

Respectfully submitted by Mimi Niles, Board Secretary

Attendees:

Susan Altman, Pat Burkhardt, Julie Carlson (phone),
Susanrachel Condon, Renee Fiorentino, Kate Finn (phone), Claudia
Gersten, Alice Gilgoff, Sascha James, Karen Jefferson, Mimi Niles,
Sharon Nisengard, Susan Rannenstad, Ann Visser, April Ward, Trinisha
Williams,
Students: Maria Mendoza, Sarah Prior, Adzowo SamGone, Claire
Moynihan, Ashley Meccariello,

Review Minutes – approved with 2 minor revisions

Meeting Notes from February 2017– minutes approved as written (Pat Burkhardt,
Susanrachel Condon)

- To be uploaded to website.

General:

- Susan R: received calls from midwives related to misperception that NYSALM is “now supporting abortion”. How do we address this ? We can’t close the meeting – as it is public.
- Physician assistants attending births
- Honoring NYS midwives ?

Committee reports :

Legislative committee: (Pat Burkhardt)

- Lobby Day Prep : May 5
- Brief overview of agenda – we are supporting other health related bills: RHA, CCCA, NY Health Act (single payer), premium reductions, tax credit bill for precepting,
- Awards to Gottfried & Kemp (Cert. Of appreciation) – for Birth Center bill. (gift is Bun in the Oven – book – Barbara Katz Rothman)
- Assembly has already passed: RHA, CCCA ; onto Senate floor
- Update on Progress of regulations for birth centers : NYS Birth Center association – participated in revision of existing regs.
 - Will move forward with stakeholders : moving slowly.
 - 18 mos to create reg : Anticipate public comment by Dec 2017

Communication Committee: Alice Gilgoff (Committee member)

ACTION ITEMS

- Update Treasurer – re: expenses
- Create system to share responsibilities and remain current

Diversity & Inclusion Committee: Maria Luisa Mendoza

- D&I panel at regional meeting: Oct 14, Kingston NY

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- Betty Carrington confirmed. Needs transport (Queens or LI)
- Working with MA affiliate – searching with senior midwife and affiliate reps (MA, CT)
- To present exercise at end of meeting as they move forward in the work of diversity and inclusion in NYSALM

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ACTION ITEMS:

- Moderator for Panel – Sascha?
- Coordinate transportation for Betty Carrington

Finance: Ann Visser & Pat Burkhardt

- Audit for 2017: with 2 volunteers (Nancy Rosensweig and Whitney Hall)
- New/revised documents presented:
 1. New expense reimbursement form
 2. Budget request form
 - Both approved unanimously
 - Upload to NYSALM website

Donation to PAC – ACNM: Keeps us active in at the national/federal level.

- 500.00 donation suggested
- Item line in our budget?
- Vote: Called on by Ann, Board unanimously approves
- Placed as Line item “unbudgeted expenses” for this year’s donation– and to be considered year to year – not as standing line item
- Suggestion for State level PAC and increase our contribution to ACNM PAC
Michelle Doyle ran a PAC;
- Reminder: Budget Request committee requesting a budget – submit by Sept to be included in Dec budget.
- Approved budget
 - Income primarily comes from Member DUES
 - Expenses: GT as largest expense, most of this expense historically shows in the first quarter: 3550/month – will decrease in July
 - Other Large expenses:
 1. Quality Committee: Stony Brook, Maimonides
 2. Regional Meeting: venue reservation

ACTION ITEMS

- Ann to send email out to auditors (Nancy Rosensweig & Whitney Hall)
- PAC donation: \$500.00 approved
- Check with Michelle Doyle re: history of NYS PAC (Pat Burkhardt)

IMPACT – Lily Dalke N

- Not present; will email to board

Insurance: Beth Cooper

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- Feb conference call – to collect data on reimbursement on freq. billed codes
- Fidelis showed more discrepancy
- Empire: (Linda Lovig -Syracuse) – suggested band together to have more influence on insurances.
- 3 new issues:
 - 1) APG for straight Medicaid ; LMs cannot bill for straight Medicaid – so they restrict to MDs only
 - 2) Hospital-practice mergers; Lutheran/NYU – issues related to inability to bill
 - 3) Denied billing for first assisting

Membership: Trinisha Williams

New midwives have joined (100-200)

- Issues related to national membership lists at ACNM directly impact NYSALM
- New membership program to capture nuances of levels of membership
- Membership database is run in house at ACNM, not by NYSALM
- Limitation in member tracking
- Many inaccuracies in the lists.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Reach out to larger practices – perhaps employer can subsidize staff memberships
- Consideration: How do we secure a list of NYS members?
- Reach out to NYS NPs? Can they secure these lists? Contacts not suggested.
- Future strategy: Targeting midwives who are NOT members
- Midwifery recognition for NYS – acknowledgement. – to Membership Committee?

Nominating: Mimi Niles

- NYC region reps: appointed by the board, not elected
 - 1.5 years – term till Dec 2018
- Staggering terms – is a strategy to keep the board fresh and active.
 - Motion- KJ, seconded AV
- Presented: Annie Gibeau (NYC Region Rep) and Malaika Miller (NYC Alternate) – both Jacobi Medical Center Midwives.

ACTION ITEMS

- Determine staggering board members and then election process?

Program: Susanrachel Condon

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- Region 1 meeting October 14
*Best Western, 503 Washington Ave
Kingston, NY 12401
free lodging at birth center for students.
- Securing CEUs for the conference
- Rachel Ritter creating webpage for the meeting
- 3K approved – Bioreference; Claudia Gersten

ACTION ITEMS:

- Need volunteers
- Send registration forms: May?

Quality Assurance: Kate Finn (not present, sent report)

- Assisting hospitals in instituting guidelines – sent to 6 different hospitals.
- Maimonides: agreed to transport guidelines
- Stony Brook – amending policy to include transfer agreement- first proposal to chairperson, meeting with stakeholders,
 - Ann V. - 3 recent episodes of challenging transfers without chart, without report
 - AV has drafted a letter to this midwife suggesting a meeting.
- Lively discussion related to respectfully intervening in an effort to protect the profession and our clients.
- Homebirth guidelines: being updated – on NYSALM website to see the documents (Best practice guidelines for best homebirth; includes transfer guidelines)

ACTION ITEMS:

- Support Ann Visser in reaching out to midwife who has transferred to Stony Brook; RE: best practice guidelines – SR offered support.

Student: Maria Luisa Mendoza

- Plans to inaugurate the committee
- Encourage membership for students
- Annual meeting is scheduled around graduation (for close to 50% of programs) – suggest ACNM attention to this.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Contacting program directors to engage to students: Susan Altman offers support

Bylaws: Pat Burkhardt

- Edits suggested:
 - Keep newborn language in purpose

ACTION ITEMS:

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- To send out survey monkey – for vote. Election in the Fall. (date to be determined)

Region updates

Northeast: Claudia Gersten

- Glen Falls – document that wanted ‘supervision of MWs’ – problems with their Bylaws as discussed at last meeting.

Syracuse: Sharon Nisengard

- Sharon surveyed the midwives throughout the region and reported findings in region report
- See attached.

Long Island: Ann Visser

- Using centering model at Stony Brook
- Successful spinning babies conference
- Southside Hospital: (chair moved from Huntington) –historically closed to midwives/doulas. Now launching midwifery care, hired new grad midwife,
- Winthrop: Melanie Summersill ‘Doula training’ - using Medical student/ nursing students AS doulas.
 - 3 mo commitment/to do 9 shifts – get assigned to a laboring woman.
- NUMC: Susan Altman - Looking for a MW for triage;

ACTION ITEMS

- Bringing Midwifery to Northwell – systems approach
- Perhaps IMPACT- can approach Adel Fleischer – MFM

Hudson Valley: SRC, Alice Gilgoff

- Poughkeepsie – vacancy
- Vassar Bros – MD is looking for a MW;
- Hudson River Healthcare: no 24/7 coverage of midwifery
 - The midwives and doctors work for Hudson River HealthCare with admitting privileges at Hudson Valley Hospital Center. The midwives are not employed by the hospital, nor is there a combo name for both entities.
- Health Alliance/ Kingston (Westchester Medical Center) Whitney Hall: working on reducing primary c/s project; programs for residents and family practice attendings.
 - 2 OBs, first assisting, baby friendly, RPC, nitrous oxide, revising policy (ie, waterbirth),

NYC: Trinisha Williams

- Metropolitan: potential closure; decreasing births
- Bellevue: considering stopping 24/7 coverage
- Bronx Lebanon: potential closure
- Lutheran/NYU: FQHC – midwives have just added laborist model.

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- Brookdale: dropping census
- NCB: Sue Papera will hire new midwives
- BI: closed -those midwives will practice at Brooklyn Hospital
- 27 community based midwives – not reflecting the consumer demand.
- Brooklyn Birthing Center –Lily Dalke to join (leaving Woodhull)

Midstate: Julie Carlson

- April and Mary – *Cortlandt* – new practice; small community hospital – started private practice; well received.
 - Leadership changes – with no commitment to sustaining midwifery practice.
 - Updated written privileges. Bylaws amended for admitting privileges.
 - Employed by hospital system. Hospital bills for their services.
- Homebirth: Community based/ Licensed Midwives – have an active *peer review* group with the goal of creating a community that will be committed to improving the standard of care.
- Mediation sessions were able to resolve discordance between midwives.
- 400 homebirths (northern regions) by non-licensed midwives (CPM, Mennonite/Amish community) -

D&I committee Writing Exercise: led by Mimi Niles

- 20 minutes on the writing exercise
- Preliminary findings will be shared at next board meeting
- Carefully addressing issues related to diversity and inclusion

Meeting dates for 2017: 6/7/17 from 12-5 pm, Albany
October 13 from 12- 5 pm, Kingston
December 4 from 10-4 pm, NYC

Adjourn

NYSALM UPDATE

MAY 2017

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The itinerary is coming together nicely. Changes: We dropped abortion and are giving extra time to global health and precepting. Jen Fegan-Szalay is working on the CEUs. Ximena Rossato-Bennett is working on sponsors. Maria and Rachel have been working with other affiliates to find MOC for the MOC panel. If anyone has recommendations and contacts for sponsorship, we'd appreciate the tips.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We are currently working to fill 2 NYC Region Rep OPEN positions. These will be appointed positions till the next election cycle.

We have one opening for region rep and one opening for alternate.

We have approached a few candidates and are attempting to balance our representation to bring other/newer voices to the board – and hope to have reps from one of the larger services in the downstate region.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Membership has had small changes. Our small rise of membership currently can be qualified to any given membership changes. One of our challenges, NYS membership being held through ACNM list has not changed. We anticipate by July ACNM data base changes until then challenges exist with members who do not renew.

Thank you notes were sent to new members who joined the last 6 months.

Future goals:

Obtain a list of NYC chapter midwives and cross match them with ACNM members

ACNM data base changes

Reaching out to large Midwife services for members

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE

- ACNM Region I Conference – D&I Panel (October 13-14, Kingston, NY):
 - Seeking experienced senior midwife of color – four to five participants
 - Betty Carrington to participate representing New York, needs transportation
 - Collaborating with the MA D&I Committee for additional suggestions
 - Contacted Region I affiliate leaders for suggestions, received recommendation from a CT senior midwife
 - Sascha Conterelli suggested to moderate D&I senior midwife panel
 - Malaika Miller has suggestions for the panel from Jacobi
 - Pat Loftman, MOCC Chair can also be considered to represent New York
- NYSALM Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives: Is NYSALM Doing Enough to Diversify the Organization?
 - Need two facilitators to have a board discussion, one white and one woman of color recommended to facilitate at the June board meeting
 - Provide the NYSALM board with a history of midwifery at the June board meeting: Sascha Conterelli to provide presentation
 - Have NYSALM board complete a D&I committee survey to gauge where the board is on diversity and inclusion at the May board meeting
 - Set aside half an hour at each board meeting to discuss diversity and inclusion issues
 - Sent NYSALM board – Dawley & Walsh JMWH article, “Creating a More Diverse Midwifery Workforce in the United States: A Historical Reflection

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The committee had a conference call in February, but only 3 of the 6 members participated. Plans were made to collect data on actual reimbursement on several frequently billed codes and have a follow-up phone call to discuss next step. Plans were focused on Fidelis, where early information showed the most discrepant payments.

In March I sent an expanded grid with cpt codes to all members to use to collect data from their billers. I received responses from 2 members. I had to cancel a follow-up conference call scheduled for 4/25 due to being out of town for personal commitments. Plans to attend the NYSALM Board meeting also needed to be cancelled.

Empire Plan, which had been an issue for Linda Lovig for a long time, resolved itself last August, but we kept it on the grid to find areas of the state where

denials of payment might be occurring. Linda raised the issue of how we can possibly band together to have more leverage with insurance companies than we have with small individual practices. This needs further consideration by the committee.

Three new issues have been brought to the committee. The first involves the APG payments for straight Medicaid visits to midwives working for article 28 facilities. Physicians can bill fee for service for visits to these facilities, but APG regs include midwifery services in the bundled rate, as they do for NP's and PA's. The committee chair reviewed these regs and verified the language. Karen informed me that Beth and Jane (lobbyists) had spoken to DOH when this was first adopted a few years ago. She sent a query to find out hhow it had been resolved. It seems that a few clinics in the Buffalo area are restricting straight Medicaid patients to MD's in order to collect additional revenue for visits.

Second, an issue re hospital and medical practice mergers has resulted in reduction of midwifery privileges and institution of mandated in house supervision. This may be driven by maximize revenues by billing births in the name of the in-house MD, since midwives get less than MD's. Yuen Chan, who is supposed to be on the committee, is the person having issues in Brooklyn. She has not responded to my request for a good time to speak on the phone.

The most recent issue was raised last week by Lisa Gussack of Harrison NY. Some midwives who have been reimbursed for first assist are now being denied. I received a denial bill from Robin Bradley. I will follow up next week with her to get more information, so we can identify the issue, which she said originated with Cigna and now BC/BS has followed suit.

CPT	Empire Plan		Fidelis WNY	
	Midwife	Physician	Midwife	Physician
59400 Global Ob care including delivery and PP	2008	2008	1892 (85%)	2365
59409 Vaginal delivery only	1181 (93%)	1274	960	960
59410 vag delivery incl postpartum care (inpt and outpt)			935 (80%)	1169
59425 antepartum care 4-6 visits	395	395	414 (80%)	518
59426 antepartum care 7 or more visits	679	679	742 (80%)	928
59430 Postpartum visit only	122	122	210	210
99212 E&M established patient visit straight	33	33	50	50

	forward				
99213	E&M established patient visit expanded	45	45	84	84
99385	New patient visit 18-39 yo (gyn or primary care)	76	76		
99386	New patient visit 40-64 yo (gyn or primary care)				
99395	Established patient visit 18-39 yo	64	64	110	110
99396	Established patient visit 40-64 yo	76	76	117	117

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We have been reworking reimbursement forms and policies. We have also structured a Budget Request form to be used with our next proposed budget for 2018.

REGION REPORTS

HUDSON VALLEY

Things have been pretty quiet as far as I am aware. I've been recovering from surgery and kept busy focusing on the Region 1 Meeting. If anything, I'd like to acknowledge the amazing work of Whitney Hall. She has taken it as her personal mission to transform our local hospital in Kingston - working on RPC, Baby-Friendly and re-writing policies which support those two projects. She also regularly does grand rounds, teaches the FP residents and offers a variation on Centering, offering group prenatal care with tours of the unit. She gets paid for none of this. I would like to consider giving her an award this year. She's our local MVP.

LONG ISLAND

LI Region is launching it's Mentoring program for students and new graduates. There is a midwife looking to bring midwifery to Southside hospital. The chair of OB/GYN at Southside is from Huntington Hospital and he was instrumental in getting a midwifery service up and running there, so we are guardedly helpful. Winthrop Hospital has launched a volunteer doula service. The doulas are often students from medical schools, and colleges with an interest in birth. They

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receive 2 days training and then give a commitment of ____ 8hr shifts of their choice.

They are not Certified doulas.

They are matched by the charge Nurse on L and D to a laboring women.

Michele Burtner, CNM, MS, IBCLC
Director of Midwifery
University of Rochester

Things for us in Rochester (U of R) are going along quite well.

We have had some retirements over the past few years of some senior midwives, of course it is sad to see them go from FT clinical practice. However, on the flip side, it means we have been able to add newer midwives to our mix. We have taken on an additional role at Strong Hospital on the OB team to assist with daily function on the unit, which involves triage work and also resident teaching/mentoring interns for normal labor/delivery.

So, we maintain our busy Midwifery practice at 2 office locations with over 600 deliveries at Highland Hospital, and have added a role for Midwifery at the University hospital!

We are in discussion with both hospitals regarding obtaining Nitrous Oxide use for labor, so more to come on that.

Wyoming County Women's Health and Midwifery - 2 midwives

Kim Heeb,

We are definitely growing. A female Gyn retired and we have taken on a good majority of her patients. The original physician that was hired died in September and we have had a male locum and female Ob/Gyn who hadn't been practicing other than a STD Clinic for the past 5yrs. Need I say more! Strong had been covering us every other weekend, but when we got the locum that stopped. We refer our patients to MFM at Strong and Unity and that has been great. The Women in our community are definitely Moderate risk. We have had great outcomes. Delivered 4 sets of twins last yr. Two were mono/ di and it went very well. We have 3 sets of Di/Di this yr so far! Something is in the water!! Have incorporated Myriad genetics screening for all our patients and have found 4BRACA1 and another LYNCH. That testing is crucial to womens care! Have been in the community promoting womens health. Speak for a Women's church group once a month on different topics r/t womens health issues. We are going to do our second Birth and Beyond Shower on October 15th. So much more going on. We are getting 5 more Dr's to cover weekends and do a Saturday clinic. It is difficult getting to know so many. It is difficult finding someone permanent who is excellent and wants to practice in a rural community!

Eilleen Stewart, homebirth LM in Buffalo

Practice update:

Regine Marton and Tiffany Nakajima are no longer with Buffalo Midwifery Services.

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This makes finding coverage difficult.

Dr. Morrison will cover, but most of my families want home birth and she can only do birth in the birthing center.

Jen Bozza from Erie will help as well, but not ideal 90 min away.

Insurance reimbursement is more difficult than ever, most payers not covering or allowing only a fraction of my fee.

Still hanging in there:

Loving the work more than ever 22 years and 2000 babies!

Katharine has gotten the Birthing Center Accreditation form AABC

Also the Birthing Center is now receiving insurance reimbursement.

Also we will be a clinal site for CNM's first one this fall

The birthing center is also a site for family practice residence from UB

Regine Marton:

Starting a new practice called Soul Weaver which will be focused on AP. PP support, holistic well woman care and trauma.. I may come back to HB but at this point I need to consolidate what I want to do first in this field. If things are going as I wish them to be, then I may add up HB but honestly not before the fall... I do not have any more privileges at this point with Kaleida but this may change as well in the fall.

Mercy Hospital/Mercy Midwifery, Sharon Nisengard

Talks continue to change our current practice guidelines -To incorporate Certified Midwives into the document, and to make guidelines current with changing standards of care.

We will be starting to to use Nitrous Oxide at our hospital

There is a Trinity Health Midwife workgroup starting for all Trinity affiliated sites across the country, and I have volunteered to be part of that group.

In the outpatient setting, there has been issues with nonreimbursement for patients with straight Medicaid. This is in the process of remediation. NYS requires patients with Medicaid to have a managed HMO as well. The first 3 visits a woman has in our practice we do not bill the global fee. Our slant now is for the midwives to continue to see straight MCAID patients up to the first 3 visits (12 weeks). We will have to let them know during that time that they will have to get a managed care plan to continue to see us for AP care, or they will be under the care of our physicians. We will be able to attend their birth, however. It continues to be a shock that this could be true, but we will work with it the best we can.

We are also currently going through some legal issues regarding HIPPA and our role as laborists. This is mostly due to one laborist physician who gets her nose into business that the private physicians do not like. However, it will effect how we work as laborists in the future, as we have contact with most patients, and do H&P's for private physicians. Will keep NYSALM updated on this ongoing case.

Mid-State Region

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(Summarized from report by April Ward, CNM) There is a new MW practice at Cortland Hospital started by April Ward CNM and Mary Borra, CNM. The practice is called RMP Midwives/RMP Women's Health. It was hospital initiated (Cortland Regional Medical Center) and was opened in March 2016. Birth volume now is 6-8 births per month but still growing. VBACs are not permitted by the hospital due to constraints imposed by their insurance carrier. There is a provider-driven initiative to change this, but it doesn't look hopeful in the near future. Unofficial demographics: payor mix is about 60% commercial insurance, 30% Medicaid/Medicaid managed care/10% other. About half of April's visits are pregnancy related and half are gynecology/women's health. Sadly, the hospital system is losing money and is actively looking for a buyer. The leadership group that envisioned a midwifery practice is now gone, and the Board has let the MWs know that they are not interested in supporting a midwifery program.

Student Placements

I have heard from some Frontier and Phili U students that it is very difficult to get placements in NY. Is there a way NYSALM could have a preceptor registry of some kind? It would be great for this to be part of a strategic plan in supporting student midwives of color as we move or as we move forward on diversity and inclusion.

Home Birth

We have a really wonderful group of home birth midwives who attend the peer review. Members include LMs and community midwives. There is much discussion of the home birth guidelines within the context of the review and there were two successful mediation sessions to assist with conflict between midwives. We are discussing how to "officialize" mediation at the next peer review.

Member connections

I am still in the process of reaching out to MWs in the region to get more detailed updates from region NYSALM members. It would be very helpful if I had some guidance on how to (easily) use the NYSALM member list to reach out to current members in my area. forward