



MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Licensing Program



Midwifery Advisory Council

Greg Gorges Conference Room
1424 Howe Ave
Sacramento, CA 95825

December 6, 2007

MINUTES

Agenda Item 1 - Call to Order/Roll Call

The Midwifery Advisory Council (MAC) of the Medical Board of California (MBC) was called to order by Chair Faith Gibson at 1:08 p.m. A quorum was present and due notice had been mailed to all interested parties.

Members Present:

Faith Gibson, L.M., Chair
Ruth Haskins, M.D., Vice Chair
Karen Ehrlich, L.M.
Carrie Sparrevohn, L.M.
Guillermo Valenzuela, M.D.
Barbara Yaroslavsky

Staff Present:

Gary Qualset, Chief, Licensing Program
Kathi Burns, Manager, Licensing Operations
Billie Baldo, Administrative Assistant, Licensing Program
Anita Scuri, Legal Counsel, Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA)
Christine Meighan, Office Technician

Members of the Audience:

Claudia Breglia, L.M., California Association of Midwives (CAM)
Candace Diamond, Manager, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD)

Agenda Item 2 – Approval of Minutes of the September 6, 2007 Meeting

It was M/S/C (Gibson/Sparrevohn) to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2007 meeting.

Agenda Item 3 – Midwife Annual Reporting Form and Instructions

MAC members, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) representatives, audience members, and MBC program staff discussed the timelines and logistics of reporting the Licensed Midwife data.

Agenda Item 4 – Midwife Remedial/Re-entry to Practice Training Programs Discussions

MAC members and MBC program staff discussed the use of expert reviewers and/or a peer review panel as an alternative to disciplinary actions that might be taken against a Licensed Midwife. MBC Legal Counsel clarified that there are no provisions for a Peer Review panel. However, for “educational” purposes, this panel would be fine.

MBC program staff explained the current process, from an initial complaint through to its conclusion/outcome. The process is the same whether for a physician/surgeon or a Licensed Midwife. The primary difference is that physicians and/or surgeons have an alternative program in place for this purpose. The name of the program is Physician Assessment and Clinical Education program (PACE). PACE was approached about offering this program to the Licensed Midwives and they declined.

MAC members have participated in ongoing discussions with the National College of Midwifery in Taos, New Mexico. However, further discussion is necessary.

Agenda Item 5 – Schedule of Future Meetings

Proposed meeting dates for the future: April 3, 2008, June 19, 2008, and October 9, 2008. An alternative date of October 23, 2008 was agreed upon.

Agenda Item 6 – Future Matters for Consideration by the Council

MBC program staff reported aggregate data for complaints and disciplinary actions taken against Licensed Midwives over a five (5) year period. The MAC asked that MBC program staff report this data at each MAC meeting. MBC program staff agreed to supply aggregate data for each MAC meeting.

The MAC members opened discussion regarding SB 1950 and its full implementation. Many concerns were voiced regarding different definitions of the term “physician supervision” as referenced in SB 1950. MAC members also emphasized that the requirement for “physician supervision” is impacting access to care, and the ability for a Licensed Midwife’s to get liability insurance coverage. As the majority of current Licensed Midwives in California do not have physician

supervision, meeting this requirement is not a possibility for them. In turn, physicians do not want to cover a Licensed Midwife because they cannot get their own liability insurance. This is a circular issue.

Gary Qualset, Chief of the MBC, introduced Hedy Chang as the new Chair of the Midwifery Committee and also the Secretary of the MBC. In addition, Fayne Boyd is now the manager for Licensing Operations.

Mr. Qualset, Chief of the MBC, explained changes taking place within the Department of Consumer Affairs that impact the MBC and the MAC. The MAC would now have only one council and would abolish the Midwifery Committee. In addition, the MAC would report directly to the MBC. The MAC can make recommendations and suggestions and present these as action items to the MBC. Those MAC members wishing to continue with the MAC committee could reapply to continue with the MAC council.

Agenda Item 7 – Public Comment on Items Not on the Agenda

None.

Agenda Item 8 – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m.