her larger community, with those making policy for the State of California, and back again. In addition to her ability to discuss issues objectively and kindly, I remember many times hearing Claudia speak in statistics and seeing her manage statistical data. Not many have both such levels of interpersonal and practical skills.

As a beneficiary of direct entry midwifery care hoping to see the opportunity continue for women of California and elsewhere, I hope that you will appoint Claudia to the MAC.

Sincere regards,

Laura Murray

Treesa Mclean, LM

Carrie Sparrevohn, LM,
Chair Midwifery Advisory Council

Members

Anne Marie Adams, MD

Jocelyn Dugan

Diane Holzer, LM

Chemin Perez, LM

Barbara Yaroslavsky

Dear Carrie Sparrevohn, Members of the council,

I am writing to recommend Claudia Breglia becoming a part of the Midwifery Advisory Council. I have know Claudia many years, as a leader in midwifery in California and now working with her as part of Midwives Alliance of North America.

Claudia has a deep understanding of the issues facing midwifery today, and she is aware of the legislative and regulatory processes that govern midwifery in California. She has been part of the midwifery community for decades and is well respected.

In my role as Director of Public Affairs at MANA, I work directly with Claudia, in areas of organization, policy and governance. She is clear, direct and follows through on her tasks. She is well prepared when we have to discuss policy.

Claudia would be a great addition to the Midwifery Advisory Council. I hope that you consider her seriously.

Thank you for your time
Teresa Mclean, LM

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Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attention: Midwifery Program
FAX: (916) 263-8936
tonya.morality@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last Benji	First Atoosa	Middle Initial	Suffix
Address:	Street [REDACTED]	City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]	Fax# [REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]			
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	[REDACTED]		License Number: LM #	626
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	[REDACTED]		License Number:	_____
	If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? [REDACTED]			
Are you, or have you ever been, a board member of a midwifery or physician related entity?	[REDACTED] If yes, please list the name of the board(s):			
	Name			Dates of Membership
	Name			Dates of Membership
Organization/Association: <i>(If volunteering as a non-licensed "public member" please insert the word "SELF - PUBLIC Interest")</i>	NARM CALM			
Position within the Organization/Association: <i>(Board member, executive, or member)</i>	member			
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC Advisory Council?	[REDACTED]			
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the Advisory Council, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board?	[REDACTED]			
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization?	[REDACTED]			

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Please attach your resume or curriculum vitae.

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(Signature)

2-23-2021
(Date)

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February 22, 2021

As a birth doula, I knew very little about the out-of-hospital birth setting. I had served mostly in the hospital setting, and all 3 of my children were born in a hospital with an obstetrician as my care-provider. At the very first home-birth I attended, I was shocked by the relaxed, hands-off, client-based model I was witnessing. It was not until I understood that the labor, the mother, and the baby were being monitored under the watchful eyes of the Licensed Midwife and her team, and witnessed how the birth of the baby brought empowerment and elation for the mother and her partner that I realized something very special was happening. I was also aware that I now knew too much. This new birthing model would be permanently etched in my consciousness.

I could no longer ignore the calling. I decided to go back to school to become a midwife. My education at MCU brought me in touch with the history of midwifery. As a Middle Eastern woman, I knew my culture carried a legacy of famous midwives who served from the ghettos to the Iranian Monarchy. In school and through continuing education programs, I learned about health equality versus equity. I felt powerless as I read the statistics of black and indigenous mothers and their babies in the 21st Century, right here in the United States. I learned about the detriment of systemic racism on our most vulnerable- our mothers and our babies. My education at MCU and my clinical training to become a midwife changed me. I rearranged internally as a woman, a mother, and a birth worker

The more I studied, and the more births I attended, the more I realized that society needs skilled midwives as much it needs the air we breathe. I began to understand the importance of a clear scope of

practice, practice protocols, standards of care, and the magic that happens when midwives, nurses and physicians collaborate. I had served on the Nurse-Doula Task Force at our local hospital and had seen birth outcomes and client experiences improve as doulas and nurses communicated and partnered together. As a student midwife, I attended a Nurse-Midwife Task Force meeting at another hospital where a doula mediated the discussion between midwives, physicians, and nurses about protocols and collaboration during a transfer of care. I was moved beyond words. I could see change happening in front of my eyes- change that would change the ugly statistics I had been learning about and witnessing. I could be a part of that change in so many levels.

I would be honored to serve of the MAC board of the Medical Board of California, where midwives and physicians come together to keep midwifery strong and thriving through continued, respectful communication at the level of the state board and ultimately, state legislature level. I cannot think of a place I would rather serve as I begin my midwifery career. I feel that my close to 2 decades as a birth worker, and now as a Licensed Midwife with a deep understanding of the way the medical community and the midwifery community work together, I would be an asset to the council.

ATOOSA BENJI

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SPRING 2003 – PRESENT

**BIRTH DOULA, BIRTH DOULA TRAINER, CHILDBIRTH AND LACTATION EDUCATOR
LABOR WITH LOVE, INC.**

Providing birth support in various settings. Holding private and group classes to provide families for birth and breastfeeding. Training birth doulas in group classes for certification through DONA International.

FALL 2020-PRESENT

**LICENSED MIDWIFE
ART OF NURSING CARE INC.**

Licensed Midwife working with a group of midwives providing prenatal, birth and postpartum services in the out-of-hospital setting to low-risk birthing people.

FALL 2016 – SUMMER 2020

**MIDWIFE APPRENTICE, EDUCATOR, DOULA REGISTRY COORDINATOR
ART OF NURSING CARE, INC.**

Attended prenatal visits, birth, and postpartum visits with the staff midwife as apprentice and assistant, taught childbirth and breastfeeding classes at the individual and group level, ran the doula registry-matching families with birth and postpartum doulas.

FALL 2013-PRESENT

**SKILLS LAB ASSISTANT AND EDUCATOR
MOUNT SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY**

Teaching nursing students professional labor support during obstetrics rotation. Educating student nurses on how to partner with doulas to improve birth outcomes and patient satisfaction. Playing standardized laboring patient role in labor simulation lab.

FALL 2003-2016

**CHILDBIRTH AND LACTATION EDUCATOR
PUMP STATION AND NURTURY, INC**

Taught childbirth preparation to couples in a group setting.

LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019

Published Article In DONA International Magazine - Volume 26 Issue 2

"Health Disparities: Black Mothers And Low Birth-Weight Babies"

https://www.bluetoad.com/publication/?m=19785&l=503949&view=articleBrowser&article_id=3109808&p_cust_id=1204520

2017

Student of the Year Award, Midwives College of Utah

2016

Nominated by Doulas of Southern California (DASC) for Labor Doula of the Year award

2015-PRESENT

Providence St. John's Hospital Nurse-Doula Alliance Task Force

2008-PRESENT

Doulas of Southern California mentor to doulas

2008-PRESENT

DONA mentor to newly trained birth-doulas

References Available Upon request

Art of Nursing Care Inc.
Art of Birthing
Amy Tinney RN, CPM, LM



February 22, 2021

For the last 5 years I have had the pleasure to guide Atoosa Benji CPM LM in preparing to become a Midwife. From the very start of our journey together, I was impressed with her ability to take initiative and follow her intuition with clients. Her ability to read people has been a valuable asset to her training and she has been an amazing part of my team. Not only does she have what it takes to excel as a new midwife, she has so much knowledge and life experience that it makes clients feel safe in her presence. Her maturity is a blessing and her skills have grown over the years. I am so happy to have been a part of her journey becoming a midwife and wish her the best in her future, hoping to maintain a beautiful collaborative relationship with her in our midwife community. When she told me that she wanted to apply to the MAC board I thought wow, what a great idea. Atoosa is not only a licensed care provider, she also has lots of experience with many other medical professionals throughout her lifetime, she is articulate and thoughtful in her delivery of information that is vital to the ongoing collaborations that are needed in this profession. I would highly recommend that she be strongly considered to join the MAC board as a representative of our profession.

Sincerely,

Amy Tinney RN CPM LM



February 21, 2021

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Atoosa Benji in her application to serve on the California Midwifery Advisory Council.

I have known Atoosa since 2011. She was an aspiring midwife. At that time, she was a very experienced and highly sought after labor doula. Atoosa's understanding of the perinatal time and the nuances of the labor process impressed me from our first meeting.

Beginning in 2013, I invited Atoosa to speak to our nursing students about the role of the doula and the research around perinatal outcomes with doula care. Atoosa is a natural teacher. We advanced her teaching role by inviting her to our simulation lab to provide a realistic experience to students who were learning how to support laboring patients. This kind of frank feedback to students about the patient's perspective is an invaluable experience to the learning process for these future nurses.

As you can see from her resume, Atoosa is a teacher and mentor to birthworkers in the Los Angeles area. She is a pleasure to work with and has a collaborative and learning orientation. Atoosa's connection to the community, and her commitment to protecting and supporting physiologic birth is unwavering. Now that Atoosa has completed her midwifery education, it makes perfect sense that she would seek out advisory and service roles in the profession.

I am confident Atoosa will be a reliable and responsible representative of the southern California midwifery community. She is an excellent collaborator. She will strengthen communications and connections with the midwifery community at the state and local level.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S Shealy".

Sarah Shealy RN, MSN, CNM, IBCLC
Associate Professor Nursing
Mount Saint Mary's University



February 21, 2021

Midwifery Advisory Council of the Medical Board of California

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you with pleasure as a reference for applicant Atoosa Benji. I am a Los Angeles based mother of two expecting my third this Summer. My last birth was November 24th of 2019 where I selected Atoosa as my midwife during her time under a preceptor as a student midwife. As you know, birth is truly one of the most intimate and transformative experiences. After meeting Atoosa in 2015 during her time as my teacher in childbirth education, I followed her journey to becoming a midwife with a dream of having her by my side if I were to have any additional children. My dream came true in the comfort of my home on a perfect night in November.

My reasoning for choosing Atoosa is abundant, but for simplicity and relevance let me describe to you this exceptional human being. Atoosa's passion and knowledge of birth in such a variety of embracing facets drew me to her. She has a way with her approach of care that is informative yet patient and passionate. My prenatal appointments with Atoosa were unlike anything I had ever experienced in the medical field. Her passion to provide information that was intentional and relevant while being a present listener to my needs holistically as an expectant mother made me feel safe and positive. Like mentioned above, throughout my time in her care she was a student which allowed me to see her humble desire to learn and glean and collaborate with other midwives. At my birth I got the privilege of having her as a student. I can truly reflect on moments where she was able to graciously learn in the midst of labor while being sure of what she knew I needed at each phase of my birthing experience. I needed every aspect of her. The soft compassionate understanding, the assertive moments, the knowledge that progressed me through each phase and the assurance that each decision she made had me and my baby's safety at the forefront of her mind and heart.

The birthing community has truly found the greatest gem in Atoosa Benji and I say this with entire sincerity. It is a privilege to have had her as my midwife and to have her in my life as a source of information and strength as a mother. I hope I get the honor to have her attend any future births I have including this one to come.

Truly, anyone who gets to sit in the room with her with a readiness to embrace her will be better for it. There is no doubt.

Thank you for your consideration.

Humbly,

Viergeni White

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FAX: (916) 263-8936
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Name: Last Turner First Sue Middle Initial M Suffix _____

Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: Cell _____

Email: _____

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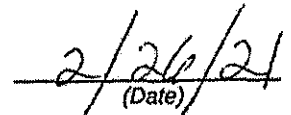
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~Ventura Birth Center/Sue Turner, LM~

NPI 1265562334



February 26th 2021

Attn: Medical Board of CA/MAC

Having been a Licensed Midwife in CA since 1997 I have always had interest in being part of matters involving the midwifery community providing expert review for many years for the Medical Board, holding quarterly peer review at my birth center, holding meetings on updated laws and regulations as well as workshops and classes to keep myself and local midwives up to date on various midwifery techniques. Thank you for consideration for the MAC Board position.

Thank you,


Sue Turner
Ventura Birth Center



~Ventura Birth Center~

Sue Turner, LM

NPI 1265562334




Previous Employment

- 1997-Present CA Medical Board Licensed Midwife
Ventura Birth Center-Owner
- 1998-Present NCM Preceptor
- 2002-Present Expert Case Reviewer for CA Medical Board and Private Attorneys
- 1990-1997 Doula and CBE, Co Leader of Postpartum Depression Group with Psychologist
- 1997-1998 CMH Hospital Physiology Dept
Ventura, CA
- 1994-1997 Labor and Delivery, ER and CBE
St John's Hospital
Oxnard, Ca
- 1990-1994 Rape and Sexual Abuse Center Outreach, Primary Purpose Family Group, 1-1 Counselor for
Ventura Alcohol and Drug Dept, In Patient Dual Diagnosis Treatment Center

Education

- AS Alcohol/Drug Studies and Psychology
- AS Midwifery NCM
- BS Psychology in Process
- ALSO Certificate
- BEST Certification
- NRP Certificate
- Healthcare Provider BLS
- NARM Preceptor

Events and Workshops Hosted

- Marsden Wagner
- Mayer Eisenstein
- Ina May Gaskin
- Kitty Franz
- NARM Study Workshops
- CALM Event
- Suturing, Venipuncture and IV Workshops-taught
- AWHONN Fetal Monitoring Workshops
- Physician led Physical Exam Workshops
- Workshop on Pregnancy/Birth Jewish Culture Traditions
- Previous ICAN representative
- Midwifery Insurance Billing
- BEST Workshop
- 

Letter of Recommendation

Re: Sue Turner, Licensed Midwife

To whom it may concern:

Sue Turner has been a midwife for 20+ years and I've personally had the experience of her providing care for me during two of my pregnancies. She is caring, compassionate, calm in all situations and is quick to identify potential areas of concern. She was instrumental in guiding me through proper care and nutrition regarding my health, and the well-being of my unborn baby. She offered and provided all the necessary prenatal testing and assisted with ensuring all ultrasounds were completed so we could track progress and growth during my pregnancy. While giving birth, Sue was at my side from start to finish, offering reassurance and ensured a safe and positive experience. Sue's knowledge and experience as a midwife far exceeds expectations. She is an incredibly gifted and talented medical professional and I would highly recommend her when it comes to areas of pregnancy, birth and well-woman care.

Sincerely,

Tina Cruz

Letter of Recommendation

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Date: Friday, February 26, 2021, 10:49 AM PST

To whom it may concern:

I have had the pleasure of working with Sue Turner, LM for the last 5 years. She is a well-respected preceptor and mentor to many midwives and midwifery students in Ventura county and throughout southern California and the country. She always deals with her clients in a professional and caring manner and goes above and beyond to provide safe and compassionate service. Sue is knowledgeable and trustworthy. I highly recommend her for a position on the Midwifery/MAC Board. She would bring an extraordinary wealth of knowledge and experience to the organization.

Thank you,

Rebecca Hicks

Midwifery Student

From: [REDACTED]**To:** [REDACTED]**Subject:** Medical Board Recommendation**Date:** Fri, Feb 26, 2021 3:45 pm**Attachments:** [REDACTED]

Dear California Medical Board Members,

I have known Sue Turner, LM, as both a friend and midwife since approximately 2006. We first met when I was a doula, and later she became my Academic Preceptor with the National College of Midwifery as I was attending there to become a midwife myself (I licensed in CA in 2010). She and I are in the same peer review, and she has become a close friend and mentor through my midwifery journey. As an Expert Reviewer for the MAC, Sue encouraged me to become an Expert Reviewer for the MAC, enabling me to contribute as a midwife in a way very differently than I imagined when I set out on my journey. Her knowledge of midwifery and CA Midwifery regulations are excellent, I am sure having been honed by her years serving in this capacity.

Sue is not only knowledgeable, but kind, compassionate and understanding. She thinks clearly, and looks at issues from different angles, seeking the best outcomes for all. I cannot imagine a better candidate to serve California Midwifery on the MAC Board than Sue Turner, LM.

Jeanne Anderson, LM291
Whole-Hearts Midwifery

**MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program**

Midwifery Advisory Council Member Application

The Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) is an advisory council responsible for making recommendations on matters presented by the California Medical Board (Board) members, Board staff, or designees. The MAC represents the midwifery community and licensed midwives in the State of California. The MAC is comprised of three licensed midwives, one physician and surgeon, and two public members. Public member representatives have an interest in midwifery, but are not licensed midwives. The MAC members volunteer to serve and attend all MAC meetings for up to a three-year term. This application form has been developed to review volunteers interested in serving on the MAC. To be considered for appointment, please mail, email, or fax your MAC Member Application form no later than January 31, 2021 to:

Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attention: Midwifery Program
FAX: (916) 263-8938
tonya.morality@mbc.ca.gov

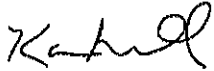
Name:	Last Sohamell	First Kara	Middle Initial L	Suffix
Address:	Street [REDACTED]	City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]	Fax# [REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]			
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	[REDACTED]	License Number: LM #	632	
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	[REDACTED]	License Number:	[REDACTED]	
	If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? [REDACTED]			
Are you, or have you ever been, a board member of a midwifery or physician related entity?	[REDACTED] If yes, please list the name of the board(s):			
	Name	Dates of Membership		
	Name	Dates of Membership		
Organization/Association: <i>(If volunteering as a non-licensed "public member" please insert the word "SELF -- PUBLIC interest")</i>	[REDACTED]			
Position within the Organization/Association: <i>(Board member, executive, or member)</i>	[REDACTED]			
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC Advisory Council?	[REDACTED]			
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the Advisory Council, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board?	[REDACTED]			
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization?	[REDACTED]			

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program

Please attach your resume or curriculum vitae.

Please attach a letter outlining your qualifications and interest in midwifery and home birth, including prior involvement with midwifery-related organizations.

Please attach three letters of recommendation from licensed midwives or clients in your area.
(If applying for midwife position at least 2 of the letters must be from practicing midwives in your area)



(Signature)

2/23/2021

(Date)

DISCLOSURE: Providing this information is strictly voluntary. The personal information requested on this form is being collected for consideration of appointment as a member of the MAC. This information will be reviewed by Board staff and members of the Board and/or MAC. This form will be retained in the files of the Licensing Program. This form and attachments must be submitted by January 31, 2021 to be considered.

February 24th, 2021

California Medical Board
2005 EVERGREEN STREET, SUITE 120
SACRAMENTO, CA 95815

To whom it may concern,

As a newly-minted Licensed Midwife in the state of California, I am eager to wield the privilege of this license in service to both the midwifery community and midwifery consumers, as a member of the California Midwifery Advisory Council. It is with a great deal of gratitude to the lineage of California midwives who have come before me, that I seek the opportunity to represent this community with integrity and diligence.

I previously trained and practiced in Massachusetts, where home birth midwives largely fly under the radar, as unlicensed providers practicing outside of the protection and guidelines of state regulation and oversight. Despite two decades of legislative efforts, licensure continues to be an elusive goal for the midwifery community there, which over time has become increasingly divided over the issue. I came of age as a young midwife in this climate where licensure, regulation, and the topic of a legally defined scope of practice were hotly debated subjects. It provided me with the opportunity to wrestle with the pro's and con's of integration into a larger medical system, and also the chance to craft my own scope of practice, and forge my own inroads with medical providers in my area. It was in that first year of my practice that I set the intention of building bridges as opposed to walls, and I became deeply invested in the movement for licensure and regulation in Massachusetts.

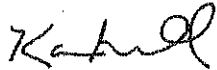
Very soon after obtaining my credential of Certified Professional Midwife and setting up my home birth practice in 2016, I became the co-chair of the fundraising committee for the Massachusetts Midwives Alliance. Through this position, I organized community events with the goal to not only raise awareness about home birth, but also to raise money for our legislative efforts. Alongside my work with the fundraising committee, I also met with a well-established CNM practice at Mount Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where many home birth clients received "co-care" throughout their pregnancy. As a result of that meeting, I created standardized transfer of care forms, for use in emergent scenarios to ease the transition from home to hospital, and streamline communication between midwives and hospital-based providers.

As a midwife, I am deeply committed to preserving the right of women and families to birth at home under the care of well-trained and well-informed midwives. I see licensure, the regulation of home birth, and the integration of home birth midwives into the larger maternity care system as the scaffolding that supports a high-quality standard of care, based on evidence and forged

in collaboration with medical professionals and institutions. I have experienced a midwifery culture where without constraints and accountability, communication breaks down and mistrust abounds. Most importantly this harms consumers and compromises their quality of care, and it also leaves midwives and their clients in a vulnerable position without the support of medical providers and institutions. It is this support which makes homebirth a clinically sound option for families seeking a low-intervention experience of pregnancy and birth.

As I am setting down roots as a newly Licensed Midwife and recent transplant to the San Francisco Bay area, I am eager to put my energy and enthusiasm to good use — in service to the midwifery community of California, and in service to the families we serve with compassion and care. It would be an honor to serve as a member of the Midwifery Advisory Council. Thank you for your time and consideration of my candidacy.

Sincerely,



Kara Schamell, LM, CPM



KARA SCHAMELL



I am a Licensed Midwife and Certified Professional Midwife with extensive experience in out-of-hospital, physiologic birth. Since 2010, I have served women at various points throughout the female lifespan – ranging from pre-conception to post-menopausal. I consider it my life's work to improve how women's healthcare is delivered and experienced.

EXPERIENCE

Birthing Adventures Midwifery, San Francisco, CA :: May 2020 - Present

Birthing Adventures is a private midwifery practice founded by Aliya Caler, CNM, offering home birth services and comprehensive gynecologic care. I began working with Aliya as a Birth Assistant, and later joined her practice as a full-time partner and co-primary midwife when I obtained my California midwifery license.

San Francisco Birth Center, San Francisco, CA :: April 2020 - Present

The San Francisco Birth Center is a free-standing birth center that provides comprehensive midwifery care in a home-like environment. I support their staff midwives as a Birth Assistant & Postpartum Midwife, and also facilitate the Postpartum Preparation group prenatal visit for expectant SFBC families.

The Cusp, San Francisco, CA :: January 2019 - February 2020

The Cusp was a venture-capital-backed digital health startup that specialized in women's midlife healthcare. I was instrumental in building this high-touch telehealth service from the ground up, coordinating all aspects of the clinical team and crafting a personalized care journey for all patients.

Modern Mama Midwifery, Boston, MA :: April 2016 - November 2018

Holistic Midwifery Care, Birth Doula Services, and Childbirth Education for families in Massachusetts planning home births. Co-founded an evidence-based midwifery practice tailored to the unique needs of our client base: shared decision-making, informed choice, and unparalleled support throughout the childbearing year.

Modern Traditional Birth, Boston, MA :: February 2010 - April 2016

Birth Doula services for families seeking low-intervention, highly personalized birth experiences. Provided clients with compassionate advocacy, informational guidance, and

physical support. In 2015, I began offering midwifery care as a Primary Midwife Under Supervision, in partnership with my preceptors from Birth Matters.

Birth Matters, Stoughton, MA :: May 2013 - September 2015

Home birth practice serving families across Eastern Massachusetts. Progressed from Student Midwife to Primary Midwife Under Supervision (PMUS), working with Sarafina Kennedy, CPM and Jessica Petrone, CPM.

Birth Day Midwifery Care, Braintree, MA :: August 2012 - May 2013

Home birth practice founded by Nancy Wainer, CPM, a midwife well known for her VBAC advocacy. This was my first preceptorship as a Student Midwife.

EDUCATION

Birthwise Midwifery School, Bridgton, ME :: August 2013 - November 2015

- Nationally accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC), Birthwise is a direct-entry midwifery program that prepares students for out-of-hospital midwifery practice as Certified Professional Midwives.
- Completed 750 classroom hours on campus and 3+ years full-time preceptorship with two busy home birth practices in Massachusetts.
- Additional Well Woman training in a private gynecologic care practice with Deb Gowen, CNM, and a full spectrum women's health clinic with Lindsey Piper, WHNP.

Wheaton College, Norton, MA :: August 2004 - May 2008

- Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude
- Major: Anthropology
- Teaching Assistant (2007-2008) for "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" course.
- 2008 Greater Boston Anthropology Consortium presenter; "Best Undergraduate Student Paper".
- 2007 Davis International Fellowship grant recipient; awarded \$5,000 to fund thesis research in South Africa.
- Senior Thesis: "When Sounds and Spirits Go Global: Mbiru Musicianship Abroad".

CREDENTIALS

California Licensed Midwife (LM) February 2021 - present

Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) 2016 - present

PUBLICATIONS

Schamell K. Male, Female, or Unclear: Ambiguous Genitalia and the Role of the Midwife. *Midwifery Matters*. 2016;3(2):5-12.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

Holistic women's health :: Socially-conscious Femtech :: Herbalism & Folk Medicine :: Shona Folk Music & Dance from Zimbabwe :: Yoga :: Surfing :: Memoirs & Historical Fiction



February 23, 2021

Midwifery Advisory Council
The Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Midwifery Advisory Council,

It is my great pleasure to recommend California Licensed Midwife Kara Schamell for the role of Midwifery Advisory Council member at the Medical Board of California. Kara is a skilled midwife, educator and researcher; a true asset for the Midwifery community. Our relationship began in 2013 as midwifery students through clinical training and now continues as supportive peers in private practice since 2016. I've always appreciated her drive for improving best practices in midwifery care. Kara's private practice reflects up to date practice guidelines and is consistent with the midwifery model of care. She is committed to upholding safety and clinical evidence based guidelines at the core of her practice. She practices her commitment to midwifery through continued research and regular participation in peer review. She is a practicing peer that I regularly seek council from pertaining to complicated cases and hold her feedback in high regard.

I have no reservations giving my highest recommendation for this position. I can assure you that she is an outstanding Licensed Midwife who will quickly become an integral member of the Midwifery Advisory Council. I trust she will bring a great degree of optimism and enthusiasm to her role. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding her character or midwifery abilities.


Sincerely,

Christian Toscano, LM, CPM
Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife



February 14, 2021

Aliya Caler


Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815-5401

To The Midwifery Board of California:

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Kara Schamell, LM, as a candidate to the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC). I first met Ms. Shamell at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, when she made the decision to transition back to clinical midwifery after having a brief hiatus working in the telehealth space. Since moving to San Francisco in 2018, Kara switched her focus from care at the individual level to impacting delivery of health care to women in midlife at a holistic telehealth startup. I was immediately impressed by her impulse to utilize midwives to re-envision the healthcare system. Ms. Shamell brings her tenacity and drive to everything she chooses to engage. Over the course of getting to know her, I can say with confidence that she is deeply invested in contributing to the field of midwifery and women's health in California. With my own background in public health and policy making, I deeply appreciate Kara's keen interest in the system-level delivery of midwifery care, and I can think of no one more well-suited to represent the midwifery community here in California.

In addition to her drive to ensure widespread access to the midwifery model of care, Kara is also a proficient midwife. She is thorough in her approach to care and is committed to staying up to date in her knowledge of the evidence base. She takes seriously her conviction to represent midwives as rigorous, well-informed providers, with an expertise in physiologic birth. Her approach to care is a blend of art and science with a deep honor of the ancient craft of midwifery.

I believe Ms. Shamell would make a wonderful addition to the MAC because she is diplomatic, down to earth, and thoughtful. Furthermore she is courteous in her approach to negotiation and problem solving. I am confident that Kara would become a well respected member of the Midwifery Advisory Council. You would be lucky to have her.

Respectfully,

Aliya Caler, CNM, WHNP-BC, RN, MPH

Ritual Midwifery



February 23, 2021

California Medical Board

2005 EVERGREEN STREET, SUITE 120

SACRAMENTO, CA 95815

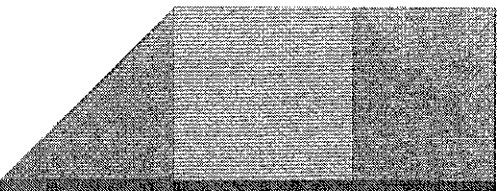
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to wholeheartedly endorse Midwife Kara Schamell for the Midwife Advisory Board.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kara over the course of the past year at the San Francisco Birth Center where her role has been as an assistant Midwife at births, and a postpartum Midwife performing home visits to clients during the first 2 weeks postpartum. In addition to her client care interactions and responsibilities, Kara has been a part of our weekly team meetings where we discuss particular cases and also ways to improve client care.

Kara is an experienced, dedicated and passionate Midwife. She thinks globally and holistically. On numerous occasions her feedback on how to improve client care has been indispensable. Kara is dedicated to preserving a high quality standard of midwifery care, which honors the historic art and craft of midwifery while also safeguarding evidence-based practice.

Kara brings a fresh perspective as a Midwife who has previously practiced in an unregulated state. She has a deep understanding of the vast range of what being an out of hospital Midwife can mean at the community level. Her optimism is contagious and her passion for building community is heartening. Kara has the ability to think not only about her personal, lived experience but to also hold close the experiences of other Midwives and families that may be vastly different from herself and also from one another. Kara is absolutely the voice I would want at the table for this Advisory Committee.



Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for further insights as to why I feel Kara would make such an ideal addition to the council.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Alana Damos

Homebirth Midwife, Ritual Midwifery

[Redacted signature block]

[Faint handwritten text]