

## **Minutes of NYSALM Annual Meeting 12/7/2015 - corrected 2/7/16**

Respectfully submitted by Susanrachel Condon on behalf of Secretary Michelle Doyle, in absentia.

### Attending:

Lily Dalke, Rachel Ritter, Mimi Niles, Nancy Kraus, Debbie Healy, Kristin Leonard, Ashley Macriello, Susan Schmidt, Cathy Gallagher, Maryanne Laffin, Suzanne Smith, Dorothea Lang, Alice Gilgoff, Ann Visser, Claudia Gerston, Carol Bues, Karen Jefferson, Sharon Nisengard, Joanne Anderson-Alvarez, Martha Roth, Jeanette Breen, Eva Faulkner, Susanrachel Condon

Announced: Seeking Membership Committee Chair, as Carol Bues will leave this post and will be new Treasurer

Minutes from 9/11/15 have been previously accepted and posted to website, formally accepted by Carol Bues's motion today, Susanrachel Condon seconded. Motion passed.

### Review of achievements of the year

Advancement of BC Bill and ongoing efforts to lobby support from critical stakeholders, increased midwifery presence and program contributions at NYSPA conference, funding of Choices in Childbirth midwifery research paper - to affect policy, completion and distribution of Home Birth Integration Initiative NY Work Group's Guidelines for Planned Home Birth, NYSALM/ACOG outreach to each other and "sincere interest" in having an open door in ACOG District II (nationally as well)

### Review of Challenges

BC Bill and DOH hostility - meeting at DOH with Elan McAllister, Beth Sacco, Jane Preston and Karen Jefferson - went poorly with clinical side, but improved when meeting with the policy side and shifting focus to implications of creating midwifery-led birth centers. New tactics include the precedent of NPs functioning as clinical directors of federally funded health centers and filling needs in care gaps in underserved counties. Going forward with bill again for this legislative session and awaiting input from Jeanette McCullough about what she can offer.

ACOG - engaged us to work with them regarding planned home birth transfer guidelines but used ACOG/NYSALM work group to oppose the BC Bill. Last meeting with Karen Jefferson and Nick Kolbita (ACOG president) suggestive of a possibility to move forward after several months of cooling off time. Donna Montalto is resigning as of the end of January.

Health Insurers - still demanding RN, WPA - Impact Committee has been working on this

Hospital Bylaws- still requiring RN, not medical staff - Impact Committee has been working on this

State of Midwifery from 2013 Stats (most recent)

95 hospitals with midwife attended births  
30 maternity hospitals with no midwives  
3 hospitals >1000 midwife births  
32 hospitals with >20% midwife attended births  
14 hospitals < 10  
1686 PHB  
Midwives attended 10.1% of births (more or less the same since 1997)

979 LMs living in NY  
174 LMs living elsewhere  
80 new LMs 2014  
201 Kings County  
7 counties with 1 midwife  
No midwives in Seneca, Orleans, Lewis, Hamilton Counties

Strategic Planning

A midwife for everyone who needs one  
Full scope midwifery in every hospital with maternity services  
More midwives who reflect their populations  
Midwives clearly represented on insurance panels  
Midwifery-led birth centers

Treasurer's Report - Lily Dalke

2015 budget - Underspent on organizational and legislative at 86% of budget, income was 83% of expected up until 11/30

600 members out of 979 midwives. Need to recruit new members.

See attached report.

Lily Dalke moved to approve the reviewed budget, Claudia Gerston seconded, all approved.

Finance Committee - robust activity

Finance management being explored

2016 budget complete

Carol Bues will be new treasurer

Discussed hiring consultant to help NYSALM membership understand the nuances of billing incident to for maternity services - legality and options. Karen to approach Beth and Jane about getting a connection at the Finance Department to explore these issues.

Anne Visser moved a new Insurance Committee be formed and Claudia Gerston seconded. The motion passed. Debbie Healy was appointed chair. Susanrachel Condon is also on the committee. Haya Brant of Clearbill will be engaged as a consultant. Debbie will research answers to some of the questions about

distinctions between billing and payment for medicaid and medicaid managed care and private plans.

A part time administrative employee position for 8 hours weekly for \$25/hr was proposed. Duties and responsibilities were reviewed.

A motion was made for changing policy for drawing from reserves from 3 out of 5 yea votes of the executive committee to 2 out of 4 since there are only 4 members of the executive committee at this time. The motion passed.

#### Jane's Report

DOH resistance - doesn't want to set precedent for non-MD director and thinks it's too expensive and doesn't understand model of BC infrastructure

Hannon intends to continue

Had call with Kara Williams at Western & Central NY to get her involved in developing talking points for DOH and legislators regarding BCs serving underserved communities

Session opens 1/6/16 and Governor Cuomo will combine Budget and State of the State Addresses 1/12/16

Jane recommends working closely with Jeanette McCullough at Birth Swell regarding how to effectively harness the consumers and Birth Net groups

Lobby Day confirmed for 4/12/16

Impact Committee - Lily Dalke - detailed report on website

Highlights:

Insurance survey in slow progress

Members met with Glens Falls Hospital clinical and administrative staff about bylaws changes, receptive, waiting for changes, Powerpoint presented at Rocheser - considering shifting presentation about midwifery to presentation about value of midwifery care in improving outcomes. Impact continues to contact places advertising for CNMs. 7 hospitals not reporting midwives' deliveries. Lily Dalke is seeking a co-chair.

Legislative Committee - Nancy Kraus

Lobby Day 4/12

Program Committee - Birdie Condon

Discussed the possibility of hosting Region 1 Meeting in the future. Discussed holding a board meeting and annual meeting at NYSPA to draw more midwives to attend with momentum of NYSPA conference. Kristin Leonard, Cathy Gallagher and Susan Schmidt joined the committee. Dorothea Lang suggested Regional Meeting for Westchester, White Plains, Rye, West Point, Bear Mountain.

Meeting Dates Established

2/8 virtual meeting via conference call

4/11 evening before Lobby Day

6/1 evening before NYSPA Conference  
9/16 Albany at GT  
12/5 New York City

Nominating Committee - Karen Jefferson

Considering bylaws change -needs significant review and coordination. Martha Roth moved against bylaws changes at this time and Carol Bues seconded. The motion passed. Changes will be proposed for June meeting and the vote will be opened to the entire membership in advance of the meeting, as prescribed by the current bylaws. Change: A president elect will join the board the year prior to his/her tenure of two years and then spend a year on the board as past president following a new election. The most current bylaws will be uploaded to website.

Communications Committee - Rachel Ritter

Revising Mission and Vision Statements

Nancy Kraus resigning, Rachel Ritter taking helm

Revision of website - We originally paid, since then Contensive has been doing revisions for free, except they have recently been consistently unresponsive. They want \$8-10K for redesigning website. We are soliciting new web designers. There is some disagreement about what's desired for new site. Communications is drafting a proposal for the new site and getting quotes. CC is considering adding consumer friendly material, a small store and logo redesign.

Quality - Kate Finn

We received a written report from Kate Finn (in absentia) regarding HIINY publication, approval, and statewide presentations

Kate and Holly Kennedy will be plenary speakers and will offer a workshop at NYSPA 2016 and Kate will present at ACNM 2016

A grant proposal was made to the Transforming Birth Fund for \$17K to do outreach to regional perinatal centers

Maryanne Laffin report

Clinical advisory groups in Albany is working on what needs to be included in maternity care bundle for women receiving medicaid to be in DSRIP compliance with ACA standards and developing a tool to be used in high volume and rural sites. They will be returning next year to see if the tool is working well.

NYSPA Report

See above about speakers/presenters

Will include LGBTQ communication presentation

Alice G - Breastfeeding Coalition

Alice regularly attends meetings. Alice reported on the December 1st Board meeting of the New York Statewide Breastfeeding Coalition. The revised by-laws as recommended by the NY Council on Nonprofits are now in compliance with

the new state law. The organization's annual conference will be held April 7th in Albany and Alice will speak on incorporating supportive and correct breastfeeding information into prenatal care. The breastfeeding coalition will again support the Paid Family Leave Act when the new legislative session opens.

Lily Dalke - NYSALM and Gender Inclusivity

Lily presented the ACNM Transgender and Gender Variant People Statement and recommended NYSALM endorse it for the time being.

Lily moved to endorse, Carol Bues seconded, and the motion passed.

Nancy Kraus

Vision/Mission statements were discussed and the wording reviewed in a brainstorming session.

Two new committees were established.

Insurance Committee with Debbie Healy as chair, and a Diversity & Inclusion Committee with Rachel Ritter as chair.

## **Regional Reports**

Jennifer Kittel, Claudia Gerston Northeast Regional Representatives

Saratoga Midwifery is expanding its practice. They added another midwife. At this time they are unable to address the issue of changing their bylaws to switch CNM language to LM. The hospital has been up front about unwillingness to change bylaws.

Michelle Doyle's Local Care Midwifery in Troy is alive and well. Continues as a privately owned midwifery practice offering full scope midwifery care including planned home birth (PHB). As of this fall, Michelle now has privileges at Bellevue Hospital. This means that planned hospital birth as well as LCM midwifery care during transports from PHB are possible.

Plattsburgh has fewer midwives now providing care. In earlier years there were four or more; now there are two.

Emily Yeast reports Glens Falls Hospital is one of 21 hospitals nationally participating in ACNM's Healthy Birth Initiative: Reducing Primary Cesareans Project. <http://www.birthtools.org/HBI-Reducing-Primary-Cesareans>.

They continue working on the bylaws changes, which were tabled while Emily was dealing with the application for the above project.

Kathi Miller LM MPH reports Planned Parenthood is aging out of providers. They need more, younger clinicians and are suffering a shortage in under served

areas like Water Town. Planned Parenthood hires midwives but needs them to get NP licenses so they can test men for STI.

### Susanrachel Condon - Hudson Valley Representative Report

There's a lot to celebrate and plenty to wring our hands about. First, the good news:

HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley has 3 hospitals in the region: 2 in Kingston and one in Margaretville. Only one of the Kingston sites offers maternity care; and it will be moving from one campus to the other in the next several years. In the last 10 years, most (4) private and successful area OB practices - most with midwives on staff - sold themselves to large conglomerates such as Mid-Hudson Medical (now taken over by Mt. Kisco Medical), the behemoth Health Quest and the the Institute for Family Health, which serves a large and ever-growing Medicaid-using population. HealthAlliance's maternity is almost completely under the umbrella of the Family Institute - with 2 OBs, family practice physicians and family practice residents running the floor. Despite the declining maternity census - due in part to the success of competitor Health Quest, and the perception that Kingston is undesirable - the DOH will not permit HealthAlliance to shut down the unit - as it is the only hospital on the west side of the Hudson River offering maternity care between Newburgh and Hudson. In an effort to attract more families to the facility and expand the midwifery presence in the region, NYSALM's area reps and local midwives approached HealthAlliance in 2013 and we have been gradually expanding our relationship. Due to NYSALM's efforts HealthAlliance offered admitting privileges to midwives in private practice, changed its bylaws to include CMs and empowered the midwives to admit under their own names. We are invited to participate fully in staff meetings, continuing education programs and have been invited to present at grand rounds and to the residents. Three private midwifery practices now use the facility: River & Mountain for both planned home birth transfers and planned hospital births, Olivebridge Midwifery for planned home birth transfers and the Hudson Valley arm of Capital Region Midwifery, which offers hospital birth only. Four of the 6 midwives in private practice are CMs. HealthAlliance is in the midst of a merger with Westchester Medical Center. An feature article about the surge in midwifery offerings was just published by Chronogram Magazine.

In other exciting news, Nancey Rosensweig started a private practice and was granted admitting privileges at Columbia Memorial Hospital in Hudson.

River & Mountain Midwives is celebrating the opening the Hudson Valley Midwifery Center in Kingston on 12/20. The Center is expected to be a hub for families to receive clinical care, education and support services. It has a lovely boutique featuring local and fair trade crafts and herbs, apothecary and health care products for women across the lifespan. We have building community support for transitioning the building into a birth center. The administration of HealthAlliance Hospital is supportive and the CEO has promised to keep a prospective affiliated freestanding birth center alive in discussions with

Westchester. This relationship is critical to the successful pursuit of a CON. We have physician support.

We are seeing more students at sites in the area as well. U Penn, Frontier, SUNY Brooklyn, and Philadelphia students are seen at HealthAlliance and Columbia Memorial.

Unfortunately, things are not going well for the 6 midwives of Hudson River Healthcare at Hudson Valley Hospital. This large and very successful midwifery practice has been under a great deal of strain recently. The midwives have been told their "labor sitting is neither cost effective or medically necessary." Women flock to their practice. Some of the midwives are feeling pressured to leave. The area reps are exploring options for a NYSALM intervention with the midwives. The Impact Committee has been notified. I am waiting for an update before proceeding with contacting the hospital to request a meeting.

I have met with ACNM staffer and Hudson Valley resident Elaine Germano about having a mothers and midwives parade across the Walkway over the Hudson. We are exploring this as a mothers' day event for 2016.

#### Long Island Representative Ann Visser

Huntington hospital is growing a hospital based practice. Stony Brook is continuing to grow a 2 team midwifery practice. There are notable barriers to practice in the south shore hospitals. A few midwives are working in physician practices in hospitals. Encouraging ACNM membership is growing in local chapter.

#### Western Region – Sharon Nisengard

Newly organized list of members in the region was made. An email was sent to regional midwives introducing myself and my role as Western NY representative . An effort was made to get everyone's practice information in one database. Outreach was made to those who are not members to discuss barriers to membership. Will start working with Rochester to get their chapter up and running again! There is a new practice: Wyoming OB/GYN, now merged under UMMC. Rochester Regional. They are grouped with Women's care Batavia and Women's Care Medina.