

PUSH



SPRING 2015

Our Annual Lobby Day!

Midwives Arrive on Tuesday, April 21, 2015

On Lobby Day 2015, Licensed Midwives, midwifery students and consumers will meet with and thank Assembly sponsor Richard Gottfried and the Assembly members who passed A446/S4325, the Midwifery Birth Center Bill, on March 11, 2015.

Every year we honor a legislator for their ongoing support of women's health issues; this year's honoree is Senator Kemp Hannon who has long been a supporter of midwifery concerns.

We hope to educate our Senators about the birth center bill, which was also introduced by Senator Hannon and is critically important for women's health in New York

Last year 54 midwives and midwifery students visited 39 legislative offices. On that day, we honored Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee for her efforts to improve access and quality of women's health services.



Pat Burkhardt, 2014 NYSALM President, & Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee

Joint Midwifery-Obstetric Perinatal Taskforce of New York

NYSALM has partnered with the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists District 2 to launch a taskforce with the initial mission "to develop best practice recommendations for hand-offs during transitions from planned home births or freestanding birth centers to hospitals, in order to ensure the highest quality of care for mothers and babies."

The Task Force is currently composed of 10 midwives and 10 physicians, but additional stakeholders such as consumers, pediatricians, nurses, and health departments may be invited to participate at a later time.

The group plans to review evidence for best practices for home and birth center transfers and develop documents and plans specific for New York State maternity care.

NYS Perinatal Association Annual Meeting will Feature Ginger Breedlove CNM

The American College of Nurse-Midwives president Ginger Breedlove CNM will be one of the plenary speakers at NYSPA's 29th Annual Meeting to be held in Albany on June 4-5. NYSALM is a Section member of this cross-discipline, statewide advocacy organization.

We are excited to welcome our national president to New York! Ginger's topic is "Midwifery Matters in Designing Health Models to Improve Perinatal Outcomes." Ginger will



also lead a panel discussion on “Challenges to implementing exemplary models of midwifery-led care in the hospital, birth center and home.”

NY Midwife Appointed to Federal Team

Aleida Llanes-Oberstein, midwifery professor at SUNY Downstate, has been appointed to the federal Infant Mortality Collaborative Improvement and Innovation Network as a member of the NYS team. The team will devise strategies to reduce preterm birth nationally.

Choices in Childbirth Statewide Study



Consumer advocacy organization, Choices in Childbirth, will soon undertake a study of midwifery in New York State. With funding from the Transforming Birth Foundation, the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, NYC Midwives, and NYSALM, the organization will interview consumers, midwives and health organizations to evaluate maternity care resources in our state and how midwifery care in New York can help meet the goals of the Affordable Care Act.

You can “Call the Midwife” Again!

PBS stations began airing Season 4 of the hit British series “Call the Midwife” at the end of March. Americans have been learned about both birth and life in England in this very realistic show which has dealt sensitively with important social topics. NYSALM posts a blog after every episode on our website with our reflections on that week’s show; check it out!



Important Federal Legislation Introduced

Bipartisan legislation was introduced in Washington to require the Health Resources & Services Administration to identify areas of the country experiencing a shortage of full scope maternity care providers or of labor & delivery units or birth centers

This legislation would allow midwives who are National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan recipients to practice in a location that best meshes with their skills. NYSALM enthusiastically supports the “Improving Access to Maternity Care Act of 2015” and expects that areas in upstate New York would be so designated.



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