

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 **December 15, 2024**, to:

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

Name:	Last	First	Middle Initial	Suffix
	Branson Phyllis "Kayti"			
Address:	Street	City	State	Zip Code
Phone:	Cell#	Home #	Work#	Fax#
Email:				
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?		☒ YES ☐ NO License Number: LM # <u>367</u>		
Are you a California Licensed Physician?		☐ YES ☒ NO License Number: _____ If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☐ NO		
Are you, or have you ever been, a board member of a midwifery or physician related entity?		☒ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the board(s): Name _____ Dates of Membership _____ Californians for the Advancement of Midwifery current Name _____ Dates of Membership _____		
Organization/Association: <i>(If volunteering as a non-licensee "public member" please insert the word "SELF - PUBLIC Interest")</i>				
Position within the Organization/Association: <i>(Board member, executive, or member)</i>		Board Vice Chair		
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC Advisory Council?				☐ YES ☒ NO
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?				☐ YES ☒ NO
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization?				☐ YES ☒ NO

**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)

Phyllis K Branson
(Signature)

4/16/26
(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 December 15, 2024, to be considered.

Phyllis “Kayti” Buehler, Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife

LICENSURE/ CERTIFICATION

Licensed Midwife with the Medical Board of California
 Certified Professional Midwife, North American Registry of Midwives
 NRP, BLS, CPR Certified, Current

EDUCATION

1997 UC Berkeley, Bachelor of Arts, History, with Honors
 2012 Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery, Degree in Holistic Midwifery Studies, San Diego

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

2013- now Birth Local Midwifery: Primary Maternity Care; home birth, solo midwife practice, 2 students

2012 - 2018

2024- 2026 Californians for the Advancement of Midwifery, Board Member

2013- 2019 Mother to Mother Midwifery: Group Practice Primary Maternity Care; home birth
 Instructor, Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery
 Midwives Coalition of Greater San Diego, Co-Founder

2007- 2013 *Doula, Midwife Assistant*
 Attended 200 births as a doula, midwife assist or intern midwife in hospital, home settings
 Completed 3 year midwifery apprenticeship

2002- 2006 Business Manager: Kanda Banana: Retail and Restaurant in Northern Japan

1998- 2001 English Teacher: Japan Exchange Teaching Program, Miyagi, Japan

1998- 1997 Substitute Teacher, Berkeley Unified School District

1996-1997 Co-Facilitator, “Female Sexuality” elective course at UC Berkeley, 3 semesters

1995-1997 Computing Center Staff Supervisor, UC Berkeley Residential Living

LANGUAGES

English and spoken Japanese with conversational fluency

PERSONAL

Globe trot, nature trot, boogie board and boogie down. Sip tea with my lady friends.

Phyllis “Kayti” Branson, LM, CPM

Birth Local Midwifery

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

April 16, 2026

Midwifery Advisory Council

Medical Board of California

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200

Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council,

I am writing to express my interest in being a member of the Midwifery Advisory Council and to offer a brief overview of my qualifications, professional experience, and longstanding commitment to community midwifery and stakeholders in California.

I am a Licensed Midwife in the state of California and a Certified Professional Midwife (CPM), with licensure since 2013. Over the course of my career, I have attended approximately 700 births, providing full-scope, community-based midwifery care. I am the owner and primary midwife of Birth Local Midwifery, where I support families through pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period with a model of care that is relationship-centered, evidence-informed, and grounded in respect for physiologic birth.

My work is rooted in the belief that home birth is not simply a location, but a model of care—one that prioritizes continuity, informed choice, autonomy, and trust in the birthing person’s capacity. I have extensive experience supporting both straightforward and complex clinical scenarios in out-of-hospital settings, with a strong emphasis on risk assessment, appropriate consultation, and collaborative care when needed.

In addition to my clinical work, I have been actively involved in midwifery advocacy and organizational leadership in California. I have served approximately eight years on the Board of Directors for Californians for the Advancement of Midwifery (CAM), contributing to initiatives focused on public education, legislative advocacy, and strengthening the midwifery workforce. My work has included coalition-building across diverse midwifery communities, organizing outreach efforts, and supporting the development of sustainable infrastructure for midwifery care.

More recently, I have been engaged in outreach efforts related to the development of California’s first community college pathway for Licensed Midwives, with a focus on increasing access and diversifying the midwifery workforce. This work reflects my broader commitment to ensuring that midwifery care is accessible, equitable, and representative of the communities we serve.

I also participate in peer review processes within the San Diego midwifery community and have a strong interest in strengthening peer review systems to support both safety and professional development. I believe that thoughtful, well-structured peer review is essential to maintaining high standards of care while fostering a culture of learning and accountability.

I am deeply committed to the continued advancement of midwifery in California and to thoughtful, balanced regulation that supports both public safety and the integrity of community-based care. I value the role of the Midwifery Advisory Council in shaping policy, advising the Medical Board, and ensuring that the voices of practicing midwives are represented in regulatory processes.

Thank you for your time and for your service to the profession. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my clinical experience, leadership background, and perspective as a community-based midwife to the ongoing work of the Council.

Warmly,

Phyllis “Kayti” Branson, LM, CPM

February 22, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to formally endorse Phyllis "Kayti" Branson for the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) at the Medical Board of CA.

Phyllis Kayti was our midwife in 2025 when we welcomed our third beautiful son. The moment we met her, it felt like we had known her forever. And really, she will be a part of our family for as long as we live. She is kind, patient, so knowledgeable in what she does, and she is an amazing listener. My husband and I felt such peace while we were under her care for my third pregnancy.

I'll never forget the way she made me feel heard for every appointment. She was always there with a welcome hug, and a shoulder to cry on if I needed it. She empowered me, made me feel like the strongest woman in the world when getting ready to deliver my baby.

I have a lot of special moments with Phyllis, but one I will never forget is when she visited me for one of my postpartum appointments and she did a beautiful ceremony for me to become a mother for the third time. The words of encouragement she gave to me that day will stay with me forever. It's such a beautiful thing to become a mother, but to have this type of support from a midwife is such an amazing experience that I hope every mother can have.

I am incredibly grateful for her care and would recommend her to any family that is looking for a skilled and supportive midwife.

Sincerely,
Paige Shader

Vickii Gervais LM LAc

Midwifery ● Acupuncture ● Herbal Medicine



February 19, 2026

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

Re: Endorsement of Phyllis “Kayti” Buehler, LM

To the Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council:

I am writing to offer my endorsement of Phyllis “Kayti” Buehler, LM, as a representative to the Midwifery Advisory Council of the Medical Board of California.

I have known and worked alongside Kayti for many years at births, through our shared participation in Peer Review and within the San Diego midwifery community. She has been an active member of the birth community for 19 years and has been licensed as a California midwife for 13 years.

In my experience, Kayti is a midwife of strong clinical skill, sound judgment, and professional integrity. She approaches her work with seriousness and care while maintaining respect for colleagues and clients alike. Through Peer Review, I have observed her willingness to reflect on practice, engage in constructive dialogue, and uphold professional standards.

In addition to her clinical work, Kayti has demonstrated sustained and meaningful leadership in advancing midwifery in California. She has served for multiple years on the Board of Californians for Advancing Midwifery (CAM), contributing to strategic planning and statewide initiatives designed to strengthen the profession. Kayti has also organized and led numerous community events and professional gatherings that support education, collaboration, and public awareness of midwifery care. Her work extends beyond her own practice and reflects a deep commitment to building infrastructure and professional credibility for Licensed Midwives across the state.

Kayti shows up consistently for collaborative efforts, contributes thoughtfully to discussions affecting our profession, and remains firmly committed to the advancement of midwifery in California.

I believe she would serve the Midwifery Advisory Council with diligence, fairness, and a clear understanding of clinical practice, regulatory responsibility, and the broader professional landscape. I offer my full support of her appointment.

Sincerely,

Vickii Gervais, LM LAc
Licensed Midwife LM106



Inland Empire

Midwifery & Lactation

To the MAC Admissions/Selection Committee,

I am pleased to write this letter of endorsement in support of Phyllis "Kayti" Branson's application to the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC). I have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside Kayti in our local midwifery community, and I can say with confidence that she is a dedicated, compassionate, and highly capable individual who would be a tremendous asset to the MAC.

In my experience working with Kayti, I have been consistently impressed by her commitment to evidence-based care, her deep respect for the birthing individuals and families she serves, and her collaborative spirit within our professional community. She approaches her work with both skill and heart – qualities that are essential not only in clinical practice, but in the broader advocacy and leadership roles that the MAC requires of its members.

Kayti demonstrates a genuine investment in the advancement of midwifery in our region. She engages thoughtfully with colleagues, stays current with developments in our field, and consistently upholds the values and standards our profession holds dear. I have no doubt that she would bring this same level of integrity and dedication to her participation in the MAC.

It is without reservation that I endorse Phyllis "Kayti" Branson for membership in the MAC. I believe she will serve the organization and our broader community with distinction.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie' followed by a stylized flourish.

Julie 'Yuli' Smith LM CPM IBCLC
Licensed Midwife #667

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program

Midwifery Advisory Council Member Application

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Medical Board of California
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 Attention: Midwifery Program
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last Foster	First Kaleen	Middle Initial M	Suffix
Address:	[Redacted]			
Phone:	Cell# [Redacted]	Home #	Work#	
Email:	[Redacted]			
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	☒ YES ☐ NO		License Number: LM # 598	
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	☐ YES ☒ NO		License Number: _____	
	If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☐ NO			
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?	☒ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): Name _____ Dates of Membership _____ CALM (CA Assoc. w/ Midwives) 2018-present Name _____ Dates of Membership _____ Storklift Storklift 2024-Current			
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)	Member, Contributor / Board member			
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO			
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO			
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO			

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)


(Signature)

05/28/20
(Date)

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Ananda Mama Midwifery

Kaleen Marie Foster LM, CPM
Certified Professional Midwife | Licensed Midwife, California

May 26, 2026

Midwifery Advisory Council

Medical Board of California

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200

Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council Selection Committee,

It is with deep conviction and commitment to the profession of midwifery, and safety of homebirth practice, that I submit my application for a position on the California Medical Board's Midwifery Advisory Council. I believe that the decisions made at this level carry profound consequences for families, practitioners, and the future of community-based birth in our state — and I am eager to contribute meaningfully to that work.

A Foundation in Personal Experience

I was always interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, and I started as an Emergency Medical Technician, however path into midwifery was forged through my lived experience of the births of my three sons. In 2007, I underwent a cesarean section, after a failed induction, where I was not adequately informed about the risks and benefits of the clinical decision making, thus not allowing me to fully consent to that care. Not being given true informed consent about many of the decisions regarding my care, I believe was the biggest factor in this being a traumatic experience. In 2009, I gave birth at a birth center, reclaiming a measure of agency, and while I had a successful VBAC, I still faced medical interventions I wasn't permitted to object to. In 2013, I had a healing homebirth that transformed the way I understood birth, autonomy, true informed consent, and the value of midwifery care.

Those three births — and the stark contrast between them — are the reason I became a midwife. I understand, from personal experience, what it means to be a birthing person navigating a medical system that is not always centered on the individual, despite the best intentions of those providing the care. I fervently believe that low-risk women and birthing persons deserve the option of a safe, autonomous birth, and the ability to choose how and where they give birth. That conviction shapes every advocacy effort I undertake, to uphold midwifery and OOH birth to the highest level of care. I want low risk women/birthing persons to have this option, and I want them to have this option without compromising their autonomy, or safety.

Clinical Background and Credentials

I completed my midwifery training in 2019 and earned my Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential on December 12, 2019, followed by California licensure as a Licensed Midwife on January 2, 2020. I own and operate a community-based midwifery practice in Southern California, primarily in the Inland Empire, providing continuity-of-care homebirth services rooted in informed consent, patient autonomy, and evidence-informed practice.

My clinical background is enriched by earlier training in emergency medicine. I completed my EMT certification in 2006, and served as a Base Patroller at Snow Valley–Big Bear Mountain Resort from 2018 to 2025, where I facilitated medical transports, and delivered patient care during life-critical and life-altering injuries. This grounding in emergency response directly informs how I approach risk assessment, transport decision-making, continuity of care, and inter-agency collaboration in my midwifery practice.

I hold a Bachelor of Science in Global Studies from California State University, Monterey Bay. My Capstone research project for graduation examined infant mortality in the United States compared to other industrialized nations, work that deepened my understanding of the systemic, cultural, and policy factors that drive birth outcomes. The United States is now ranked 50th globally in infant mortality, with more than 20 non-industrialized countries achieving better outcomes. The US also has the highest maternal mortality rate among all industrialized nations, and while globally maternal mortality saw an approximate 40% decrease since the late 1980's, the US saw a 58% increase from 1990-2017, indicating clear flaws throughout the maternity care system. With the resources we have available, this is neither inevitable nor acceptable. This motivates my engagement at every level of this work, and I am passionate about improving maternal and neonatal outcomes. The international literature strongly supports the contention that the countries with the best outcomes, have midwives managing the majority of uncomplicated, term births. When midwifery care is integrated into the medical system, so that continuity of care can be maintained; the research highlights that these two things are the biggest contributors to improving outcomes for the dyad.

Professional Leadership and Organizational Involvement

I am an active participant in advancing the midwifery profession beyond clinical care. In 2018, I organized a Women's Wellness Gathering, assembling a multidisciplinary panel of experts to foster education and community dialogue around women's health. In February 2026, I coordinated a regional Breech and Twins Training Event in partnership with Dr. David Hayes, MD, OB/GYN — a nationally recognized expert in breech and twin birth management. This event brought together local providers for advanced skills training that directly supports the expansion of safe homebirth options for complex presentations.

I am also working alongside Licensed Midwife Michele Kazmier, on Storklift — an organization dedicated to improving midwifery-led hospital transports from community birth settings. Our organizational mission reflects what research and clinical experience have consistently demonstrated: that continuity of care during transport, respectful collaboration between midwives and EMS providers, and systematic data collection, as well as clear roles during transports, are essential to improving outcomes. Storklift's core principles are:

- Collaboration within an integrated maternity care system is essential for optimal midwifery-led community birth-to-hospital transport outcomes.
- All women, birthing people, newborns, and families planning a home or birth center birth have a right to respectful, safe, and seamless consultation, referral, transport, and transfer to a higher level of care when necessary.
- A clear EMS protocol is needed to outline the unique aspects of community birth transports; EMS and midwives should be trained on this protocol, post-transport debriefs should be conducted, and data should be recorded to continuously improve the process.

This work is among one the most urgent in our field. Improving transport systems is not peripheral to homebirth safety — it is central to it.

Why This Council

The Midwifery Advisory Council holds an important role in shaping the regulatory and practice landscape for midwives in California. I bring to this work a combination of clinical experience through 12 years attending births starting in hospital as a doula, and transitioning to all community births as a student midwife and practicing Licensed Midwife. My experience in emergency medicine, as well as community birth, gives me unique insights regarding planned homebirth to hospital transfers. I also educated on matters of public health, including how maternity care deserts restrict access to prenatal care, how racial disparities influence poor outcomes, and the importance of having available providers that are culturally similar to the birthing person. There are few things I care about more than, getting midwifery policies and practices in the State of California to the highest standard, that allows for safety, patient agency and autonomy, and their right to informed consent in every aspect of the care they receive.

I would be honored to serve alongside the members of the Medical Board of California in this capacity, and I welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further.

Warmly and respectfully,

Kaleen Foster, CPM, LM
Licensed Midwife — California

KALEEN FOSTER, CPM, LM

Certified Professional Midwife | Licensed Midwife, State of California

Community-Based Midwifery Practice | Emergency Medicine | Clinical Education | Maternal Health Policy

CREDENTIALS & LICENSURE

Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) *December 12, 2019 – Present*

North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)

Licensed Midwife (LM) *January 2, 2020 – Present*

State of California Medical Board

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) *2006-*

Monterey Peninsula College

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Owner & Practicing Midwife *2020 – Present*

Community-Based Midwifery Practice – California

- Provide comprehensive prenatal, intrapartum, and postpartum care for low-risk homebirth clients.
- Practice is grounded in evidence-based care, informed consent frameworks, and patient autonomy.
- Manage clinical risk assessment, transport decision-making, and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Develop and maintain care protocols aligned with California Medical Board regulations and NARM standards.

Founding Member and Contributor- *Current*

Storklift – Midwifery-Led Transport Improvement Organization

Founded by Licensed Midwife Michele Kazmier.

- Developing standardized EMS protocols specific to community birth-to-hospital transports.
- Advocating for midwife continuity of care during and after transport.
- Building inter-agency training curricula for EMS providers and midwives.
- Establishing post-transport debrief and data collection systems to drive continuous improvement.
- Working to ensure all birthing families receive respectful, seamless, and safe transport when needed.

Base Patroller *2018 – 2025*

Snow Valley – Big Bear Mountain Resort, California

- Provided first response and ongoing patient care for injuries ranging from minor to life-critical.
- Facilitated medical transports with attention to patient stability, dignity, and communication.

- Operated in high-pressure, variable-terrain environments requiring rapid clinical judgment.
- Experience directly informs risk stratification and transport management in midwifery practice.

EDUCATION

Associate of Science, Midwifery *November 2019*

National College of Midwifery

Bachelor of Science, Global Studies *Completed 2009*

California State University, Monterey Bay

- Capstone research: "Infant Mortality in the United States vs. Other Industrialized Nations" — examined systemic, cultural, and policy drivers of disparate birth outcomes.
- Provided grounding in cross-cultural public health, global health systems, and social determinants of health.
- Informs ongoing practice philosophy and policy engagement.

Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Training *2006*

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP

Breech & Twins Training Event — Organizer *February 2026*

Regional Provider Training, California

- Organized and hosted advanced clinical training in partnership with Dr. David Hayes, MD, OB/GYN — nationally recognized specialist in breech and twin birth management.
- Brought together local midwives and providers for evidence-based skills training.
- Supported regional expansion of provider competency for complex presentations in community birth settings.

Women's Wellness Gathering — Organizer *2018*

Community Event

- Designed and facilitated a multidisciplinary panel event focused on women's health education.
- Assembled expert panelists across integrative, clinical, and community health disciplines.
- Created space for public dialogue on wellness, autonomy, and reproductive health.

California Association of the Licensed Midwives *2018- current*

- Member

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Midwifery | Community birth | Informed Consent & Patient Autonomy | Emergency care and transport stratification | EMS-Midwifery Integration | Global & Public Health Perspectives on Birth Outcomes | Physiological Birth | Maternal-Newborn Safety

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- California Association of Licensed Midwives (CALM) — Member since 2018
- North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)

- California Medical Board — Licensed Midwife
- Storklift founding member and contributor

May 22, 2025

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council Selection Committee,

I am writing to recommend Kaleen Foster for appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council. I have known Kaleen as both her preceptor and a colleague, and she has my full endorsement.

Kaleen is a licensed midwife who is dependable, compassionate, thoughtful, and a hard worker. She is a dedicated learner who is committed to evidence based care and to advancing the midwifery profession. One of her standout qualities is her ability to stay calm under pressure and resolve conflict effectively — skills that are essential both in healthcare and in a professional advisory role.

I refer clients to Kaleen with confidence, and I would choose her as my own midwife. The Midwifery Advisory Council would be well served by her clinical expertise, her professionalism, and her genuine commitment to this work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tania McCracken".

Tania McCracken, LM
Licensed Midwife





Date: May 4, 2026

Re: Recommendation for Kaleen Foster, LM, CPM - Midwifery Advisory Council Appointment

To the Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council,

It is a genuine pleasure to write in support of Kaleen Foster, LM, CPM for consideration for the Midwifery Advisory Council. I have had the privilege of working alongside Kaleen within our midwifery community and can say without hesitation that she consistently shows up with thoughtfulness, professionalism, and deep commitment to the families she serves. She brings strong clinical skills and a grounded, compassionate presence that supports both clients and colleagues. Kaleen serves families in the Big Bear region, where access to maternity care can be limited and conditions require resourcefulness and sound clinical judgment. Her work in this rural setting reflects a clear commitment to equitable, safe, and independent care.

Kaleen has also been a committed participant in my newborn transition & resuscitation course, where her simulation performance, decision-making under pressure, and teamwork demonstrated excellent preparation and a strong commitment to safe newborn care – qualities she carries into her clinical practice. Her experience as an EMT and Ski Patrol further reflects her ability to remain calm, decisive, and effective in high-pressure environments. She has also been involved in efforts to improve transfer-to-hospital care, approaching this work with a collaborative mindset and a genuine commitment to building trust and stronger systems. She is someone her peers turn to for insight, collaboration, and her ability to hold space for differing perspectives while maintaining focus on the bigger picture.

I believe Kaleen would bring a thoughtful, balanced, and grounded perspective to the Midwifery Advisory Council. She represents the kind of leadership that moves our profession forward through integrity, collaboration, and a clear commitment to improving care for families across California.

Warmly,

Michele M. Kazmier CNM, MS

[Redacted contact information]

4/30/2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Kaleen Foster. It is with deep appreciation and respect that I share my experience under her care throughout my pregnancy, labor, and postpartum journey. She created a safe, supportive, and empowering environment where I felt heard, respected, and fully informed in every decision regarding my care. Her ability to combine clinical expertise with genuine empathy sets her apart as an outstanding provider.

As a NICU transport nurse with 13 years of experience in the medical field, I have been exposed to a wide range of maternal and neonatal outcomes, including some of the most complex and challenging situations. Because of this background, I approached my own pregnancy with a heightened awareness and careful consideration of the care I received. Despite my own experiences in the maternal-child field, I felt completely confident and at ease under Kaleen's care. I trusted that I was in highly capable and compassionate hands throughout my pregnancy and postpartum journey.

Throughout my pregnancy, Kaleen went above and beyond standard care by connecting me with a wide range of valuable resources that supported my overall well-being. These resources made a meaningful difference in my physical comfort and emotional preparedness, and reflect her holistic, patient-centered approach. Although I had planned for a home birth, my experience ultimately required a transition to a hospital setting. During labor, Kaleen and her assistant remained by my side for over 20 hours, providing continuous support, encouragement, and skilled care before I was transferred. Her presence during that time was invaluable—she helped me feel grounded, supported, and confident through an intense and emotional experience.

Kaleen's care continued seamlessly into the postpartum period. Her newborn care was exceptional, and she provided hands-on guidance and reassurance as I navigated early motherhood. She offered knowledgeable, compassionate assistance that helped me overcome difficulties and feel more confident in caring for my baby.

What truly distinguishes Kaleen is her unwavering dedication to patient-centered care. She treats each patient as an individual, tailoring her approach to meet unique needs while fostering trust and confidence. Her advocacy for mothers and families, along with her commitment to integrating supportive care resources, makes her an exceptional candidate for an advisory role. I wholeheartedly recommend Kaleen Foster for any advisory role in her midwifery field. She would bring not only clinical knowledge, but also a compassionate and well-rounded perspective that prioritizes the health, dignity, and empowerment of patients.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Fluke

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to offer my strongest recommendation for Kaleen Foster, Licensed Midwife. I have had the privilege of knowing and working alongside Kaleen as a colleague in the midwifery community, and I can confidently speak to her skill, integrity, and deep commitment to the families she serves.

Kaleen is a knowledgeable and highly competent clinician who consistently demonstrates sound judgment and attentiveness in her care. She approaches each client with respect, compassion, and a genuine dedication to supporting physiologic birth while maintaining safety as a top priority. Her ability to remain calm and focused in both routine and more complex situations reflects her experience and professionalism.

In addition to her clinical strengths, Kaleen is a collaborative and supportive colleague. She communicates clearly, works well within a team, and contributes positively to the broader birth community. Her reliability and strong work ethic make her someone both clients and fellow providers can trust.

Kaleen's passion for midwifery is evident in every aspect of her work. She advocates for her clients, supports informed decision-making, and upholds high standards of care. I have no doubt that she will continue to be an asset wherever she practices.

I highly recommend Kaleen Foster without reservation. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Katie Jones, LM
Licensed Midwife

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katie Jones', with a stylized, flowing script.

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, or email your MAC Member Application to:

Medical Board of California
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 Attention: Midwifery Program
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last Michael	First Carla	Middle Initial D	Suffix				
Address:	Street [REDACTED]	City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]				
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]					
Email:	[REDACTED]							
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	☒ YES ☐ NO		License Number: LM # <u>783</u>					
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	☐ YES ☒ NO		License Number: _____					
	If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☐ NO							
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?	☐ YES ☒ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name CALM</td> <td>Dates of Membership 2025-current</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name MAC</td> <td>Dates of Membership 2025-current</td> </tr> </table>				Name CALM	Dates of Membership 2025-current	Name MAC	Dates of Membership 2025-current
Name CALM	Dates of Membership 2025-current							
Name MAC	Dates of Membership 2025-current							
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)	member							
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO							
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO							
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO							

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)



(Signature)

04/16/2026M

(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 to be considered.

Carla Deneen Michael



Medical Board of California
2005 Evergreen St, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attn: Midwifery Program

April 15th, 2026

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a member of the Midwifery Advisory Council. As a practicing midwife with a background in community birth work, maternal health advocacy, and public health collaboration, I am committed to advancing safe, accessible, and culturally responsive midwifery care in California.

My work in birth began as a doula, where I supported families throughout pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period. This experience deepened my understanding of physiologic birth and the importance of respectful, individualized maternity care. It also reinforced my commitment to ensuring that families have access to informed choice and safe out-of-hospital birth options. I also have a Masters of Social Work and have worked with mothers and families on an extensive level of working with and within systems of care.

I am a graduate of the National College of Midwifery and now practice as a midwife, providing care grounded in evidence-based practice and a holistic approach to maternal and infant health. My training and clinical experience have strengthened my belief that midwifery plays a vital role in improving maternal outcomes and expanding safe community-based birth options.

In addition to my training, I have been actively involved in midwifery-related professional and community organizations. I have participated with the California Association of Licensed Midwives (CALM), supporting efforts to advance the profession of midwifery and improve access to safe out-of-hospital birth options. I have also been involved with Midwifery Access California, contributing to advocacy efforts focused on protecting and expanding access to midwifery care across the state.

Furthermore, I served as a Volunteer Community Action Co-Lead with the African American Infant and Maternal Mortality (AAIMM) Initiative, (San Gabriel Valley) where I supported community engagement efforts aimed at addressing disparities in Black maternal and infant health outcomes. In this role, I collaborated with community members and partners to assist with outreach, education, and advocacy efforts focused on improving birth equity and increasing access to supportive maternal health resources.

These experiences have reinforced my dedication to midwifery and home birth care as a powerful model for improving maternal outcomes and honoring informed choice. I remain committed to continued growth in this field and to contributing meaningfully to community-centered maternal health care.

Thank you for your consideration. I welcome the opportunity to support the continued advancement and integrity of midwifery practice in California.

Kind regards,

Carla Michael, LM, CPM, MSW, CLES, RYT

Carla Michael

Education

California State University Los Angeles
Master of Social Work

Los Angeles, CA
June 2014

University of Phoenix
Bachelors of Science, Human Services

Ontario, CA
February 2011

Citrus Community College
Associate of Science, Business Administration

Glendora, CA
August 2006

National College of Midwifery
Associates of Science in Midwifery

Taos, NM
December 2025

Experience

Heluna Health

Program Coordinator

Pasadena, CA
07/23-07/25

Provide comprehensive training and ongoing professional development for doulas. Supervise and support doulas in their work with clients, including regular check-ins, case reviews, crisis intervention, interpret mental health assessments and provide referrals as needed, and mentorship. Develop and maintain relationships with community partners, healthcare providers, and other stakeholders. Collaborate with the program team to ensure alignment with organizational goals and objectives. Monitor program outcomes and performance metrics, and make recommendations for program improvements. Manage program budget and resources effectively. Ensure compliance with all relevant policies, procedures, and regulations.

Liaise with client (i.e., stakeholders, participants) and vendors to coordinate training resources. Manage inbound communications including client concerns. Perform data entry and maintain data integrity. Manage instructor-led training scheduling, registrations, evaluations and certificates. Assist with managing the program by producing training reports and analytics. Assist with management and implementation of grant funding. Assist with grant preparations. Supervise staff and assist with interviewing for staff selected for grant implementation. Build relationships with key business partners through strong customer service and collaboration to support company goals and deliver project results, regularly evaluate processes and identify improvement opportunities, quality check training materials and edit content and presentations.

Department of Children and Family Services, County of Los Angeles
Children's Social Worker III

Glendora, CA
09/14-current

- **Reports to a Supervising Children's Social Worker in the family maintenance/reunification unit in the Protective Program Services Bureau of the Department of Children and Family Services.** Functions with a high level of independence and initiative in providing a full-range of critical protective services such as emergency response, child and adult therapy, and child sex abuse treatment or provide specialized adoptions services to the older, handicapped or otherwise hard to place adoptive child. Works with children and adults with severe mental health issues on a daily basis. Possesses an in-depth knowledge of the laws and departmental policies related to the family reunification/maintenance area. This includes dependency court procedures and resources and techniques needed to solve problems of minors who have special needs such as the sexually abused, physically, or mentally ill child. Knowledge of Federal and State law, regulations and court procedures required in freeing children from natural parents and establishing legal adoptions. Possesses a broad knowledge of the appropriate resources and casework techniques used to resolve child and family problems and provides some supervision and technical direction to lower level Children's Social Workers.
- **Conducts a full-range of client-related and case management services, assessments, and investigations** throughout the life of the referral/case by (a) collecting relevant information (e.g., observing the child's well-being and living environment; interviewing reporting parties, clients, suspected perpetrators; collateral contacts; service providers; consulting with colleagues, supervisors; conducting home inspections and assessment of prospective caregivers; monitoring visitations; researching case history files, court reports, official personal records; extrapolating data from CWS/CMS, WCMIS, LEADER, FCI, CACI, CLETS, ESCARS; and/or taking photographs of the child or living environment; etc.), (b) evaluating relevant information to determine the validity of an allegation and assess a

child's and/or family's strengths and needs, (c) determining, implementing, and monitoring the appropriate service or course of action (e.g., initiating preventative measures so that the child remains in the home, developing with the client a plan that mitigates immediate safety threats, or removing a child from the home, etc.) and obtain approval through consultation with supervisor/administrator to complete the various actions and processes related to client services in order to secure the child's safety and ensure that the child and/or family receives the most appropriate client service that is in the child's best interest according to Federal and California State laws and regulations, Department policies and procedures, and within the established time frames.

- **Enters data into various computerized systems. Prepares a wide variety of documents. Maintains a variety of confidential information. Communicates with a variety of individuals** , on civil rights, legal rights and responsibilities, and other numerous issues in accordance with Federal and California State laws and regulations and Department policies and procedures related to confidentiality by explaining information in a patient and clear manner, providing written information, defusing a hostile or high-stress situation, using active listening skills with the person, and/or applying motivational techniques in order to promote emotional well-being of the child; encouraging clients to participate in services that promote and cultivate a safe and stable environment for the child; ensuring that individuals are properly informed about any requests, processes, or actions taken; and ensuring that any information provided is understood, complete, and accurate. **Offers client(s) various DCFS and/or community resources. Resolves day-to-day issues and challenges presented by a variety of individuals. Represents the Department/unit at various meetings. Performs various court-related activities pertaining to client services** by examining case history and preparing court reports for various hearings, filing petitions, obtaining court orders, requesting changes in court orders, referencing the Welfare & Institutions Code, obtaining information from County Counsel and attorneys, providing notice to appropriate parties, completing and obtaining appropriate court-related paperwork, obtaining authorizations for various purposes, testifying in court, etc. in order to ensure the protection of a child and the rights of the family, to initiate a process related to client services to make recommendations to the court, and to ensure that all court documents are legally sufficient in accordance with Federal and California State laws and regulations and are completed within established time frames.

Therapeutic Play Foundation

Pasadena, CA

Clinician/ Program Coordinator

02/21-06/22

- Provide prenatal visits, continuous labor, birth, and immediate postpartum lactation support, postpartum visits, and NICU support, to low and high risk pregnant women and families. Provide clinical support to mothers within the program by completing biopsychosocial assessment, administering mental health assessments and interpret results with clients, create treatment plans using SMART goals, facilitate weekly support groups, provide therapeutic counseling/services as needed, PMADS, crisis intervention.
- Managing a team providing mental health and wholistic wellness support to pregnant and parenting mothers. Initiate program planning, analyzing problems within in the program, reviewing budget, grant and proposal requests. Schedule program work, organize weekly staff meetings, oversee daily operations, coordinate the activities of the program and set priorities for managing the program. Foster positive relationships with external vendors and service providers.

Department of Public Health, County of Los Angeles

Los Angeles, CA

Los Angeles County African American Infant & Maternal Mortality Initiative Project

12/19-02/21

Whole Person Care

Community Doula

- Provide prenatal visits, continuous labor, birth, and immediate postpartum lactation support, and postpartum visits to Black/African American pregnant women and families, with particular attention to Medi-cal eligible clients.
- Recruit clients living or delivering in priority SPAs through childbirth education classes, networking and engaging of clinics, hospitals, community and/or faith-based organizations, and/or social media.
- Attend breastfeeding, trauma-informed care, billing and data collection, and other trainings and peer support opportunities, as needed or required by DPH.

TRAININGS/CERTIFICATIONS

CPR/NRP Certification, 2023

85 Hour Prenatal Yoga Registered Teacher Training, 2022

Herbalism: Flower Essence Practitioner, 2022

State of California Licensed Insurance Agent, 2022

Legal and Ethical Dilemmas in Perinatal Mental Health, 2021

Perinatal Mental Health Conference, 2021

American Academy of Pediatrics, Neonatal Resuscitation Program Certification, 2021

Lactation Education Consultant Course (90 Hours), Breastfeed LA, 2020

Comforting Touch for Doulas, 2019

American Heart Association Basic Life Support (CPR and AED Program), 2019
 Ripple Effects of Historical Trauma and Resilience on Breastfeeding Outcomes in the African American Community, BreastfeedLA 2019
 Induction of Labor: Hormonal Costs and Consequences for Mothers and Babies, GOLD Learning Online Continuing Education, 2019
 Spinning Babies Workshop, 2019
 Childbirth Education, Association for Wholistic Maternal and Newborn Health, 2019
 Certified Lactation Education Specialist, BreastfeedLA 2019
 Full Circle Doula Training, Shafia Monroe Consulting 2019
 Autism Education Series, 2016
 CSEC102 Engaging and Empowering Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Transitional Age Youth, 2016
 DCFS Children's Social Worker Core Academy Training, 2014
 Child Abuse Reporting Law Training, 2009
 Safely Surrendering Baby Law Training, 2009
 Civil Rights Training, 2009
 Understanding Cultural Competencies Training, 2009
 Sexual Harassment Training, 2009
 Disaster Preparedness Training, 2009
 Engaging Families Training, 2009
 Intentional Visitation Practice, 2009
 Telephone Etiquette, 2006
 Richardson Accelerating Sales Results, 2004
 Consultative Telephone Sales Workshop, 2004

Community Service/ Volunteer

- African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Community Co-Lead, 2019
- Hammer Hunger Holiday Gift Card Giveaway, 2022, 2023
- Assisted with the intake of incoming pregnant patients for medical services at Alternate Avenues, 2010
- Assisted with the distribution, labeling, and sorting of toys for children with the Spark of Love Toy Drive, 2012 & 2013
- Assisted with serving, registration, decoration, and gift distribution at the Kinship Annual Holiday Party for the Department of Children and Family Services, 2013
- Scheduling Coordinator, Eliminating Disproportion and Disparity Committee 2009

Skills

Excellent typing (65 wpm+), oral communication, and organizational skills.
 Technical writing abilities, detail oriented, and a problem solver.
 Knowledge of basic computer skills, e.g. MacOS/Windows, Microsoft Office Suite, Slack, HTML/Internet Web Applications and research techniques.
 Knowledge of FERPA, HIPAA, and all other applicable laws and ethic pertaining to mental health and higher education, computer systems: CSW/CMS, CCTS, ODYSEY, JADE, Wordpress, Canva, Zoom, Paypal.
 Knowledge, skills, sensitivity in addressing cultural, ethnic, and individual diversity and potentially vulnerable special needs populations.

Carla Michael



Experience

Licensed Midwife

Birthing & Babies Midwifery
December 2025- current

Los Angeles/San Bernardino County/Riverside County/Orange County

Full Circle Doula, Childbirth/Breastfeeding Educator, Placenta Encapsulator

Birthing & Babies LLC
June 2019 - Present

Los Angeles/San Bernardino County/Riverside County

Community Co-Lead

San Gabriel Valley African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative
March 2023 – March 2025

Los Angeles County

Primary Midwife Under Supervision

Birth Story Midwifery
June 2021 – December 2025

Orange County, CA

Birth Assistant

June 2021 - current

Southern California

Student Midwife

Family Centered Birth
Jan 2021- Sept 2021

Carla Michael



Riverside, CA

Assist Certified Midwives in intrapartum and postpartum care of healthy women and babies.

Student Midwife

New Life Midwifery

June 2020-October 2020

Arcadia, CA

Assist Certified Midwives in intrapartum and postpartum care of healthy women and babies.

Education

National College of Midwifery

Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife

June 2020- December 2025

California University Los Angeles

Masters of Social Work

2011-2014

University of Phoenix

Bachelor's of Human Services

2007- 2011

Citrus Community College

Associate of Science, Business Administration

2003 -2006

Neonatal Resuscitation

American Academy of Pediatrics

Issued 01/26 Expires 01/28

Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers

American Red Cross

Issued 01/26 Expires 01/28

Carla Michael



Volunteer Experience

African American Museum of Beginnings

Aug 2025 – current

Program Coordinator

Mother II Mother Program Manager

Provide emotional support and active listening to new and expecting mothers within a community-based perinatal care circle - Facilitate a safe, supportive environment centered on maternal mental health, healing, and intergenerational connection - Collaborate with elder volunteers to support legacy-building activities, including handmade quilt gifting for newborns - Assist mothers in creating personalized children's books that reflect their experiences, values, and hopes for their child - Coordinate group sessions and community engagement activities that strengthen maternal support networks - Contribute to a culturally grounded initiative focused on reducing isolation and promoting holistic well-being during pregnancy and postpartum

Joy in Birthing Services

Dec 2020 - current

Volunteer Doula Coordinator

Coordinate the referral process, intake paperwork, and referral reports. • Ensure HIPAA compliance. • Support development and implementation of new projects. • Maintain program processes and program curriculum • Participate in team meetings, and community meetings as needed. • Coordinate doula supplies and resources • Maintain accurate paper and electronic files. • Support the coordination of professional development and trainings for Outreach Doulas. • Assist with process and systems improvement, including implementing new tools and procedures for workflow efficiency. • Maintain a program calendar with deadlines • Obtain PayPal Payments • Coordinate Trainings • Tracking registration and attendance • Communication with event speakers • Respond to community partnership requests

African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Initiative

2019 – 2025

Community Action Co-Lead (2023-2025)

Co-led community-based action efforts focused on improving Black maternal and infant health outcomes - Supported planning and facilitation of community meetings, outreach activities, and stakeholder engagement events - Collaborated with local partners, healthcare providers, and community members to amplify lived experiences and identify barriers to equitable maternal care - Assisted in organizing awareness campaigns and education efforts centered on reducing disparities in maternal and infant mortality - Helped coordinate volunteer engagement and community participation in AAIMM initiatives and events - Contributed to grassroots strategies

Carla Michael



aimed at strengthening trust, increasing access to resources, and advancing birth equity initiatives within the community

Alternate Avenues 2010 – 2011

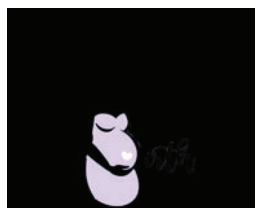
Student Intern

Assisted with the intake of incoming pregnant women for medical services at Alternate Avenues

Abilities

Excellent typing (70 wpm), oral communication, and organizational skills. Technical writing abilities, detail oriented, and a problem solver

Computer: Windows 10, Windows 7, Windows 95, 98, ME, XP, Vista, Microsoft Office Suite, HTML/Internet Web Applications and research techniques, CSW/CMS, CCTS, ODYSSEY, JADE, WordPress, Canvas, Zoom, PayPal



Belly To Birth Midwifery
Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife

[REDACTED]
Jenna Cruz BSM, LM, CPM
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

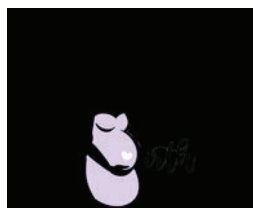
To the Midwifery Advisory Council,

I am writing to offer my strong recommendation for my colleague, Carla, in support of her consideration for a position on the Midwifery Advisory Council.

I have worked closely with Carla and know that her skills, compassion, and dedication would be a true asset to the council.

Carla is a midwife, a caring mother, and an active member of her community. She is deeply committed to meaningful change within maternal healthcare. Prior to pursuing midwifery, she worked closely with mothers and families as both a doula and in the field of social work. This background has clearly shaped her approach to care, allowing her to support families with empathy, awareness, and a strong understanding of the social and emotional factors that impact pregnancy and birth.

I also believe strongly in the importance of diverse midwives caring for and overseeing diverse communities. Representation within midwifery matters, and having a broad range of lived experiences reflected in both care providers and leadership such as the Midwifery Advisory Council is essential to improving outcomes, building trust, and



Belly To Birth Midwifery
Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife



Jenna Cruz BSM, LM, CPM



ensuring culturally competent care. Carla embodies this perspective and brings valuable insight that is needed in both clinical practice and leadership spaces.

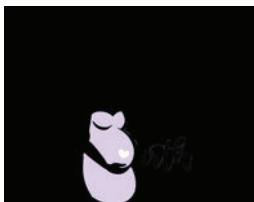
In working alongside Carla, I have observed a consistent commitment to these principles. She demonstrates clinical competence, sound judgment, and a strong dedication to safe, client centered care. Her ability to build trust with families, collaborate with healthcare professionals, and respond appropriately in both routine and complex situations reflects the qualities essential to a licensed midwife.

Beyond clinical skills, I truly admire Carla's passion for making midwifery care more accessible to families. She is always looking for ways to help close that gap and make sure more families feel supported and seen in their care.

Carla advocates for respectful care. She contributes positively to the midwifery community and would bring a thoughtful perspective to the Midwifery Advisory Council.

I fully support her consideration for this role and strongly recommend Carla for a position on the Midwifery Advisory Council. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,



Belly To Birth Midwifery
Licensed Midwife, Certified Professional Midwife



Jenna Cruz BSM, LM,CPM



Jenna Cruz LM,CPM,BSM



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenna Cruz'.

Jenna Cruz BSM, LM,CPM

Medical Board of California
license Number- LM# 718



Carla Michael [REDACTED]

Ltr of Reference for Carla Michael - Midwife Adv Council Vacancy

Jenny West [REDACTED]

Thu, Apr 16, 2026 at 7:00 PM

To: tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Bcc: [REDACTED]

4/16/26

To the Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council and Tonya Morairty,

I am pleased to write this letter of reference in support of Carla Michael, CPM, LM, MSW, for appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council under the Medical Board of California.

I first came to know Carla during her time as a student at the National College of Midwifery, where I had the opportunity to review and evaluate much of her coursework. From the outset, she distinguished herself through her dedication, intellectual curiosity, and deep commitment to the principles and future of midwifery care.

Carla is not only invested in her own professional growth but also in the advancement of the midwifery profession as a whole. She actively participates in ongoing collaboration with practicing midwives across the country, engaging in monthly meetings to share knowledge, discuss evolving practices, and better understand the diverse communities we serve. This consistent effort reflects her belief in lifelong learning and her commitment to improving outcomes for clients and families. Her background, which includes credentials as a Certified Professional Midwife, Licensed Midwife, and a Master of Social Work, uniquely positions her to bring a well-rounded and compassionate perspective to the Council. Carla demonstrates a strong understanding of both clinical practice and the broader social contexts that impact maternal and community health.

I am confident that Carla would be a valuable addition to the Midwifery Advisory Council. She brings thoughtful insight, a collaborative spirit, and a genuine dedication to representing the interests of midwives, physicians, clients, and the public in the continuum of desired options and needed options of care and service.

Thank you for your consideration of her application.

Sincerely,

Jennifer West, LM, CPM, CBE, TBMP, CST, CH, IPE, BSM and author of "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Natural Childbirth" and "The Natural Healing Power of the Placenta" [REDACTED]

OLC (teacher) and potential study group via Zoom at:





Licensed Midwife: Christine Score CPM, LM
License# LM660 CPM# 21080016
NPI#1770245862

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to recommend Carla Michael as a public member of the Midwifery Advisory Council. Carla is a vibrant woman who has a passion in supporting birthing mothers in OOHs. She feels strongly about birth rights and informed decision-making. Carla has a well-rounded knowledge of births as she has experienced many different aspects of birth from birthing her own children, to being a doula, having been a student midwife and as a licensed midwife. Carla also brings a unique, special and much needed wisdom with her from personally experiencing what it was like to be an African-American mother birthing in the hospital environment.

She has a heart of gold, is a quick learner, ready to share her knowledge, wisdom and stand her ground when needed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine Score". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Christine Score LM, CPM

04-15-26

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Midwifery Program

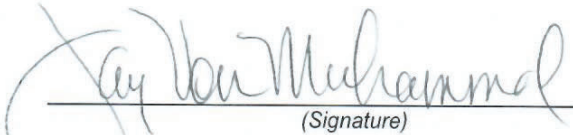
Midwifery Advisory Council Member Application			
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Name:	Last Muhammad	First JayVon	Middle Initial D Suffix
Address:	Street [REDACTED]		
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]
Email:	[REDACTED]		
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	☒ YES ☐ NO License Number: LM # <u>197</u>		
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	☐ YES ☒ NO License Number: _____ If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☐ NO		
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?	☒ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): Name NACPM Dates of Membership 2011-2013 ish Name Dates of Membership		
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)		Board Member	
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.			☐ YES ☒ NO
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.			☐ YES ☒ NO
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.			☐ YES ☒ NO

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)


(Signature)

04/15/2026
(Date)

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JayVon Muhammad



05/15/2026

Letter of Qualifications and Interest in Midwifery and Homebirth

I am writing to express my strong interest in advancing the field of midwifery and homebirth care, a commitment that has guided my professional life for over two decades. As a homebirth midwife with more than 20 years of direct clinical experience, I have dedicated my career to supporting physiologic birth, expanding access to community-based care, and advancing equity in maternal and child health.

My clinical foundation includes serving families in homebirth settings, where I have cultivated deep expertise in individualized, culturally responsive, and relationship-centered care. This hands-on experience has shaped my belief that midwifery-led models, especially in out-of-hospital settings, are essential to improving outcomes and restoring autonomy and dignity to birthing people.

In addition to clinical practice, I have demonstrated national leadership within the profession. I served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Certified Professional Midwives from 2011 to 2013, where I contributed to advancing professional standards, advocacy efforts, and the growth of the CPM credential. This experience strengthened my ability to engage in governance, consensus-building, and strategic direction in support of midwifery at a national level.

My commitment to expanding access to quality maternal healthcare is also reflected in my prior role as a clinic midwife at The Birthing Project USA in Sacramento, California (2008–2011), a high-volume Medi-Cal clinic serving diverse and underserved populations. There, I worked within a collaborative care model to ensure that low-income families received respectful, evidence-based prenatal and postpartum care.

Over the past decade, my career has evolved into executive leadership within Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), where I have continued to champion midwifery and birth center care as integral components of comprehensive healthcare systems. As Chief Executive Officer of Marin City Health and Wellness Center, I led the development and successful launch of a state-licensed and nationally accredited, FQHC-owned free-standing birth center—the first such center in the United States to be led by a Licensed Midwife. This innovative model expanded access to out-of-hospital birth options for Medi-Cal beneficiaries and stands as a testament to the viability and importance of midwifery-led care within safety-net systems.

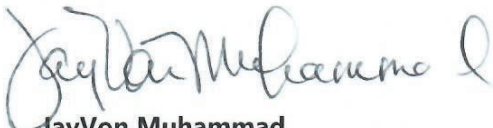
Across my leadership roles, I have consistently demonstrated expertise in program development, regulatory compliance, team leadership, and strategic growth, while remaining grounded in my

identity as a midwife. I am deeply committed to advancing systems that center equity, community engagement, and clinical excellence.

I am particularly interested in opportunities that allow me to continue advocating for homebirth and freestanding birth center models, mentoring the next generation of midwives, and contributing to policy and system change that supports the full integration of midwifery care.

Thank you for your consideration. I would welcome the opportunity to contribute my clinical, leadership, and advocacy experience to further the mission of expanding access to safe, respectful, and community-based birth care.

Sincerely,



JayVon Muhammad

JayVon Muhammad



Professional Summary

Proven expertise in developing and implementing robust processes, road maps, and plans to optimize organizational efficiency and performance. Demonstrated history of success managing change, designing, expanding and implementing effective programming, assessing risk, quality improvement, and sustaining legal compliance. Adept at building, leading, and motivating cross-functional teams toward shared objectives and collective vision.

A transformational leader who is driven by challenges, undeterred by obstacles, and committed to furthering standards of excellence.

Areas of Expertise

- Executive Leadership
- Program & Budget Management
- Continuous Process Improvement
- Employee Coaching & Training
- Leading a Board of Directors
- Change Management
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Community Relations/Outreach
- Collective Bargaining/Labor Relations & Negotiating Union Contracts
- FQHC Leadership & Operations
- Project Management
- Strategic Planning
- Public Speaking
- Administration of Human Services Programming
- Consensus Building
- Team Building
- Grant Management
- Substance Use Disorder/MAT
- Behavioral Health Programming

Professional Experience

Baywell Health, Director of Clinical Services Operations
Oakland, CA

2025-present
1 year commitment

Baywell Health is a two-site FQHC that offers primary medical, dental and mental (behavioral) health services to Oakland, California's most fragile residents. Other services include optometry and pharmacy. I was recruited for a term to improve clinic operations and sustainability

- Improved revenue cycle – claim denials reduced by 50%
- Expanded provider patient schedules to increase productivity
- Improved credentialing workflow

Good Health Family Healing Center, Chief Executive Officer
Oakland, CA

2024 - present

Good Health Family Healing Center provides healthcare based on the six pillars of Lifestyle Medicine (whole food/plant-based nutrition, stress management, restorative sleep, physical education, avoidance of risky substances, positive social connections). This project is my passion and focused on improving youth mental health.

**Aspire Indiana Health, VP of FQHC Medical Services
Noblesville, IN 46060**

2023 - 2024

Aspire Indiana Health is a dynamic organization dedicated to improving the (total) health of the people and communities we serve. Comprehensive services include medical, dental, and mental/behavioral health services, workforce training, and human/social services.

- In partnership with the Mayor's Office, launched a medical mobile van that provided street medicine to community members experiencing homelessness and substance use disorders
- Implemented Vaccines for Children program

**Richmond Area Multi Services, Inc. (RAMS, Inc.), Chief Executive Officer
San Francisco, CA, 94118**

2021- 2023

RAMS, Inc. is a large behavioral/mental health organization that provides and advocates for innovative and traditional mental health services and programming. Operating budget: \$35M with 380+ employees

- California 2022 Non-Profit of the Year (awarded by Assemblyman Phillip Ting)
- Led a workforce program for community members suffering mental/behavioral health challenges. [Hire-Ability Vocational Services - RAMS \(ramsinc.org\)](https://www.ramsinc.org)
- Successfully bargained/negotiated a 3-year National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW) labor contract
- Opened a Sober Living Room as part of Mayor London Breed's Emergency Tenderloin Health Declaration
- Grew budget by \$2.5M in less than two years
- Implemented creative youth programs to address minor mental health challenges
- Achieved 100% on CARF 2022 compliance site visit

**SWLA Center for Health Services (SWLA), Chief Executive Officer
Lake Charles, LA**

2018 – 2021

SWLA Center for Health Services (SWLA) is a five-site Federally Qualified Health Center in Southwest Louisiana that provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services as a safety net to low-income community members. Operating budget \$17M with 220 employees

- Secured SWLA budget of \$17M through proficient management skills.
- 2020 recipient of the Bob and Leila Macauley Humanitarian Spirit Award presented by Dr. Sanjay Gupta on behalf of AmeriCares.
- Recognized by HRSA (Today with Macrae) as a leader in equitable practices.
- Led a five-site organizational COVID-19 response including drive-thru testing, telehealth, dental telehealth, curbside services, and pharmacy delivery.
- Implemented a post-hurricane disaster relief effort to serve the community's needs while in crisis.
- Instituted an organizational university for staff and community training – SWLA University.
- Established a healthy working environment with 100% adherence to local, regional, state, and federal regulations and guidelines.

**Marin City Health and Wellness Center, Chief Executive Officer
Marin City (Sausalito), CA 94965**

2013 – 2018

Marin City Health and Wellness Center is a six-site Federally Qualified Health Center that provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services to Marin County, California. Operating budget (2015): \$8.4M with 50 employees

JayVon Muhammad



- Expanded FQHC sites from one to six
- Introduced the first alternative, state-licensed, and nationally accredited birth center in Marin County (4th FQHC birth center in the Nation)
- Designed and implemented an award-winning community-based MAT program.
- Increased revenue from \$1.3M to \$8.4M
- Increased staff by 400%
- Purchased a new clinic site in Marin City
- Designed and implemented creative and innovative behavioral health programming for youth

Academic/Teaching Experience

Bastyr University, Adjunct Faculty
Midwifery Program

2021 – 2023

Education

- MA in Maternal and Child Health Systems Bastyr University, Kenmore, Washington
- BSM in Midwifery National College of Midwifery, Taos, New Mexico

RACHA TAHANI LAWLER, CPM, LM

May 14th 2026

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

Dear Members of the Midwives Advisory Council Selection Committee,

I am offering this letter of support for JayVon Muhammad's appointment as a member of the Midwives Advisory Council. As a California Licensed Midwife and Certified Professional Midwife who has worked alongside JayVon in multiple capacities in reproductive justice, I am certain her expertise would benefit the Midwives Advisory Council.

JayVon's decades of commitment to expanding midwifery care in the most impacted and underserved communities is well documented. She has demonstrated excellent and equitable perinatal care, she's developed programming, apprenticeships, and sustainable opportunities for new and seasoned midwives to experience sustainability. She understands and has been integral in midwifery policy in multiple states.

The Midwives Advisory Council would benefit greatly from Jayvon Muhammad's expertise and presence. Bringing with her also a portion of the midwifery community that would be more invested and connected with her representation.

Sincerely,

Racha Tahani Lawler

Racha Tahani Lawler



BIRTHLAND



May 8, 2025
 Medical Board of California
 Midwives Advisory Council
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Members of the Midwives Advisory Council Selection Committee,

It is with great enthusiasm and deep respect for the work of this Council that I write in strong support of JayVon Muhammad's appointment as a member of the Midwives Advisory Council. As a Licensed Midwife and Certified Professional Midwife practicing in California, I have had the privilege of witnessing JayVon's extraordinary contributions to the midwifery profession firsthand, and I am confident that she would bring invaluable perspective, leadership, and commitment to this body.

JayVon Muhammad is a recognized midwifery leader whose work has meaningfully expanded access to midwifery care in communities that have historically been underserved. She has dedicated her career not only to providing high-quality maternity care, but to building the infrastructure that makes such care sustainable, creating pathways that grow the Licensed Midwife workforce and developing employment opportunities that allow skilled midwives to thrive. Her efforts reflect a sophisticated understanding that access to care depends not just on the presence of providers, but on the conditions that allow those providers to practice.

JayVon is a steadfast advocate for the recognition of midwifery as a primary maternity care model, one that is evidence-based, community-centered, and capable of addressing many of the disparities that continue to define maternal health outcomes in the United States. She understands that midwifery, when adequately resourced and supported, offers a transformative alternative to the status quo, and she brings this conviction to every professional space she occupies.

Additionally, JayVon recognizes that the full potential of midwifery requires a regulatory framework that is both rigorous and respectful, one that centers the voices of community-based providers in its development and implementation. She understands that inclusive, equity-driven regulation is not in tension with safety; it is essential to it. Her perspective on this issue is nuanced, informed by both practice and community accountability, and it is exactly the kind of voice the Midwives Advisory Council needs.





BIRTHLAND



I offer my wholehearted endorsement of JayVon Muhammad for this appointment. The Midwives Advisory Council will be strengthened by her presence, and the communities she represents will be better served by her inclusion in this important work.

With respect,

Kiki Jordan

Kiki Jordan, LM, CPM
Executive Director
Birthland Wellness Fund



Nailah Alvarez



May 6, 2026

Medical Board of California

2005 Evergreen Street, Site 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815

Attention: Midwifery Program

Dear Members of the Medical Board of California and Midwifery Advisory Council,

I am writing in strong support of JayVon Muhammad for appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC). As a former homebirth client under JayVon's care, I experienced firsthand the quality, accountability, and public-centered approach to midwifery that closely align with the mission of the MAC.

The Midwifery Advisory Council plays an important role in advising the Medical Board of California by bringing forward the perspectives of licensees, clients, and the public on matters affecting midwifery care. From a client's perspective, JayVon embodies this responsibility through a clear commitment to evidence-based practice, informed consent, collaboration, and patient safety.

Throughout my pregnancy, birth, and postpartum care, JayVon consistently demonstrated professionalism, clinical competence, and compassion. During labor, she balanced careful assessment with trust in physiological birth, resulting in a safe, empowering, and positive experience.

I am confident that JayVon Muhammad would contribute meaningful insight to Council discussions and provide well-considered recommendations to the Medical Board of California. I wholeheartedly support her appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council and believe she would serve with integrity, dedication, and a genuine commitment to public service.

Sincerely,

Nailah Alvarez

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nailah Alvarez", written over a light blue horizontal line.

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, or email your MAC Member Application to:

Medical Board of California
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 Attention: Midwifery Program
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last First Middle Initial Suffix Griego Ann			
Address:	Street City State Zip Code			
Phone:	Cell#	Home #	Work#	
Email:				
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	☐ YES ☒ NO License Number: LM # _____			
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	☒ YES ☐ NO License Number: <u>A122059</u> If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☒ NO			
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?	☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): Name Dates of Membership Name Dates of Membership			
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)				
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)



(Signature)

05/01/2026

(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 to be considered.

April 27, 2026

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

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council Selection Committee,

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a physician member of the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) of the Medical Board of California. As a board-certified Family Medicine physician with 12 years of clinical practice in California, I have developed a deep appreciation for the vital role that licensed midwives play in our healthcare system and a firm commitment to expanding access to midwifery care for all Californians.

My first exposure to birth was working with a homebirth midwife at the Luna Maya Birth Center in Chiapas, Mexico. Experiencing natural childbirth without the beeping of monitors, visits from phlebotomists, and hospital protocols - was an important primer on the power and strength that patients can experience through birth. As a family physician that attends births, I strive to bring much of this same holistic approach to my care for pregnant patients and families.

Throughout my career in family medicine, I have had the privilege of collaborating closely with midwives in a variety of care settings, from community health centers to hospital-based practices. These partnerships have reinforced my belief that midwives are indispensable providers of comprehensive, patient-centered maternity and reproductive healthcare. I have seen firsthand how collaborative care models—in which physicians and midwives work together—produce outstanding outcomes and dramatically improve patient satisfaction, particularly among underserved and rural communities. I believe in this so strongly that I have hired a licensed midwife to be the manager of our Perinatal Program at the Federally Qualified Health Center where I work.

My primary motivation for seeking this appointment is to help expand access to midwifery care across California. Our state faces persistent disparities in maternal health outcomes, and many communities lack adequate access to qualified maternity care providers. I believe that thoughtful, evidence-based regulation can and should serve as a vehicle for expanding—rather than limiting—the availability of skilled midwifery care. As a member of the MAC, I am committed to advocating for policies that reduce unnecessary barriers to practice, support the integration of midwives into diverse healthcare settings, and ensure that all Californians, regardless of geography or socioeconomic status, can benefit from high-quality midwifery services.

I bring to this role a strong foundation in clinical medicine, a collaborative spirit, and a genuine respect for the scope and expertise of licensed midwives. I am prepared to engage

constructively with midwifery professionals, consumer advocates, and fellow healthcare providers to advance the Council's mission of protecting public health while fostering a thriving midwifery profession in California.

I would be honored to contribute my perspective and experience to the Midwifery Advisory Council, and I am confident that my background in family medicine and my commitment to collaborative, accessible care make me a strong candidate for this position. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my qualifications further and am happy to provide any additional information requested.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ann Griego, MD, MS
Board-Certified Family Medicine Physician
Director of OB and Reproductive Health
West County Health Centers



Ann Griego, M.D., M.S.



Education and Training

Sutter Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency Program (7/2011-7/2014)

University of California, San Francisco
MD (6/2005-5/2011)

University of California, Berkeley
Masters in Science (6/2005-2/2009)

Mills College
Post-baccalaureate certificate (9/2004-5/2005)

Yale University
BA, Anthropology (9/1998-5/2001)

Work Experience

Family Physician, West County Community Health Centers (3/2015 - current)

Director of OB and Reproductive Health (2023 - current)

Providing full-scope family medicine including prenatal care and non-surgical obstetric deliveries, reproductive health procedures and abortions, and suboxone management at Sebastopol Community Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. As the Director of OB and Reproductive Health, I have helped start Centering Parenting groups for our patients; I have developed a high risk OB clinic to provide extra support for patients experiencing substance use, mental health challenges, and other psychosocial stressors; and am participating in a community-wide project focusing on health disparities in the Lower Russian River Valley.

Director of Reproductive Health, Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency (2020-2023)

Develop and teach curriculum, clinical protocols, supervise and teach residents in the weekly Early Pregnancy Options clinic and Colposcopy Clinic at Santa Rosa Community Health Center.

Faculty preceptor for TEACH (Training in Early Abortion for Comprehensive Healthcare - 10/2014 - 2023)

Supervise and train Family Medicine Residents at the UCSF affiliated residency programs training in abortion and early pregnancy loss at Planned Parenthood.

Community Preceptor, Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency (8/2014 - current)
Supervise residents in the Santa Rosa Family Medicine Residency at their residency clinics and as faculty for their mobile medical van

Activities and Leadership Positions in Residency

Chief Resident, Sutter Santa Rosa Family Medicine Program (2012 - 2014)

Advanced training in Therapeutic Abortions (2012 - 2014)
Including two months spent in Mexico City providing abortions at a private clinic and Marie Stopes International. Graduated with > 200 TAB procedures done.

HIV Area of Concentration (2013 - 2014)
Have cared for a panel of 20 HIV patients through the HIV clinic at Vista Family Health Center, completed 30 hours of CME, provided resident lectures on HIV.

Buprenorphine provider (2013 - present)
Completed on-line training to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid replacement therapy.

Comprehensive Colposcopy Training (2014, 2020)
Completed ASCCP Comprehensive Colposcopy Training.

Academic Activities and Leadership Positions in Medical School

Founding Consultant, Adelante, a Free Medical Clinic, Leon, Nicaragua (2009-2011)
Community needs assessment and report for Adelante, a non-governmental organization working provide free medical services and patient education to low-income residents of Leon, Nicaragua with a focus on women's health.

Student Representative, Clinical Core Operations Committee, UCSF (2009-2011)
The Clinical Clerkships Operations Committee is comprised of clerkship and site directors. The group reviews and improves learning objectives, site standards, student assessment, and evaluation.

Participant, UCSF Programs in Medical Education – Urban Underserved (PRIME-US) (2006-2011)
PRIME-US is a five-year track for students at UCSF interested in working with the urban underserved. The program includes seminars, clinical experiences, mentoring, and community engagement opportunities.

Chapter Leader, Medical Students for Choice (MSFC) (2007-2009)
MSFC is an international non-profit organization that works to make reproductive health care, including abortion, a part of standard medical education and residency training. As a chapter leader, I organized campus seminars and training opportunities on reproductive health.

Graduate Student Instructor in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology, University

of California, Berkeley (2008)

Taught weekly sections, wrote exams, and evaluated students in “The Brain, Mind, and Behavior” – working closely with Professor David Presti.

Medical Coordinator, UC Berkeley Women’s Suitcase Clinic (2007-2008)

The Suitcase Clinic is a student and volunteer run organization founded to address the unmet needs of the city of Berkeley’s homeless and low-income population. With three sites, the Women’s Suitcase Clinic, runs out of a local women’s shelter.

Rainer Traveling Fellowship, Chiapas, Mexico (Summer 2007)

Qualitative research on breastfeeding practices and the coordination of a community-wide conference that included radio interviews, multiple health-worker trainings, grand-rounds, mother support groups, and an art show in support of breastfeeding.

Research

UCSF Pathways Project, Health and Society Pathway (2010-2011)

A student guide for community-based assessments in underserved communities

Research mentors: Beth Wilson, MD; Karen Sokal-Gutierrez, MD, MPH

Thesis, Master of Science, University of California, Berkeley (2009)

An Evaluation of the CenteringParenting Program

CenteringParenting is a group-based model of well-woman and well-child visits in the year following birth. This study was a qualitative and quantitative analysis of the program at West Berkeley Family Practice, a federally qualified health center serving low-income families in Berkeley, CA.

Research mentors: Doug Jutte, MD, MPH; Karen Sokal-Gutierrez MD, MPH; Suellen Miller PhD, CNM

Student Narratives in Program Evaluation, PRIME-US (2008)

A literature review on the use of student journals and narratives as an evaluative tool in medical education for the PRIME-US program at UCSF.

Research mentor: Susan Ivey, MD

Qualitative research on breastfeeding practices in Chiapas, Mexico (2007)

As part of my Rainer Fellowship, I studied changing breastfeeding beliefs and practices (structured interviews with mothers and health care providers) in Chiapas, Mexico.

The Key Elements of High Performing Schools (2004)

A policy paper written with the Portland Schools Foundation, describing the elements common to high-performing schools serving low-income students

Undergraduate Thesis in Anthropology, Yale University (2001)

From Rivera to las Mujeres Muralistas: Deconstructing the Murals of San Francisco’s Mission District

Presentations

Abortion provision in Mexico, DF - moderator of Mexican abortion providers (2014)

Growing up Deaf - moderator of panel discussion and cultural movie night (2014)

History of Abortion Provision in the United States (2014)

Diagnosing and Testing for HIV (2014)

Diagnosing and Treating Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (2013)

Reviewing the research on probiotics (2013)

Diagnosis (and missing the diagnosis of) Syphilis (2013)

Work-up of syncope (2013)

Lectures done for Santa Rosa Family Medicine conferences

Community Health Fair in Mexico DF (2013)

Representing Centro de Atención Integral a la Pareja, A. C. and providing reproductive health information at a community health fair in Mexico City

American Association of Family Medicine Annual Conference (2012)

Represented Santa Rosa Family Medicine Program

UCSF Family Community Medicine Colloquium Speaker (2010)

Presentation of CenteringParenting research findings

UC Berkeley-UCSF Joint Medical Program Master's Thesis Research Symposium (2009)

Presentation of Master's Thesis

Centering Health Care Institute National Conference, Indianapolis (2008)

Presentation of initial findings from thesis research at a national conference focused on various models of group health care.

US Mexico Border, Center of Excellence, Consortium Conference, Albuquerque (2008)

Student panelist speaking on the importance of international work in Medical School.

Medical Students for Choice – 3 presentations (2007-2008)

Led a workshop on the logistics and components of first trimester abortion – two presentations with students at UCSF and one with students at UC Berkeley.

PRIME-US – 2 presentations (2007, 2008)

Student speaker at fundraising events describing the importance of role of PRIME-US in medical school

Work and Volunteer Experience Prior to Medical School

Amigos de las Americas (1996-2005)

A not for profit organization focused on promoting sustainable community development in Latin America by providing service opportunities for young people. Over the span of 9 years, I held increasing positions of leadership including:

- Associate Program Director, Honduras (2005)

- Board of Directors, Portland Chapter, Portland, OR (2001-2004)
- Training Director, Portland Chapter, Portland, OR (2002-2004)
- Program Supervisor, Dominican Republic (1999)
- Community Volunteer, Ecuador (1996)

Health Worker and Counselor, Women's Choice Clinic, Oakland, CA (2004-2006)

Founded in 1972, the Women's Choice Clinic provided culturally sensitive care reproductive health services to low-income women. As a health worker, I led counseling sessions in English and Spanish and provided direct patient care before, during, and after abortion procedures.

Program Associate, Portland Schools Foundation, Portland, OR (2001-2004)

A not for profit organization supporting public education by providing grant money and coordinating community resources. Hired under a grant from the Annenberg Foundation devoted to improving standards and accountability in the city's schools, I researched national trends in education reform; led focus groups with educators and community members; and oversaw grant-making to low-income schools.

Head Freshman Counselor, Jonathon Edwards College, Yale University, New Haven, CT

(2000-2001) Supervisor of 6 senior freshmen counselors and residential advisor to 22 first-year students in their college life and learning experiences.

Student Athletic Trainer, Yale University, New Haven, CT (1999-2000)

Worked as a student trainer in the Athletic Department – assisting varsity athletes with their injuries and injury prevention.

Coordinator, Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS (CIRA), New Haven, CT (1999)

I coordinated the yearly conference for CIRA, a interdisciplinary research organization at Yale that studies the effect of AIDS on individuals and communities.

Richter Traveling Fellowship, San Francisco, CA (2000)

Funded undergraduate thesis research at Yale University - studying murals in San Francisco's Mission District.

KathRyn Barry, LM



May 19, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in strong recommendation of Dr. Ann Griago for the position of Physician to the Midwives Advisory Council for the State Board.

Dr. Griago has consistently proven herself to be an incredible advocate for the community midwifery profession in Sonoma County. She demonstrates a deep and respectful understanding of the midwifery scope of practice and remains committed to meaningful collaboration to provide continuity of care for shared clients.

For many years, Dr. Griago has made herself available to discuss the imminent and emerging needs of clients, while also helping to support access to resources and quality care within the community. Her willingness to collaborate with midwives, her professionalism, and her dedication to client-centered care make her an invaluable asset to both families and healthcare providers alike.

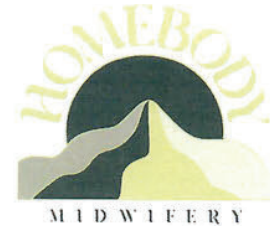
I wholeheartedly recommend Dr. Ann Griago for this position and believe she would continue to serve with integrity, compassion, and professionalism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "KathRyn Barry LM".

KathRyn Barry, LM

License #LM404



April 21, 2026

To whom it may concern,

I write this letter as a licensed midwife in California primarily working in the community birth setting. I wish to offer my highest recommendation for Dr. Ann Griego to fill the vacant position to be filled by a licensed physician on the Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC).

Dr. Griego has served our community here in Sonoma County at our local FQHC for many years. As a community care provider, I have had the privilege to collaborate with Dr. Griego and her team numerous times over the years. She has always been a great champion of the rights and autonomy of patients. She has been deeply supportive of our local midwifery community as well. Dr. Griego has done a fabulous job at making herself available and accessible for our community of midwives to reach out to her for consultation about our cases. I have always felt that Dr. Griego has had a respectful and collaborative approach when working together, and I deeply value her as a trusted colleague.

I believe that California licensed midwives, as well as birthing people throughout California, would benefit immensely from Dr. Griego's appointment to the MAC board, given her commitment to informed consent and patient autonomy, and her clinical expertise as a physician who practices Obstetrics. Midwives and supporters of midwives ought to be delighted for the opportunity to have such a competent, thoughtful physician in their corner to help improve the quality of and access to midwifery in California.

I recommend Dr. Ann Griego wholeheartedly for this position and hope that you take her application into consideration.

With gratitude,

Morgan Conway-O'Neill, LM

-Morgan Conway-O'Neill, LM
LM 583

Homebody Midwifery



April 17, 2025

To the Midwifery Advisory Council:

I am writing to recommend Dr. Ann Griego for the physician position on the Midwifery Advisory Council. I am a licensed midwife practicing in Sonoma County and have had the pleasure of working alongside Dr. Griego at West County Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center in West Sonoma County. We have collaborated closely on building out the health center's perinatal services program, and I have come to know her as a skilled clinician, a thoughtful leader, and a genuine advocate for collaborative maternity care.

Dr. Griego is a family medicine physician with a focus on obstetric care. She serves as the Director of OB Services at West County Health Center, providing clinic-based perinatal care and attending births at Sutter Santa Rosa. She has long been recognized in our community as a provider who actively works to build relationships between physicians and midwives and to improve dialogue across our two professions. It was Dr. Griego who brought me onto the West County team, making West County Health Centers one of the few FQHCs in the state to employ a licensed midwife as a clinical provider. She also supported my credentialing process every step of the way.

Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Griego has demonstrated real leadership in creating programs that address the needs of underserved populations. Under her direction, West County has integrated the Centering Model of group pediatric care and is in the process of developing a similar group prenatal model. She has been dedicated to establishing a high-risk case management program for perinatal patients with substance use disorder, and expanding services for monolingual Spanish-speaking patients. These efforts reflect a consistent commitment to access, equity, and innovation in maternal health.

Dr. Griego brings the qualities that make for an effective advisory council member: she listens well, collaborates naturally across disciplines, and approaches complex problems with creativity and pragmatism. She understands both the physician and midwifery perspectives from firsthand experience, which I believe makes her especially well suited for a council whose mission is to bridge those communities.

I recommend Dr. Griego without reservation and am confident she would be a valuable contributor to the MAC. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at

[REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Clover Gutermuth, LM
West County Health Center

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, or email your MAC Member Application to:

Medical Board of California
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 Attention: Midwifery Program
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

Name:	Last Keesara	First Sirina	Middle Initial R	Suffix						
Address:	Street [REDACTED] City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]									
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]							
Email:	[REDACTED]									
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?	☐ YES ☒ NO License Number: LM # _____									
Are you a California Licensed Physician?	☒ YES ☐ NO License Number: <u>A162589</u> If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☒ YES ☐ NO									
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?	☐ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Name</td> <td>Dates of Membership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>American College of Obstetrics and Gyn</td> <td>2015- Present</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alameda and Contra Costa Medical Ass</td> <td>2023-Present</td> </tr> </table>				Name	Dates of Membership	American College of Obstetrics and Gyn	2015- Present	Alameda and Contra Costa Medical Ass	2023-Present
Name	Dates of Membership									
American College of Obstetrics and Gyn	2015- Present									
Alameda and Contra Costa Medical Ass	2023-Present									
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)	Member									
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO									
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO									
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.	☐ YES ☒ NO									

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)



(Signature)

05/27/2026

(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 to be considered.

Sirina Keesara M.D. FACOG

EDUCATION

Design Fellowship, Stanford University, Clinical Excellence Research Center	08/2019-07/2020
Obstetrics & Gynecology Residency, University of Chicago	06/2015-06/2019
Certificate in Clinical & Translation Research, UCSF	08/2013-06/2015
Medical Doctor., University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)	08/2009-06/2015
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley	09/2004-05/2008

SKILLS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology
 Epic Provider Builder - Clinical Informatics
 Qualitative Research Skills - Individual Interviewing and Focus Groups

MEDICAL LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC NETWORK

Sr Medical Director of Quality and Data Systems

San Leandro, CA
10/2025- Present

- Leads data and analytics teams to identify actionable patterns in quality and data
- Redesigned incentive payment program
- Created strategy for development of risk based coding practice in preparation for DSNP
- Implemented strategy and prioritization planning for data and quality team

Medical Director Utilization Management and Value Based Care

10/2023-10/2025

- Served as clinical subject matter expert for implementation of value-based care delivery models
- Translated provider UM workflow feedback into operational and digital process improvements.

ALAMEDA HEALTH SYSTEM, Department of Obstetrics, Midwifery and Gynecology

Oakland, CA
7/2020- Present

Obstetrician-Gynecologist

- Provide full-scope OB-GYN care in both inpatient and ambulatory environments.

Director of Ambulatory Services

1/2022- 10/2023

- Re-designed clinic scheduling templates based on workflow observations, provider feedback, and capacity modeling.
- Led implementation outside referral workflows to improve care coordination and reduce unnecessary referrals.
- Developed and piloted Pregnancy Assessment Clinic model to streamline new patient intake for more user accessibility

WEST OAKLAND HEALTH CENTER

Oakland, CA
4/2020-12/2021

Associate Medical Director of Women's Health

- Designed end-to-end clinical workflows and documentation standards for women's health service line.
- Established testing and referral pathways to ensure consistent, high-quality care delivery.

COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO WELLNESS CENTER

San Mateo, CA
8/2019-12/2020

Medical Director of Student Wellness Center

- Developed standardized contraceptive care protocols and guided clinical decision support approaches for care team.

CLINICAL DESIGN EXPERIENCE

PACIFICA FAMILY MATERNITY FOUNDATION

Berkeley, CA
2020-2023

Board Member

- Facilitated contract between PFMF to Alameda County Medi-cal Payor, Alameda Alliance to cover freestanding birth center care

CARDINAL PARTNERS

San Francisco, CA
2021

Consultant

- Completed Medicaid market landscape of existing and potential opportunities in obstetrics-based services

PACIFIC HEALTH BUSINESS GROUP

San Francisco, CA
2022

Community Birth Transfers Technical Expert Panel

Contributed to toolkit development for hospitals and health systems to set up transfer protocols from community births to hospital communities to provide

Enhancing Access to Birth Centers Through Payment Innovation Consultant

2021

Contributed to development of white paper that provides a guide in developing payment structures with payors to cover freestanding birth centers

JACARANDA HEALTH

Nairobi, Kenya
08/2012- 04/2014

Family Planning Program Manager

- Led planning, implementation, evaluation, and quality improvement initiatives for new family planning program at Jacaranda Maternity. Sought and received funding from "Making Quality Matter" grant from Packard Foundation to support scaling of promising interventions.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CENTER

High Value Models of Care in Acute Care Hospital Services

Synthesized and researched strategies for low-cost, high quality care delivery in health systems, with a focus on acute care delivery. Literature review of value metrics, contracts and processes in health systems, site visits with high performing health systems, and expert interviews with leaders in the field.

Mentor: Arnold Milstein MD, Kevin Schulman MD, MBA

Stanford, CA

08/2019- 07/2020

NORTHSHORE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SYSTEM

Peripartum Depression and Contraceptive Choices

Developed and executed retrospective cohort study regarding association between peripartum depressive symptoms and postpartum contraceptive use. Reviewed perinatal depression screening interventions and outcomes.

Mentor: Richard Silver MD, J.Jo Kim PhD

Evanston, IL

2016-2019

UCSF BIXBY CENTER FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SCIENCES

Barriers to Postpartum Contraception and Choice of Service Location in Kenya

Proposed research plan and developed partnership with local research site and academics. Conducted analysis and wrote manuscripts with Kenyan collaborators

Mentors: Cynthia Harper PhD and Sara Newmann MD

Nairobi, Kenya

2012-2014

TEACH FOR HEALTH

Barriers to Contraception in Nicaragua

Conceived research question and conducted interviews about use of family planning in coffee farming communities Presented results to organization for advocacy within local health and governance system.

Mentor: Jill Henderson PhD

San Ramon, Nicaragua

Summer 2010

UC BERKELEY BIXBY CENTER

Myths and Misconceptions about Contraception in Ghana

Developed research questions, conducted and analyzed interviews and data from Ghana regarding barriers to contraceptive use. Contributed to manuscripts with mentors.

Mentors: Martha Campbell PhD and Malcolm Potts MBBS PhD

Berkeley, CA

2008-2009

PUBLICATIONS (selected)

Wiesehan EC, Keesara SR, Krissberg JR, Main EK, Goldhaber-Fiebert JD. State Perinatal Quality Collaborative for Reducing Severe Maternal Morbidity From Hemorrhage: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis. *Obstet Gynecol*. 2023 Feb 1;141(2):387-394. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000005060. Epub 2023 Jan 4. PMID: 36649352.

Keesara, Sirina and Anastasia Coutinho. Op-Ed: Telephone visits with doctors work. Don't roll them back. *Los Angeles Times* March 25 2021. *Los Angeles Times*.

Keesara, Sirina and Terry Platchek. Op-Ed: Birth centers Instead of building more hospitals, turn bedrooms into hospital rooms. April 24th 2020. *Mercury News* and *East Bay Times*.

Keesara, Sirina and Nick Bott. Op-Ed: Instead of building more hospitals, turn bedrooms into hospital rooms. April 20, 2020. *Los Angeles Times*

Keesara, Sirina, Andrea Jonas, Kevin Schulman. Perspective: Covid-19 and Healthcare's Digital Revolution (2020) *New England Journal of Medicine*; 382:e82

Keesara, Sirina J. Jo Kim. (2018) Outcomes of Universal Perinatal Mood Screening in the Obstetric and Pediatric Setting. *NeoReviews*. *NeoReviews*, 19 (3) e152-e159; DOI: 10.1542/neo.19-3-e152

Keesara, Sirina Pamela A. Juma, Cynthia C. Harper & Sara J. Newmann (2017) Barriers to postpartum contraception: differences among women based on parity and future fertility desires, *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 20:3, 247-261, DOI: [10.1080/13691058.2017.1340669](https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2017.1340669)

Keesara, S. R., Juma, P. A., & Harper, C. C. (2015). Why do women choose private over public facilities for family planning services? A qualitative study of post-partum women in an informal urban settlement in Kenya. *BMC Health Services Research*, 15, 335., DOI: 10.1186/s12913-015-0997-7

Campbell, Martha, Sirina Keesara and Malcolm Potts. (2009) Allocating resources for serving the poor: a core factor in development. *Journal of Family Planning and Reproductive Health Care*. 35(3). DOI: [10.1783/147118909788708110](https://doi.org/10.1783/147118909788708110) .

May 27, 2026

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

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council:

I write to express my strong interest in serving on the Medical Board of California's Midwifery Advisory Council. As a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing full-scope care at Highland Hospital — Alameda Health System's safety-net medical center — and as a senior physician leader in managed Medi-Cal, I bring frontline clinical experience with community birth transfers and a deep institutional commitment to expanding midwifery access for underserved populations.

Licensed midwifery, practiced within a well-integrated care continuum, is among the highest-value maternity care available. Midwifery care is individualized, patient-centered, evidence-informed, and respectful of physiologic birth. Midwives listen to their clients, foster trust and allow them a sense of control over their own bodies. I believe these practices underlie the excellent maternity outcomes we see with midwifery care.

Highland Hospital receives many home birth transfers due to friendly providers and standardized policies. Through these transfers, I have developed clinical experience taking care of patients whose home births did not proceed as hoped. Modeling my care after midwives, I approach these mothers with a commitment to respecting autonomy while maintaining safety.

My engagement with midwifery extends beyond the hospital. I served on the board of Pacifica Birth Center in Berkeley, where I helped secure a Memorandum of Understanding with the local Medi-Cal managed care agency to expand covered access to birth center care for low-income patients.

Through the Pacific Health Business Group in San Francisco, I contributed to two relevant national initiatives: the Community Birth Transfers Technical Expert Panel (2022), which developed a hospital toolkit for standardized community birth transfer protocols, and the

Enhancing Access to Birth Centers Through Payment Innovation project (2021), which produced a white paper guiding payors in developing birth center payment structures.

California's accelerating maternity care crisis makes this a critical moment for midwifery. As labor and delivery units close in rural and low-income communities, licensed midwives will increasingly serve as the primary attendants for women who choose to stay in their community to birth. With my experience working in managed Medi-cal, payment innovation, and clinically within the safety-net, I hope to bring practical perspective to the MAC Medi-cal Task Force. On the council, I would support initiatives that ensure the regulatory framework reflects this reality — that standards protect patient safety, that scope of practice aligns with how midwives actually practice, and that unnecessary barriers are addressed.

I bring to this work a perspective that is clinical, administrative, and policy-oriented. I am deeply motivated to serve in a capacity that bridges these worlds and helps expand safe, accessible, and dignified community birth in California. I would be honored to serve on the Midwifery Advisory Council.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sirina Keesara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sirina" and last name "Keesara" clearly distinguishable.

Sirina Keesara, MD

Senior Medical Director of Quality and Data

Alameda Health Consortium / Community Health Clinic Network

Attending Obstetrician-Gynecologist, Alameda Health System

May 27, 2026

Medical Board of California

Midwifery Advisory Council

2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200

Sacramento, CA 95815

Dear Members of the Midwifery Advisory Council:

I am writing to enthusiastically support Dr. Sirina Keesara's application to serve on the Midwifery Advisory Council.

As a Certified Nurse-Midwife and leader within the Department of Obstetrics, Midwifery, and Gynecology at Highland Hospital, I have worked closely with Dr. Keesara for the past eight years. During that time, we have cared for many patients together, navigating both routine and highly complex clinical situations. These experiences have given me a unique opportunity to observe not only her clinical judgment, but also the values she brings to interdisciplinary maternity care.

One of Dr. Keesara's greatest strengths is her approach to teamwork. She is a physician who understands that excellent maternity care depends on the contributions of many professionals and that no single discipline has all the answers. In our years of working together, I have consistently seen her seek input from midwives, nurses, and other members of the care team. She approaches disagreements with curiosity rather than defensiveness and creates an environment where people feel comfortable speaking openly. This ability to foster respectful dialogue is particularly important in conversations about maternity care policy and regulation.

I have also been impressed by her willingness to examine long-standing assumptions within healthcare. Dr. Keesara does not view professional status as a reason to discount the expertise of others. Instead, she prioritizes finding the best path forward for the patient, even when that requires challenging traditional structures or reconsidering established practices. As a midwife, I have deeply appreciated having a physician colleague who values partnership over hierarchy and who recognizes the important role that licensed midwives play in California's maternity care system.

Beyond her clinical work, Dr. Keesara brings significant experience in healthcare operations, quality improvement, and Medi-Cal delivery systems. She has demonstrated an ability to think broadly about how policy decisions affect patients, providers, and communities, while remaining grounded in the realities of day-to-day clinical practice. This combination of frontline experience and systems-level leadership would make her a valuable contributor to the Council's work.

Perhaps most importantly, Dr. Keesara approaches this field with genuine respect for pregnant people and their right to make informed decisions about their care. She understands that strong maternity care systems are built through trust, communication, and collaboration across settings and disciplines. These qualities, combined with her

leadership experience and commitment to improving maternal health outcomes, make her exceptionally well qualified to serve on the Midwifery Advisory Council.

I recommend Dr. Keesara without reservation and believe she would be a thoughtful, fair, and effective member of the Council.

Sincerely,

Laurel Bernstein, CNM, MPH (she/her)

Lead Midwife

Clinical Lead, Pregnancy Assessment Clinic

Alameda Health System

Department of Obstetrics, Midwifery and Gynecology (OMG)



Anjali Sardeshmukh, LM 513
 [REDACTED]



June 2, 2026

To Whom it May Concern,

This recommendation letter is in wholehearted support of Dr Sirina Keesara's application for the physician and surgeon member of the Midwifery Advisory Council.

My name is Anjali Sardeshmukh (she/her), and I'm a licensed midwife with a homebirth midwifery practice called: Amma Midwifery based in Oakland

I have known Sirina since 2021 through my work as director of the Pacifica Family Fund, an organization that works to increase access to midwifery care through issuing grants for BIPOC low-income and working class pregnant people. It is through this work where I could see Sirina's commitment and dedication to increasing access to community midwifery.

I transitioned as the director in 2022 to focus on my midwifery practice, and since this time, we have kept in touch. Our conversations have addressed how to improve collaborations between OB-GYNA and community midwives, how to improve maternal health care, visions of birth centers, as well as hidden birth disparities amongst our South Asian community.

We also had an opportunity to collaborate when I had a transfer to the hospital and she was the receiving OB- it was here that I witnessed her clinical skills, her incredible bedside manner, her ability to collaborate with me to better support our mutual patient, and her depth of compassion.

Most recently, Sirina has expressed desire to attend a birth in a community setting- and this willingness to understand and explore, is an incredible hallmark of respect and collaboration.

The state of midwifery in California would benefit from including a physician like Sirina who understands, respects, and believes in the community midwifery model of care. I wholeheartedly recommend her for the membership position.

Sincerely,A
 Anjali Sardeshmukh, Licensed Midwife #513A

[REDACTED]





Cindy Haag, LM | Audrey Dombroski, LM | Michelle Edgar, LM



Dear Members of the Licensed Midwifery Advisory Council:

I write to enthusiastically recommend Dr. Sirina Keesara for appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council. I am the founder of Pacifica Family Maternity Center, a freestanding birth center in Berkeley, California providing midwifery-led prenatal, birth, and postpartum care to families who seek a physiologic, patient-centered alternative to hospital birth. The Pacifica Family Fund is our affiliated philanthropic fund, with its own board, dedicated to expanding access to our services for low-income patients.

Dr. Keesara joined the board of Pacifica Maternity Family Foundation with a specific goal: expanding access to care for patients who could not afford our services. Rather than approaching this philanthropically alone, she identified a structural solution. She recognized that contracting with the local Medi-Cal managed care agency would benefit both parties — giving Pacifica a sustainable pathway to serve a more diverse patient population, while bringing the plan into compliance with the DHCS All Plan Letter requiring all managed Medi-Cal plans to include a freestanding birth center in their network. She then made it happen. She found a contact on the contracting team at our local Managed Medicaid and facilitated signing a Memorandum of Understanding so we would be reimbursed for their members who sought care at our facility. We have been accepting Medi-Cal patients ever since.

Dr. Keesara is an obstetrician who practices in alignment with the principles of midwifery, and I know she believes deeply in the power that our practice has to change maternity outcomes in California. I recommend her without reservation for the physician seat on the Midwifery Advisory Council.

Sincerely,

Cindy Haag, LM

Co-Founder, Pacifica Family Maternity Center, Berkeley, California



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, or email your MAC Member Application to:

Medical Board of California
 2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
 Sacramento, CA 95815
 Attention: Midwifery Program
tonya.morairty@mbc.ca.gov

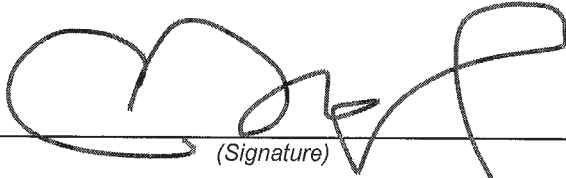
Name:	Last Townsend	First Colleen	Middle Initial M	Suffix				
Address:	Street [REDACTED]	City [REDACTED]	State [REDACTED]	Zip Code [REDACTED]				
Phone:	Cell# [REDACTED]	Home # [REDACTED]	Work# [REDACTED]					
Email:	[REDACTED]							
Are you a California Licensed Midwife?		☐ YES ☒ NO License Number: LM # _____						
Are you a California Licensed Physician?		☒ YES ☐ NO License Number: <u>A69136</u> If yes, are you currently practicing as an obstetrician/gynecologist? ☐ YES ☒ NO						
Are you, or have you ever been, a member of a midwifery or physician related organization/association?		☒ YES ☐ NO If yes, please list the name of the organization(s)/association(s) (add additional page(s), if needed): <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Name CMA/Napa Solano Medical Society</td> <td>Dates of Membership 2010 current</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Name Midwifer Access California</td> <td>Dates of Membership 2024</td> </tr> </table>			Name CMA/Napa Solano Medical Society	Dates of Membership 2010 current	Name Midwifer Access California	Dates of Membership 2024
Name CMA/Napa Solano Medical Society	Dates of Membership 2010 current							
Name Midwifer Access California	Dates of Membership 2024							
Position within the Organization/Association: (Board member, executive, or member)		Napa Solano Med Society Board Member						
Do you know anyone who might oppose your appointment to the MAC? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO				
Is there anything in your background, if made known to the general public through service on the MAC, would cause embarrassment to you and/or the Board? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO				
Have you ever been formally disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics or unprofessional conduct by an organization? If yes, please provide a written explanation.				☐ YES ☒ NO				

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 a midwife position, at least two of the letters should be from practicing California licensed midwives.)



(Signature)

04/15/2026

(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 to be considered.



Bio

Colleen Townsend is a Family Medicine physician with 25 years of experience in community health. She completed residency training at UCSF Department of Family Community Medicine. After residency, she worked at OLE Health in Napa County, supporting a family medicine panel with patients across all stages and ages and many clinical settings. In addition, Dr. Townsend engaged in management and leadership activities that aimed to enhance community health and support a more seamless health system. Since 2018, Dr. Townsend has been a Regional Medical Director at Partnership HealthPlan. In this position, she integrates clinical experience in community health with innovative program development to optimize the efficiency and efficacy of health systems. Dr Townsend works with local, regional partners to advance access and quality of perinatal health services across Northern California. Current activities emphasize building access and reinforcing quality clinical care and comprehensive pregnancy related services that optimize pregnancy and post-partum outcomes for the individuals and families in the 24-county footprint of Partnership HealthPlan. At the health plan level these activities include an expanding the program for non-medical services with a revised perinatal services program, implementation of systems for integration of doula and ECM Birth Equity MediCal benefits and building a network of providers for these services, engagement with prenatal care practices in support of quality initiative, implementation of provider recruitment and retention programs that support Midwives and Family Physicians participating in prenatal, intrapartum and post-partum care. In addition, she has participated in the following policy work groups: Doula Implementation Stakeholder work group with DHCS, Midwifery Access California, and the State Maternal Health Innovations grant funded by HRSA and the National Academy for State Health policy focused on Maternity Care Deserts. Dr Townsend worked closely with partnership HealthPlan team that developed and sponsored the SB669 for Standby-By Perinatal services to improve access and quality for labor and delivery services in rural areas of California.

My current professional efforts aim to increase the quality and access for perinatal services that meet the individual and family needs as well ensuring communities across California have the maternal and gynecology resources that are needed. I am interested in participating in the Medical Board of Californias Midwifery Access Council to support the optimal integration of midwifery across California and especially in rural areas.

Professional Experience**Partnership HealthPlan of CA****April 2018 – Present****Regional Medical Director**

- Utilization Management policy review and case review
- Regional Collaboration with health system and community partners
- Health Care policy: develop and implement health plan policy that reflects the benefits of MCal and optimizes access for and utilization of these services
- Quality and Performance improvement with clinical practices Provides education to clinical practices, shares promising and effective quality improved activities
- Develop and provide education to community providers and clinical practices regarding the functions and role for MediCal Managed Care plans to improve utilization of benefit for the health plan members
- Identify key gaps in services and access to health care, collaborate with local regional resources to meet the health care needs of a community

OLE Health, Napa CA**Aug. 2001 – April 2018****Senior Director of Community and Specialty Partnerships****July 2016 – April 2018**

- Cultivated strategic community and specialist relationships that support the comprehensive primary care model
- Developed and implemented a medical provider recruitment program to develop a diverse and capable staff model
- Developed relationships with academic institutions to improve access for students to primary care training sites
- Managed a primary care family medicine panel and maintained active inpatient privileges

Chief Medical Officer**Aug. 2011 - June 2016**

Physician executive leading strategy, innovation and change management in an expanding federally qualified health center Napa County

- Transformed private practice model of Ob/Gyn services into a robust primary care health center that provides specialty and primary care women's health services
- Established two new health centers to serve marginalized patient population
- Lead organizational process to achieve PCMH Level 3 (NCQA) at all health center sites
- Developed a quality improvement program that fostered a culture of continuous improved
- Lead OLE Health's participation in Accountable Care Organization – Redwood Community Care Organization
- Enhanced the delivery of medical services through a model of team-based care
- Increased staffing of nursing, nutrition, pharmacy and primary care medical providers
- Standardized provider recruitment and retention processes
- Created community partnerships to build effective health systems in Napa County
- Managed a primary care family medicine panel and maintained active inpatient privileges

Associate Medical Director**July 2006 - Aug. 2011**

- Developed an integrated behavioral health program
- Mentored and Supervised Physician Assistant and Family Nurse Practitioner staff

- Expanded staffing of Family Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants and Nurses
- Coordinated and supervised clinical rotations for medical, nurse practitioner and physician assistant
- Managed a primary care family medicine panel and maintained active inpatient privileges

OLE Health, Napa CA**Family Physician****Aug. 2001 - June. 2006**

- Managed a primary care panel and maintained active in patient privileges at Queen of the Valley Medical Center
- Developed and implemented a Chronic Pain Management Program
- Developed and implemented Hepatitis C management and treatment program

Queen of the Valley Medical Center**Active Staff Member****Aug. 2001 - Present**

- Provided In-patient medical care for adult, pediatric and newborn patients

Department of Family and Emergency Medicine

Department Chair

Jan - Dec 2010 & 2014

Department Vice Chair

Jan - Dec 2009 & 2013**Medical Director – Case Management and Utilization Review****March 2005 - Sept. 2009**

- Supported Case Management team with addressing complex and lengthy hospitalizations
- Collaborated with attending physicians to resolve utilization and case management issues
- Functioned as liaison for primary/attending physicians and third party payers to resolve utilization issues

Education**University of California San Francisco -- Department of Family and Community Medicine****San Francisco General Hospital**

Chief Resident

July 2000 - Aug. 2001

Resident Physician

July 1997 - June 2000**University of Minnesota Medical School****Sept. 1993 - June 1997****Mpls, MN**

Degree: Medical Doctor (MD)

Ripon College, Ripon Wisconsin**Aug. 1985 - May 1990**

Bachelor of Arts – Biology Major

Post Doctoral Training

Clinic Leadership Institute -- Executive Excellence Program

June 2014 - Feb. 2015

University of California Los Angeles, Anderson School of Business

Institute for Physician Leadership

University of California San Francisco Center for Health Professions,

Nov. 2011 - Nov. 2012

Community Clinic Medical Director Leadership Training

Dec. 2008

Harvard School of Public Health



Certifications and Licensure

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| ● American Board of Family Medicine | 2000 - Present |
| ● Medical Board of California Medical License A69136 | 1998 - Present |
| ● DEA BT6919849 | 1999 - Present |
| ● BLS Certified | Last 12/2025 |

Languages

Spanish: Fluent in Medical Spanish

Volunteer Activities

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| ● Operation Access | Board of Director | 2018 – Present |
| ● Sex Ed Justice Project | Board of Director | 2023 – Present |
| ● Fourth Second / Touro University | Volunteer Clinician/Preceptor | 2024 - Present |

April 15, 2026

To the members of the MAC,

It is with great enthusiasm that I offer this recommendation in support of Colleen Townsend, MD.

Working alongside Colleen Townsend, MD over the past several years across California's maternal health landscape has been a privilege, and I have consistently been impressed by Dr. Townsend's commitment and actions to expanding safe, equitable access to midwifery-aligned care throughout the state.

Our collaboration spans a breadth of cross agency statewide initiatives aiming to improve access to community-based care to improve outcomes and increase joy for birthing families. Together, we have worked on the California Maternal Health Task Force Levels of Maternal Care Subcommittee, the Postpartum Discharge and OB Triage Toolkit, the DHCS Doula Implementation and Co-Design Workgroups, the NASHP State Policy Academy State Strategies to Address Maternity Care Deserts , Midwifery Access California, and newly HCAI's Maternity Care Workforce Modeling Strategic Advisory Group.

As an LM who has attended the Midwifery Advisory Council meetings since its inception, I can attest that Colleen Townsend, MD's leadership, collaborative approach, and deep understanding of perinatal systems make Colleen Townsend, MD an exceptionally well oriented and committed contributor to the mission and work of the MAC. I endorse Colleen Townsend, MD wholeheartedly and without reservation.

Warm regards,

Andrea Ferroni, LM, MA-MCHS (she/her)

Regional Perinatal Programs of California Coordinator

Perinatal Programs

Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health

California Department of Public Health



Mary Baracco, APRN, CNM, WHNP, PHN
Perinatal Educator & Consultant, Lactation Professional

Greetings!

It is with pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Dr. Colleen Townsend, MD. She is a well-qualified, accomplished candidate.

I have known Dr. Townsend for over 15 years. From the time we were both in active practice, she at Community Health Clinic Ole, and myself at Napa Valley Women's Health Care Center working as a full scope CNM. We both had hospital privileges at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, CA. Then more recently I've worked on her team that is developing and presenting webinars for new Doulas, Case Managers and Perinatal Educators through Partnership HealthPlan. These webinars have been immensely popular with other disciplines as well. Often sign-ups exceed 200 persons.

As I mentioned Dr. Townsend is an excellent collaborator. She also holds solid leadership and teamwork skills. She is organized and knows how to be proactive in a very effective way. She has an excellent knowledge framework, not only in Family Medicine but in Obstetrical, Maternity and Women's Health specialties.

In 2025 she was awarded the ACAP Making a Difference Award (a national award) this award recognizes and honors leadership and innovation. Her work strives to recognize access, barriers especially in maternity care, and bring attention to related issues. She also leads the Partnership HealthPlan effort to provide Doula services as a covered Medi-Cal benefit. These are just a few of the many issues she addresses and in my opinion is a great indicator that she would be an excellent addition to the Midwifery Advisory Committee at the CA Medical Board.

She is held in high esteem and well-liked by her entire team. Amongst her peers she can be depended on to provide evidence-based guidance nuanced with real life experience and information. She would be a terrific addition to your Midwifery Committee.

Please feel free to contact me should you need any further information.

Sincerely,

Mary Baracco, APRN, CNM, WHNP, PHN



Mary Baracco, APRN, CNM, WHNP, PHN
Perinatal Educator & Consultant, Lactation Professional

07/18/2026

Hello Ms. Moriarty,

This email is a letter of recommendation in strong support of Dr. Colleen Townshend for the Midwifery Advisory Council at the Medical Board of California. I have known Dr. Townshend for five years through my work with Midwifery Access California (MACa). Dr. Townshend is an extremely knowledgeable physician with an in-depth understanding of the midwifery model of care, standards of practice, and the regulatory landscape governing licensed midwives in California.

Throughout our work together, Dr. Townshend has partnered with MACa to improve access to midwifery care across the state—LMs and CNMs alike. She is deeply committed to patient safety and equally committed to expanding access to care, understanding that these goals reinforce rather than compete with one another. She is dedicated to improving maternity care in rural communities, where access gaps are most acute, reflecting exactly the perspective the Council needs in this moment.

I recommend Dr. Townshend without reservation. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional information.

Warmly,

Holly Smith, CNM, MPH, FACNM

Co-Lead, Midwifery Access California

Medical Board of California
c/o Tonya Morairty
2005 Evergreen Street, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95815
Attention: Midwifery Program

Dear Ms. Morairty,

Dr. Colleen Townsend recently shared that she has applied to be a physician member of the Midwifery Advisory Council at the Medical Board. As a Licensed Midwife who is contracted with Medi-Cal and a Managed Care Plan and in my role at a community-based/non-government organization, I have shared several policy and advocacy spaces for perinatal health and wellness. Based on these experiences, I feel Dr. Townsend is a strong candidate for the MAC Physician Advisor position.

Dr. Townsend has demonstrated a willingness and interest to learn and expand awareness and access to health promoting supports and education through participation with Midwifery Access California. She offered a collaborative approach in our work with the Department of Health Care Services Doula Design and Implementation Workgroup. I appreciate her ability to hear voices of advocates in maternal-child health, and interest in working in the interest of birthing people with curiosity around Licensed Midwives as part of the multi-disciplinary solution to the maternal health care crisis. Her efforts to explore solutions to increase opportunity to work with LMs through the health care system are refreshing.

For these reasons, I support Dr. Townsend's appointment to the Midwifery Advisory Council as a physician member. Her collaborative style, demonstrated interest in midwifery access, and commitment to improving maternal health systems would make her a thoughtful and constructive advisor to the Medical Board.

Warmly,

Alex Rounds, LM, IBCLC, MA-MCHS