



Direct-Entry Midwifery Policy & Regulations Subcommittee Meeting

January 23, 2014

6:00-8:00 PM

Summary Notes

Subcommittee Members Attendance: Jennifer Antonik, Consumer; Kristin Bennett, RN, DPH Nursing Director; State Rep. Paul Baumbach, Dr Garrett Colmorgen, Perinatologist; Ally Heiger, RN, Delawarean for Safe Births; Dr Richard Henderson, OB-GYN; Kathleen McCarthy, CNM, Birth Center of DE; Bonnie Perratto, Chief Nursing Officer, Bayhealth; Lindsay Robinson, CNM, Dedicated to Women; Jeptha J VanDunk, Consumer, Attorney; Karen Webster, NARM CPM. Absent: Jodi Dampeer-Moore, RN; DSU Faculty; Patricia Gallagher, CPM; and Dr David Paul, Neonatologist.

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting facilitated by Co-Chair Garrett Colmorgen with support of Co-Chair Jen Antonik.

Members introduced themselves including their focus – those mentioned included safety for mother and baby, safeguards, safe practice, better access to home birth, impact hospital births, right to choose/choice of type of birth, work together, good plan, plan/solution which works for DE and need for protocols/regulations.

Round Table Discussion of Research and Issues:

LIABILITY/COMMUNICATON:

California statute re: transfer of emergent patient discussed. Receiving physicians and nurse not liable for gross negligence of midwives unless gross negligence on their own part. Liability seen as big issue - hospitals can't refuse transfer. Information sharing suggestions include (midwifery patient) chart on file with MD and at hospital. Hospital transfer sheet to be accessed/shared.

Discussion re: bringing physicians and midwives together in book clubs and skills labs. (Relationship issues assigned to other subcommittee so discussion not pursued.)

Liability issues were described as very real – even when not intent of the patient. (Lawsuits) seen as a way to address poor outcome. Member noted need to refrain from labeling hospitals as “bad” place. Instead need do birth plan in case needs arises to transfer to ease transition.

LEGISLATION: Discussion re: making changes in legislation and/or regulations.

Need to delineate scope of practice, protocols, define what is risking out. How can home birth be decriminalized without collaborative agreement? Consider quick legislation which would pull requirement of collaborative agreement and address liability issues as per CA.

ACOG perspective – ACOG supports woman’s right to choose birth setting but see increased morbidity & mortality for infant with home birth. Per ACOG – safest for mother and newborn in certified birth center or hospital. Although increasing collaboration between ACOG and ACNM disagreement re: home births – both/all have goal of safe delivery.

Working models, including mention of Colorado, briefly discussed.

Plans for Moving Forward: Rep Baumbach proposed smaller subcommittee to work on (new Delaware) model with him and Andrew Wilson, MSD – discussion ensued - full subcommittee group interested in participation. Group advised regarding need for open communication in public committee work. Group agreed to work on issues between meeting including through email and copy all on subcommittee email list to maintain open communication.

Public Comment:

Those in attendance declined the opportunity offered for public comment.

Public Attendance (elective sign-in): Ashton Brown, Delaware State News; Wendy Matthew, Joy Pinder and Andrew Wilson, Medical Society of Delaware.

Adjournment/Next Meeting:

Subcommittee members in attendance agreed that the next meeting will be held on March 11, 6-8 pm, at same location, DPH Offices, Training Room, Edgehill Shopping Center, Dover. Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.