



December 1, 2016

The Honorable Senator Joan Carter Conway, Chairman  
Education, Health and Environmental Affairs Committee  
2 West  
Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

The Honorable Peter A. Hammen, Chairman  
Health and Government Operations Committee  
Room 241  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

In Re: Report required by Health Occupations Article,  
Section 8-6-10, Annotated Code of Maryland

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Commencing in June 2015, the Maryland Board of Nursing accepted resumes of persons interested in having a seat on the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee. The committee was formed and held its first meeting on October 14, 2015. Committee members include 2 certified nurse midwives, one representative of the Maryland Hospital Association, three direct-entry midwives, and one consumer member. The Board planned to hire a full time administrator to assist the committee in its duties but could not do so because of the hiring freeze. Instead, one Administrator III and an Administrative Specialist from existing board staff were assigned to the Committee in April 2016.

A Stakeholders workgroup was formed and held two public meetings in December 2015. At the completion of the second meeting the workgroup members had reached consensus on a majority of the forms required: an informational packet, the midwifery formulary, and suggested language for regulations.

The Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee presented the following at the MBON May 24-25, 2016 meeting and all were approved by the MBON.

Fee Schedule to be included in regulations

Initial fee for application is \$900. 2-year renewal fee is \$800.

(The fee schedule was supported by fees in various jurisdictions and a bar chart of types of agencies throughout the U.S. that regulate direct-entry midwives.)

Maternal Transport Form

Newborn Transport Form

Informed Consent Form

Direct-Entry Midwives License Information Sheet

Direct Entry Midwives Application for Licensure

The type of data to be collected and submitted to the Legislature in December of each year has been determined, and the data collection form was presented to the Board at its regularly scheduled meeting of November 18, 2016.

After working for more than a year on the proposed regulations, the proposal was published in the Maryland Register on September 30, 2016. The comment period ended October 30, 2016. Very few comments were received: two were positive and one made non-substantive suggestions.

The staff of the Direct-Entry Midwifery Advisory Committee is working with the staff of the Information Technology Department to formulate the DEMs licensure data base, and to place the application on line. The application form can be filled in online, printed off by the applicant, and submitted via U.S. mail along with supporting documents and the initial licensure fee. The Direct-Entry midwives will be subject to criminal background checks as a condition of licensure. Approximately fifty direct-entry midwifery applications for licensure are expected initially. A target date of early 2017 has been set for licensing these initial applicants.

The committee will start collecting birth and delivery data in 2017 after the direct-entry midwives are licensed and practicing.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Proctor, Interim Executive Director

cc: Alexa Richardson  
Sabita Persaud  
Shirley Devaris  
Andrew Nicklas