

**ATM Board Meeting  
February 3, 2019**

**Board Members present:**

Paula Davis  
Cathy Rude  
Nanci Stanley  
Brielle Epstein  
Laurie Fremgen  
Kelli Beaty  
Kelly Baumgartner  
Mollie Miller  
Christy Martin  
Shelley Terrazas (joined electronically)  
Melinda Pond (joined electronically at 1:37pm)

**Non-board members present:**

Pam Holland  
Claudine Crews  
Natalie Womack  
Carol Schumacher  
Varshna Narumanchi  
Salli Gonzalez

**APPROVED**

**1:02pm:** Meeting called to order at by Paula Davis, president

Cathy proposed approving minutes from the November 2018 , seconded by Nanci

**Agenda item:** Regional reports submitted by regions 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, & 8.

**Agenda item:** Conference update given by Mollie Miller. Kelli Beaty will update ATM website so that the conference link is more prominent. MEAC CEUs have been applied for. Discussion about the annual conference for 2020 and consideration for partnering with MANA since they are hosting their annual conference in Austin October 31-November 3, 2019. Discussion about holding a graduation for 2020 if there's not a ATM full conference in 2020. Feedback allowed from the non-board members in attendance.

**Proposal: Brielle proposed that ATM link with MANA to participate in the planning and helping co-host the MANA annual conference. Seconded Laurie Fremgen. Mollie Miller abstained. Other board members in favor, none opposed.**

Discussion regarding cost of pre-conference being increased from last year from Kelly Baumgartner. Explanation given b Christy Martin that the pre-conference workshop offerings are more extensive than last year and must cover the supplies needed for the type of workshops at the pre-conference this year.

**Agenda item:** Profit & Loss for January 2019 reviewed.

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**Agenda item:** Education Committee discussion. Paula reported that the ATM board continues to support ATM-MTP pursuing MEAC accreditation; clarification given between Brielle, Paula, and Kelli about previous discussions.

Kelli Beaty voiced concern over whether Texas law allows for students to train as midwives. Brielle explained that TDLR chief legal counsel/lawyers have said that it's clear that students can legally train as midwives without concern.

Tabled further discussion regarding education until after the legislative report and discussion.

### **Agenda: Legislative Report**

Brielle explained the TDLR omnibus bill and the portions that affect us as midwives:

- Changing the chair of the advisory board to a midwife from a consumer;
- Fee floor changed so our fees can be lowered
- Removal of expiration date of the advisory board's authority over standard of care and education
- Definition of student and definition of preceptor

Claudine allowed to speak from the floor.

Brielle will speak to TDLR about releasing a statement about midwifery students being able to legally train as a midwife.

Brielle reported about a bill that has come up:

HB 1255—short version explanation of the bill is that any time there is a maternal death (during pregnancy through the year following the birth of the baby), the care provider will be requested to send the records to the department of health. The records would be completely confidential.

Other bills Brielle is watching:

Bill—require us to give information on second-hand smoke

Bill—breastfeeding bill to provide further protection for breastfeeding in public and at work

Bill—assisting in parent engagement with their children

Bill—declare one month a year Maternal Health month

Bill—increasing resources to reduce opioid addiction among pregnant women and newborns

Brielle reports there is work happening to help us get a seat on the maternal mortality review board.

Lois Kolkhorst, of Brenham, is the new chair of Health & Human Resources committee. Brielle and Toni Kimpel have had some positive interaction with her in the past.

Brielle reports the TfM (Texans for Midwifery) group has not panned out as has been hoped for to garner a strong consumer support to help with a pharmacology bill. Discussion among the board about regional reps communicating with membership about this, as well as the on-going desire for ATM members to refer clients/consumers to TfM who can help build a strong consumer group.

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Multiple comments from the membership present at meeting allowed at this time.

**Agenda item:** Kelly Baumgartner states her region has requested a yearly report about cases that have been before TDLR so that we can learn from the cases, as we used to be able to hear the complaints under DSHS. Brielle and Laurie explained there is a lot of privacy around the cases. But TDLR does want to use the Summits to address specific issues that have come up in cases for our learning opportunities.

**Agenda item: TDLR Summit update**

Laurie & Brielle report the summit went very well and that the commission was also pleased with how the summit went. Planning for the July summit in DFW is still in the works.

Comments from the membership in attendance allowed at this time. Suggestion from Claudine for a workshop on how to hold a proper peer review.

**Agenda item: Education Report**

76 current students enrolled in ATM-MTP.

Kelli reports that new content on “Social Determinants of Health and the Midwife” has been created and added.

The education committee is actively working on the preceptor training program. Discussion regarding whether or not there will be a fee for midwives to pay to take the preceptor training program. Claudine allowed to comment from the floor regarding training preceptors.

Discussion regarding submitting the “Social Determinants of Health and the Midwife” course to MEAC to get CEUs for midwives to take this course. Pam Holland allowed to comment on this. Mollie will assist Pam with applying for MEAC CEUs.

A survey has been created to send students who’ve withdrawn from the program to find out the reason(s) why they’ve withdrawn and obtain feedback.

Discussion of possibility of instating an administrative fee for students who stay in the ATM program beyond 3 years. This would only affect new students. Next enrollment period begins March 1, so this change needs to happen before then.

**Proposal: Kelli proposes that a fee be charged every 6 months to ATM-MTP students who remain in the course past 42 months. Seconded by Paula. All in favor, none opposed.**

Kelli reported on modules being updated and modules being added to Moodle. Kelli discussed the difficulty in getting questions for modules set up in Moodle. Claudine also spoke about issues with Moodle.

Statistics reported by Claudine:

ATM-MTP started 20 years ago

175 students graduated since then

167 have taken NARM

Overall NARM pass rate: 1st attempt 86.8%; 2nd attempt pass 93.4%

2007-2008 pass rate dropped to 50% (program needed updates and NARM changed the test)

First 10 years 1999-2009: 92 grads, pass rate 1st attempt 80.4%. 2nd 89.1%

2010-2019: 71 grads 1st attempt pass 94%. 2nd attempt pass 98.6%

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Natalie spoke about the ATM program mostly being written by volunteers.

Discussion about a student's complaint about ATM-MTP regarding timing of receiving grades on modules, and what the ATM-MTP policies say. Discussion about having a lawyer look over our policies.

**Agenda item: Preceptor issues**

Discussion regarding a student's letter of concern sent to the board on how a preceptor treated her during her apprenticeship, as well as discussion on healthy preceptors and student relationships, and ways to improve healthy preceptorships.

ATM-MTP has written a letter to the midwife-preceptor to address a specific issue, and will send the letter this week.

**Position Statement: The Association of Texas Midwives recognizes the negative impacts of bullying and harassment upon the practice and profession of midwifery in Texas. We do not tolerate violence, manipulation or coercion of any kind by any source.**

**Proposal: Paula proposed ATM adopt this position statement. Kelly Baumgartner seconded. All in favor, none opposed.**

**Agenda item: Membership Drive**

Kelly reports on ATM membership and desire to know how we are tracking newly graduated & licensed midwives. ATM-MTP graduates receive a free ATM membership for a year, but they have to sign up for it.

2017: 167 associate members & 136 student members

2018: 154 associate members, 126 students & 22 lifetime members

Discussion about why more Texas midwives aren't a member of ATM and why newly graduated midwives don't join ATM.

Discussion about ATM communication with membership and how to do that effectively.

Discussion about reaching out to newly licensed midwives who are not MTP graduates as well.

Discussion regarding region reps being notified when a student in their region has graduated from MTP. Discussion tabled until the next meeting.

**Agenda item: Letter to Board regarding proposed rules on FHTs and emergent transfer**

Discussion about concerns voiced in letter and Paula's response to the writer of the letter. Discussion about challenges of writing our rules regarding FHTs because the evidence available is based on hospital births, not community births.

Laurie clarified that if a case has gone or goes to SOAH that a SOAH judge won't be setting precedence. Final decisions are left to commissioners.

**Agenda item: Website**

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**Proposal: Kelli proposes ATM link with HIVE-CE for \$385/yr which will offer a 20% discount to ATM members for all HIVE-CE online courses which are MEAC accredited courses. Paula seconded. All in favor, none opposed.**

Kelli also recommends removing the membership log-in portion of the website. The board agreed.

**Proposal: Kelli proposes that the education portion of ATM have its own separate website for ease of navigating the information. Paula seconded. All in favor, none opposed.**

Kelli discussed the portion of the website called "Find a Midwife." Changes will be made to make this feature more user-friendly.

**Agenda item: Discussion of regional representative/executive board member terms**

Voting for regional representatives will happen through contact with members via Constant Contact.

**PROPOSAL: Kelli proposes because the policies and by-laws are open that the nominations be changed from February 1st to March 1st. Closing of nominations changes from March 1st to March 16th. Voting opens March 20th and closes April 10th. Seconded by Nanci. All in favor, none opposed.**

**Meeting adjourned 7:04pm**