



# ATM Board Meeting

February 4, 2024

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## Attendees

Board members present: Sarah Slette , Kristen Bowers , Jen Gabler, April Blackmore, Ashley Musil , Kristy Hammack , Melinda Pond (2:25)

ATM Members Present: Varsha Narumanchi, Rachel Anderson, Chris Duffy, Cori Lively, Marjorie Mae Mrozek (2:14) Janet Dirmeyer (2:20), Cristina Winton (2:20), Victoria Busch (2:22), Dawn Housos (2:40), J. Hitch (2:44), Amy Tate (2:52)

## Agenda

Meeting called to order at 2:11

### Regional Reports

The regional reports were given by region representatives.

### Conference Committee Report: Kristen Bowers

Many speakers now have signed contracts. The committee is still looking for help with the website, onsite volunteers, and auction assistants. Pre-conference plans are in the works and will focus on license requirements. The theme will be Brth Nerds. Hotel registration at the Hyatt Regency at the Woodlands is live. T-shirts, lunch, afternoon snacks, and all day beverages will be included with registration. If you stay on site, breakfast will be provided by the hotel. MEAC and ACNM Ceus will be applied for. There will be two sessions running most of the time, and plans are being made for all sessions to be recorded. There will be a birth themed game show night, and possibly an evening round table so plenty of plans and activities for those attending in person.

ATMMTP Graduation will be held Friday evening and will be hosted by Ashley Musil and Jasmin Kanevski .

## Legislative Report: April Blackmore

Representative Paxton, who previously sponsored the pharmacology bill, is running for reelection. Constituent support will be vital for passing this bill. A revival of Texans for Midwifery would be especially helpful and must be led by consumers, not a midwife or former midwife.

Midwifery license fees have decreased, if you are renewing your license this month it will cost \$390, down from \$550.

The board is beginning discussions on the 2025 legislative session. If you are interested in being part of the legislative committee, please contact April Blackmore at [legislativechair@texasmidwives.com](mailto:legislativechair@texasmidwives.com).

## Minutes approval

The minutes were provided to the board prior to today's meeting. Sarah Slette proposed to approve the minutes. Sabrina Elliott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

## Conference Committee Vote

**Proposal by Kristen Bowers** ATM to cover the cost of conference attendance for Conference Committee Members (currently Andie Wyrick, Dawn Housos, Michelle Gober, Rachel Anderson Michelle Gold), assuming they are not already covered under our current policies. Seconded by Sabrina Elliott . Motion passed with seven in favor, one opposed (Melinda Pond).

## Education Committee Report: Ashley Musil

Scholarship cycles have been adjusted from two per year to three to match the number of trimesters in the current ATMMTP educational year. The Midwives' Memorial Fund rules have been changed to have open application periods that coincide with enrollment periods.

Ashley Musil and Andie Wyrick were hired as Curriculum Assistants to help update the program and polish the curriculum.

ATMMTP instructors meet every two months. The Education Committee meets monthly. They have chosen positions within the committee.

The Preceptor Handbook was updated and the updates were approved in December 2023.

Ashley Musil proposed accepting the final edit of the Education Committee Policies. Seconded by Sabrina Elliott . Motion passed unopposed.

New CEU courses are being developed on the following topics: Social Determinants of Health/Cultural Competency, HIPAA for Midwives, OSHA and Bloodborne Pathogens, Clinical Practice Guidelines, Human Trafficking, Disaster Preparedness for Midwives, and How to Start Your Midwifery Practice.

Transition to the Trimester Plan is going smoothly.

Student Information Systems (SIS)/Classe365 has been set up for use at ATMMTP, and will be used for the upcoming orientation as a beta test. ATM members are also being added for membership management.

## Financial Report: Jen Gabler

A detailed profit and loss report for the final quarter was given. The grand total net income for the final quarter of the year was \$3,728. Membership income fell slightly short of budget. Tuition from ATMMTP exceeded anticipated income (150% of budget expectations). This is expected to increase over the next year as ATMMTP has increased the offered classes. The increase has allowed for more funds to be reinvested into the program. Current total liabilities and equity is \$616,073.36.

## Social Media: Sarah Slette

Yvonne Yui, social media manager, is working on a series of posts to highlight the benefits of membership. Other planned content coming up on Facebook and Instagram includes: Meet the Board, Meet the Instructors, ATMMTP class overview, and workshop highlights. Sarah Slette and Jasmin Kanevski have requested photo contributions, instructor headshots/information, Student of the Month posts, and positive student reviews.

Groups.IO is currently being used as an email group for current members. It could be utilized for mass member emails throughout the year pulling information from the membership database.

The board approved the discontinuation of all regional ATM Facebook groups and they will be deleted. The Members of the Association of Texas Midwives Facebook group will remain for discussion and updates.

## Policy Manual and Handbook Committee: Sabrina Elliott

The committee has completed the recommended revisions to the Education Committee Policy Manual and the updated version was approved. The committee will next meet on Friday to review the Clinical Training document which needs revision.

The Preceptor Handbook was revised and approved on 12/23/23.

The committee will soon begin reviewing ATM's Bylaws and Policies for the year.

## Upcoming ATM Meetings

The next open ATM meeting will be the annual meeting held in person at the conference. Exact date and time will be found on the schedule.

Remaining 2024 quarterly meetings will be:

- Sunday 8/4/24 at 2:00 pm
- Sunday 11/3/24 at 2:00 pm

## Closing Remarks

The floor was opened for comments from members.

Janet Dirmeyer: "Good job Board! Do we know the price of the conference?"

Kristen Bowers: "Pre-registration costs: Midwife \$500, student \$350, members virtual \$350, virtual student \$250"

Meeting adjourned at 3:07 pm.

## Proposals via email

1. 2/10/24 **PROPOSAL by Kristen Bowers:** Melissa Nealy has volunteered to help with the website/techy stuff. I propose Melissa Nealy be added to the conference committee. Seconded by Kristy Hammack . Motion passed unopposed.
2. 3/5/2024 **Proposal by Sarah Slette:** In an effort to ensure the DFW midwives and other midwives throughout Texas feel supported we have formulated a simple statement to go out to only members via our member's Facebook group and via email to aid in communicating the safety of midwifery. Seconded by Sabrina Elliott . Motion passed unopposed.
3. 3/21/24-3/31/24 Voting took place on the Afua Scholarship applications.

# Executive Board Meeting

Mar 21, 2024

## Attendees:

Sarah Slette , Kristy Hammack , Jen Gabler, Ashley Musil (until 4:47), Sabrina Elliott , April Blackmore

Sarah Slette proposed holding an Executive Committee meeting to discuss a statement to present at one or more of the TDLR meetings that will be held between 3/25/24 and 4/1/24. This is a time sensitive matter. Seconded by Jen Gabler . Motion passed unopposed.

## Meeting called to order at 4:09 pm

TDLR will host a series of meetings around the state in order to give licensees and consumers the opportunity to speak openly regarding changes they would like to see in TDLR or in the fields that TDLR licenses.

April Blackmore shared that individuals at TDLR had recommended ATM invite that board of Moms Advocating for Moms Alliance (M.A.M.A.) to present a statement at one of the upcoming TDLR Strategy meetings. She has also discussed the organization and their concerns with Roland Leal, lobbyist.

Kristy Hammack gave an update on communication with M.A.M.A. as well as their scheduled protest that recently took place.

April Blackmore spoke on the future of the potential pharmaceutical bill and the current difficulty in passing any bills related to healthcare. For this reason, Roland recommended against hiring him for the upcoming legislative session. On his recommendation, April will discuss it at the Houston TDLR meeting.

There was a conversation about the dissolution of MANA as the organization and the MANA Core Competencies is referenced in midwifery law. It may be able to be addressed in a clean up bill as it is language based. NACPM may also be adopting and renaming the MANA Core Competencies. This is an ongoing situation and more updates will come later.

Discussed current nominations for regions. Heather Randolph, region 6 representative has stepped down.

Meeting adjourned at 5:18 pm.

A summary of this meeting was presented to the full board within three days in accordance with ATM bylaws.

## Working Board Meeting

Apr 8, 2024

### Attendees:

Sarah Slette , Sabrina Elliott , Jen Gabler (until 9:37 pm), Kristen Bowers , Kristy Hammack , Ashley Musil , Melinda Pond , Kristin Dudley , April Blackmore (joined at 7:12 pm)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

### Education Committee: Ashley Musil

Ashley announced that a Sophie and Her Mum model was purchased for ATMMTP and will be used for the next cohort in Intrapartum complications.

Discussion on how to improve profitability of CEUs as they seem to be running at a loss currently. Sarah referred her to Amanda Prouty for information. Discussion of what the CEUs are currently offered and how they run.

**Proposal by Ashley Musil:** Current CEU classes to be opened to board members so that each member can take a class for free in order to test the content and functionality of the class and report back to the board at the June meeting. Sabrina Elliott seconded the motion. Motion passed unopposed.

The Module 201 (Antepartum) instructor has given notice. A new class will begin in two weeks. Due to the transition to the new trimester plan, Ashley does not have a class and is willing to teach. Sarah suggested adding a notice requirement to the contract. She also stated that all open positions need to be posted for applicants. A post has already been made on Facebook soliciting applications.

Discussion of the dissolution of the Midwives Alliance of North America (MANA) and how that affects Texas Midwifery rules which references the MANA Core Competencies. Ashley Musil proposed creating a Core Competencies and Educational Standards document to take the place of MANA Core Competencies. April shared that NACPM is currently pursuing purchasing the copyright and becoming the owners of MANA Core Competencies. It may be necessary for

Midwifery rules to be updated to follow the current prevailing competencies list instead of a specific one. Discussion tabled until more information is available.

The curriculum update by Ashley Musil and Andie Wyrick is ongoing. After four months they are concluding their first full module update. With the current pace it will take several years to complete an update of the entire curriculum.

At the October working board meeting held 10/9/23, the board voted to create the positions of Curriculum Assistants. The proposal was as follows:

*“Curriculum Assistants: PROPOSE we add two curriculum assistant positions for the school. The first is a year-round curriculum assistant expected to work up to 20 hours per month at \$500 per month (\$25/hour) and assist instructors in updating and polishing curriculum. The second position is the same, with a cap of 6 months per year at the same pay rate, with need determined by the Education Committee (such as when a new textbook is released that is used throughout the program).”* This proposal, including details of their job duties, can be found in ATM Board Meetings August-October 2023 notes.

With a greater understanding of the scope of work and time required, the board discussed the need to increase improved hours as well as extend the time allowed to have a second instructor.

**Proposal by Sabrina Elliott** Extend the temporary secondary Curriculum Assistant position for an additional six months to November 2024 and alter the positions’ hours to a minimum of 20 hours and a maximum of 40 hours per month. Seconded by Kristen Bowers . Motion passed unopposed.

**Proposal by Sabrina Elliott** Increase the number of hours for the permanent curriculum position to be a minimum of 20 hours per month and a maximum of 40 hours per month. Seconded by Kristen Bowers . Motion passed unopposed.

Classe365 update: Transition continues to go well. Classes will continue to transition slowly. Module 1 has already been moved over.

Jasmin Kanevski and Sarah Slette have met with the Google Ads Manager. Ads are live and people are interacting, but data is still coming in. They will have a follow-up meeting in 3 months.

The Education Committee has been meeting monthly. Discussed reporting requirements following every meeting. The EC secretary will need to send meeting minutes to the ATM secretary for inclusion in the board minutes.

MEAC Accreditation Update: The previous board had investigated MEAC accreditation and chose not to pursue it. It is a long and expensive process and would require a dedicated position to solely focus on the initial accreditation and regular renewal. Michelle Gober will present accreditation options, including MEAC, at a future board meeting.

## Conference Committee Report: Kristen Bowers

Conference presenters are tentatively approved for ACNM CEUs and MEAC CEUs are in progress. Website is live, the schedule will be posted soon.

Executive Committee member voting will take place at the conference.

## Legislative Report: April Blackmore

Sarah Slette recapped the TDLR Strategic Planning Meeting that was held in Arlington. She would like to plan a similar meeting with ATM members, with representatives holding local meetings in their regions. More TDLR meetings will be held and board members plan to attend their local meetings; talking points were reviewed at the Executive Board Meeting held in March.

April reported that there is not much support for a pharmaceutical bill at this time and the ATM lobbyist Roland Leal did not recommend hiring him for the upcoming session.

## Treasurer's Report: Jen Gabler

No report at this meeting.

## Policy Manual and Handbook Committee: Sabrina Elliott

Some longer handbooks had previously been broken into smaller documents to create ease of updating. The committee has been recompiling them into one document for review and update.

Bylaws and policies are meant to be updated annually. The committee is deciding what to focus on next. All policy manuals must be approved by the board. One central list or master document would help ensure all manuals are being updated and reviewed regularly.



ATM board members do not have access in Classe365 to all of the documents that students have access to. Sarah Slette asked Ashley Musil to request that all documents be made available in the board classroom.

Sabrina will be leaving the board soon and the committee will need a new chair.

## Social Media Report: Sarah Slette

Sarah is working with Yvonne Yui for social media management and they meet regularly. Region Representatives have had social media introductions, and instructors will be featured next.

Regional Facebook groups have been deleted.

Find a Midwife feature is still being discussed and no official plan for implementation has been made. This is an ongoing discussion that will be discussed further at a future meeting.

## Miscellaneous

MAMA/Origins Birth and Wellness Update: A member has reached out regarding ATM Board communicating with midwives at Origins Birth and Wellness Update. The board discussed ways to support midwives as well as the birth community.

Kristy Hammack gave a report about the Texas Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Committee. All meetings are broadcast online and there is time allotted for stakeholders to make comments. Midwife involvement and presence is needed in this space for the benefit of midwives and their clients.

Discussion of time constraints with meeting time during conference and how to handle voting for EC positions up for reelection.

**Proposal by Kristen Bowers** Nominations for open executive positions (Legislative Chair and Vice President) to be held from 4/10/24-4/24/24 to be followed by a voting ballot open from 4/25/24-5/2/24. Those positions will take effect immediately following the conference and the current executive board will remain in place until that time. Seconded by April Blackmore. Motion passed unopposed.

Regional Representative Voting Results:

- Region 4: Ashley Musil
- Region 6: Janet Dirmeyer and Ericka Brown
- Region 8: Melinda Pond

Results will be announced during the ATM Conference.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 pm.