

*Diversity and Inclusion Committee
New York State Association of Licensed Midwives
2016 Annual Report*

In 2016, the Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Committee was established in response to the national work conducted by the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) concerning diversity and inclusion. The NYSALM D&I Committee is the second affiliate chapter established in the nation within ACNM; the first D&I Committee was established at the ACNM MA affiliate chapter. The D&I Committee is run by two co-chairs, new midwife Rachel Ritter and student midwife Maria Luisa Mendoza. The committee currently has ten members, including several members of NYSALM's leadership and many new midwives.

The D&I Committee meet at least once per quarter via conference call. So far the D&I committee has met four times. The mission of the committee is to ensure diversity in leadership and membership within NYSALM; outreach to diverse communities to teach them about midwifery; and outreach to patients to ensure representation in healthcare providership. In cooperation of the Program Committee, the NYSALM Annual Meeting in October 2016 was themed in honor of diversity and inclusion. Three speakers, including Rachel Ritter, spoke about LGBTQIA issues and two speakers, including the Midwives of Color Committee (MOCC) chair, Pat Loftman spoke about racial issues. After a successful NYALM Annual Meeting, the D&I Committee has requested that at least one workshop at the Annual Meeting be dedicated to issues of diversity and inclusion every year.

Additionally, the D&I Committee participated in the Mentoring in Medicine Health & Science Expo in December 2016. D&I Committee members participated in the health fair and panel discussion. The Mentoring in Medicine Health & Science Expo is an annual event hosted in Harlem to encourage students of diverse backgrounds into the health profession. We spoke to many students, parents, and educators about midwifery. D&I Committee is looking forward to being an annual participant.

In March 2017, D&I Committee members are looking forward in being guest lecturers at the SUNY New Paltz Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies' "Feminist Platform: Health" lecture. D&I Committee members will lecture about health and the midwifery profession to 100 undergraduate students.

D&I Committee co-chairs are soon to meet with the MA Affiliate D&I Committee to collaborate on a workshop for the Region I Annual Meeting that will be hosted by NYSALM in October 2017. We anticipate coordinating a panel of experienced midwives of color to share their stories.

For 2017, D&I Committee is working on a PowerPoint presentation appropriate for use in schools. We hope to present about midwifery to students from a wide variety of backgrounds across the state.