

ATM Board Meeting
November 1st, 2019
MANA conference @ Lost Pines, TX

Board Members present:

Paula Davis, President
Cathy Rude, Vice President
Christy Martin, Secretary & Education Chair
Kelly Baumgartner, Treasurer
Melinda Pond
David Carter-Plake (left meeting at 6:59pm)
Kristin Green
Nanci Stanley
Laurie Fremgen
Jacquetta Barnett (attending by phone)
Mollie Miller (attending by phone)
Brielle Epstein (arrived at 5:47pm)
Janet Dirmeyer (arrived at 5:57pm)

Others present:

Katie Brice (TDLR staff, only present for brief discussion at beginning of meeting)
Heather Meuhr (TDLR staff, only present for brief discussion at beginning of meeting)
Dede McEachem (TDLR staff, only present for brief discussion at beginning of meeting)
Dawn Cockrill
Claudine Crews (arrived at 5:43pm)
Kelli Beaty (joined at 5:43pm)
Jasmin Schumacher (joined at 5:43pm)
Robin Rabenschlag (joined at 5:43pm)
Lisa Welch (joined at 6:45pm, left at 7:36pm)

Meeting called to order at 5:07pm by Paula Davis

Introduction of TDLR staff in attendance. Katie Brice reports the next educational summit is slated to be January 31st in San Marcos. The time will likely be from 9am to 4pm. Dede reports that all the programs under TLDR are in sunset, except the medical programs. At this time the medical programs will be in sunset in two years. Strategic planning for TDLR will start in the spring for the next legislative session. TDLR staff will travel to the major regions in Texas for regional meetings to ask for input. TDLR staff left meeting after short discussion.

Introduction of Erin Biscone, CTCNM President, and Jenny, CTCNM Vice President. Short talk regarding midwives working together.

5:22pm

Minutes from prior board meeting reviewed by email previously; minutes approved.
Review of minutes from two executive board meetings that have occurred since the prior board meeting. Minutes approved.

5:24pm

Announcement that Kelli Beaty has stepped down as interim Education Chair, and that Christy Martin has been appointed and voted in as the new Education Chair. Voting occurred by email previous to this board meeting.

Cathy nominated Laurie Fremgen as the new secretary in place of Christy Martin who has been the secretary. Paula seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

5:26pm

Paula reviewing the “dichotomy slide” from a talk this morning at the MANA conference. Encouragement from Paula for us all to find common ground amidst the dichotomy of beliefs and values among midwives.

5:29pm

Discussion of election schedule for the new design of regional representatives to serve for 4 years. Each even number region will still hold elections in even number years, and odd number regions will hold elections in odd number years. The two available seats will be named “seat 1” and “seat 2.” The upcoming elections in 2020 will be the even numbered regions and only seat 1 will be up for election. Then in 2022 in the even numbered regions, seat 2 will be up for election.

According to ATM policy, nominations open March 1st and close March 16th, then voting begins March 20th, and closes April 10th.

5:37pm

Agenda item: TDLR update

Laurie reports the next Texas Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for January 30th. The new members are Roxanne Anderson, Erica Steele, and Christy Martin. The terms are 6 years each.

Laurie reports that the next TDLR Commissioner’s meeting a midwife should be appointed as the chair for the Advisory Board, rather than a consumer being the chair.

Laurie states there is consideration for changes to the initial licensure rules for midwives in Texas so that we meet NARM’s minimum requirements because our TX requirements are less than NARM’s requirements. Laurie requests that we each consider the pros and cons and plan to discuss in depth at the next board meeting. **This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.**

Laurie also reports that she wants the advisory board to look again at the FHT rule that they created but which didn’t pass last year.

5:46pm

Agenda item: Conference report

Kelly reports the committee has the website up now for registration for the pre-conference fun night and for the conference.

Dates: April 30th is the pre-conference night & May 1-2 is the conference.

Hotel: Drury Inn & Suites

Registration for the hotel is available on the conference website as well, and the discounted price is available April 28th through May 4 for families who want to come earlier or stay later.

Location: University Methodist Church

Food: Lunches are provided

Next conference planning committee meeting is November 13th.

Theme: Viva Midwifery

Recommendation to have a “sustainability” room at our conference like MANA has here at their conference, which offers free things like foot scrubs, acupuncture, foot massages and such for free to attendees.

5:55pm

Break taken to make arrangements for dinner

5:59pm

Quick review of meeting thus far given to Janet and Brielle.

6:03pm

Request from Janet to discuss the topic of NRP requirements for licensure be put on the agenda for the next Midwifery Advisory Board meeting.

6:06pm

Agenda item: Education Report

Christy reviewed the Education Report written by Kelli Beaty.

Discussion and review of two new policies created by the Education Committee,

New policy #1:

Exception for Advancement to the Next Module

The purpose of this policy is to allow a student to progress to the next module of study when there are emergency circumstances which may prevent the student from attending the current module workshop.

Emergency situations are limited to the death of an immediate family member, emergency hospitalization of the student or an immediate family member, documented major illness, or natural disaster. Examples of verifiable proof include: a death certificate, obituary, a note from a physician, hospital records, and/or a police report.

In the event of an emergency situation, a student may be allowed to miss a workshop and progress to the next module. The missed workshop must be attended at the next scheduled time. The student must have completed, submitted and passed all the assignments for the current module. The student will have the option of either taking the module final exam with a proctor or when the student attends the workshop.

For example, a student has submitted the completed assignments for module 3 and was scheduled to attend workshop 3 but had a verifiable family emergency that precluded the student from attending. The student may choose to take the exam for module 3 at this time with a proctor. The student would then move on to module 4 and attend workshop 4. The student will then attend workshop 3 as soon as it is scheduled to occur again, before attending workshop 5.

New policy #2

Transfer of Clinical Experience

ATMMTP will accept NARM Phase 1 and Phase 2 clinical experience as defined below.

Clinical experience as primary midwife under supervision is not transferable.

Transferable Phase 2 clinical experience must have been performed under a verified NARM registered preceptor and/or ATM approved preceptor. The student must submit their clinical experience on the proper NARM forms (Phase 1, Form 110a; Phase 2, Form 111a-111e) and/or ATMMTP clinical record forms. Phase 2 forms must be signed and

notarized. All transferable clinical experience will be reviewed. Transferable clinical experience must be submitted with the enrollment application.

• Phase 1 - Births as an Observer (form 110a)

The applicant must attend a minimum of ten births in any setting, in any capacity (observer, doula, family member, friend, beginning apprentice). These births may be verified by any witness who was present at the birth.

• Phase 2 - Assistant Under Supervision (form 111a - 111e)

The applicant must attend a minimum of 20 births, 25 prenatals (including three initial exams), 20 newborn exams, ten postpartum visits as an assistant under the supervision of a Registered Preceptor.

***NARM Candidate Information Bulletin (CIB) September 2019**

Brielle and Laurie ask about discussing this policy #2 with TDLR with their contacts there as we will need TDLR to be on board with this new policy for it to be effective.

Paula proposes that we accept these two policies. Cathy seconded. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passes.

6:20pm

Agenda item: MEAC

Reports given by Paula about decision to postpone the MEAC steering committee meetings.

Christy proposes that the MEAC steering committee is disbanded. Christy also proposes that she will form a work group with two other midwives who she will select to work on furthering the MEAC accreditation process.

Brielle asks if anyone from MEAC has offered the mentorship program; Claudine reports yes they have.

Christy will arrange who will be on a phone call with MEAC to answer questions as we move forward.

6:29pm

Agenda item: Student Representation

Paula reports we need to discuss student representation for the purpose of opening up better dialog between the students and ATM Board.

Discussion about expectations such as time commitment, attendance at meetings, as well as elections being done by students for their own representatives, how many student representatives we would have.

Laurie proposes we create a policy that we add to our policy manual.

Claudine recommends we look at the MEAC benchmarks to see what might help us make sure we are meeting MEAC requirements as we pursue this.

6:36pm

Agenda item: ATM preceptors with TDLR complaints

Paula reports that under TDLR we are no longer able to know when an ATM preceptor has a compliant filed against her/him as we were under DSHS. Brielle states she will talk with Mary at TDLR about this.

Closed complaints with an enforcement action become public. A full report can be requested and it's posted on the TDLR website.

Kelli reports that TDLR told her ATM can periodically request a report on closed complaints. Any charts or records would have to go to the judge for permission to release to ATMMTP.

6:42pm

Closed session called to discuss a particular case which Brielle has been helping a midwife with. Discussion how TDLR is handling complaints and the complaint process. Brielle reports we may need to take more action depending on what more happens with the case she's helping this midwife with. Laurie reports she suspects there's something in the law that may be restricting TDLR from changing how complaints are handled. Brielle will continue to work on this.

7:05pm

Kelli Beaty brought into the meeting to discuss with Brielle an issue with another complaint with a specific midwife that went through TDLR. Kelli reports the client who filed the complaint with TDLR also filed a complaint with ATMMTP and NARM.

7:16

End of closed session. Members present returned to the meeting.

7:16pm

Agenda item: Treasurer's report

Kelly reviewed the report. Paula states that we obviously have difficulties with our finances that need attention. Paula states that Christy will look through education's income and expenses, and Paula will look through all administration income and expenses.

Paula proposes that we freeze all travel expenses. Kelli reports some MTP instructors do request reimbursement for travel and meals. Kelly reviewed what travel and meal expenditures cost us in the first half of the year. Brielle and Paula both state we need a hardship exclusion for those who truly need the reimbursement for travel expenses.

Kelly reminded us all that budgets for 2020 need to be submitted by November 20th.

Paula proposes that all travel expenses be frozen including lodging, mileage and food. Exceptions for hardship cases will be considered on a case by case basis. This freeze is enacted as of 11/2/19 until the board reverses this decision.

Claudine reports instructors get paid \$120/day.

7:36pm

Brielle reports yesterday MEAC held the 3rd annual BIG PUSH summit, an all day event to talk about legislative efforts all over the country. Brielle was on the panel at the summit.

The BIG PUSH organization will have a work meeting in the spring, a small core group who will look at putting together documents which can help midwives in legislative efforts.

Brielle reports she also discussed with Betty Ann Davis about breech birth as well and how that pertains to legislative issues.

7:44pm

Agenda item: Legislative Report

Brielle reports she's continuing to dialogue with TDLR about the complaint process and improvements needed.

TDLR is in sunset though we are not. While TDLR is in sunset we have the opportunity to add changes to the rules/law, such as complaints can be handled by what the department thinks is best for the profession. Due to sunset gearing up, Brielle reports we will need Roland to navigate through this sunset. We also have a session coming up next year as well as our own sunset the following year if it's not pushed off again. Roland has requested \$15,000 for the work he would do during the current TDLR sunset.

Brielle has a call scheduled for next week with Margo who did some lobbying for us under Roland. Margo is an expert in PACs.

If we help start a PAC then we would need an attorney. Because we are a 501(c)3 we have limitations on us and how we interact with the PAC.

A PAC will have control and could go a different direction than we want to go. We can take a certain amount of donations which we could put a certain amount toward lobbying.

Discussion of a membership push by calling all midwives in Texas and encouraging them to become ATM members.

Brielle will need to know our expenditures for this year for appropriate payment for Roland. Laurie recommends Brielle have the meeting with Margo at this time and report back to the board before we considered paying a non-profit attorney and/or CPA to consult.

Brielle also reports a reporter called the MANA president asking to come watch the session and interview the midwives about the deaths in Texas. The reporter denied being with Gatehouse.

8:12pm

Agenda item: Reviewing ATM policies

Paula proposes the executive committee review the policies and by-laws and submit recommendations for review by email. Cathy seconds the proposal. All in favor, none opposed. Motion passed. The intent is that this work will be done over email before the next board meeting.

8:18pm

Agenda item: Communication log

Paula proposes that a communication log be kept to track reasons for calls, how many potential students are calling, etc. The communication log should answer the reason for the call, the response given and the outcome.

Laurie requests we consider having two separate lines, one for education and one for other matters.

Kelli reports that we get many calls from someone who birthed with a midwife many years ago and they are trying to get a birth certificate. Kelli also reports they train students to email them for the purpose of creating a paper log. Kelli states she is cautious about how, or if, she answers questions that seem to possibly be from a reporter.

Brielle suggests that we come up with good talking points/sound bites that we can each use to answer common questions.

Discussion of emailing the membership about reporters possibly calling them.

Laurie will create a Google Drive to load up the policies, by-laws and other necessary documents, including a new form to use as the communication log.

8:46pm

Agenda item: Idea for documents on ATM website

Brielle will create a list of documents and information we are required to give our clients which will then be loaded up onto the ATM website.

8:47pm

Agenda item: Maternidad La Luz

Concern over information on their website incorrectly stating that to be licensed in TX you must graduate from a MEAC accredited school. Laurie reports she has reached out to MLL but didn't get a response. Brielle will discuss this with TDLR.

8:49pm

Agenda item: ATM website update

Paula requested Kelli give her log in information for the website so that more than one person has access in case something were to happen to Kelli.

Kelli reports legislative information on the website needs to be updated.

8:51

Agenda item: Re-institute a social media committee

Ashley Stanton and Shannon Stellhorn have created a facebook page for ATMMTP which is going well.

Discussion of re-instituting a social media committee. Kelli states that she can post on the ATM facebook page.

Brielle states she can get her daughter to set up the instagram page.

Jasmin Schumacher has a background in social media advertising and volunteers to take on this responsibility. The board supports Jasmin doing so.

Brielle suggests guidelines be created.

9:05pm

Next board meeting dates changed:

February 16 at 1pm in DFW

Paula will look at the conference schedule with Kelly to figure out when to schedule the board meeting during the conference, likely to be scheduled sometime between April 30-May 2.

9:07pm

Meeting adjourned by Paula Davis