



OKLAHOMA State Department of Health

MINUTES OF REGULAR PUBLIC MEETING

PUBLIC BODY: ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON MIDWIFERY
DATE: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2022
LOCATION: OSU CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES, TANDY ROOM 311
 1111 W 17TH ST., TULSA, OK 74107
CONTACT PERSON: TRAVIS SPLAWN TELEPHONE: (405) 426-8250

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I. Call to Order

Nikki Imes called the meeting to order at 13:07

II. Roll Call

Travis Splawn initiated a roll call for the meeting.

Members present: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Members absent: Dr. Kate Arnold, Lecye Doolen, Dr. Sarah Hall

Quorum met.

III. Statement of Compliance with the Open Meetings Act

Tabitha Cooper read the statement of compliance: *This regular meeting of the Advisory Committee on Midwifery, scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. on this 12th day of January 2022, was convened in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act [25 O.S., §§ 301 et seq.] Further, an advance public notice was sent to the Secretary of State's Office of Administrative Rules by Internet, prior to this time today, specifying the time and place of the meeting. Notice of this meeting was given at least twenty-four (24) hours prior, and no one filed a written request of notice of meetings of this public body to date.*

IV. Opening Remarks

Nikki is happy to see everyone who could make it. Nothing further.

V. Approval of previous meeting(s) minutes

The committee reviewed the November 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Michelle Hernandez motioned to accept the minutes. Sarah Foster seconded.

Aye: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Motion carries.

VI. Program Update

- a. Thentia Update – Travis explained what we had been using previously to manually license, and that we are still working on things with Thentia. Once Thentia is live, midwives would be able to apply online, as well as use the portal to update documents. Projected to go live end of February 2022.
- b. Licensing Update – 30 licensed midwives at present with one to review today.
- c. Annual Reports – Travis compiled draft language and excel template to be sent via email. Included separation of maternal & neonatal. Hopes to be able to self-report on Thentia next year.

Michelle Hernandez wanted to make sure that it was clear that numbers may not be completely accurate because sometimes midwives share patients. Travis confirmed, because we do not want to double count, that patient only need be counted one time.

It was clarified by everyone that it does not happen often when patients are shared. Everyone agreed we could internally manage to make sure numbers are accurate.

- d. Meeting location update for 3.9.2022- The Well, in Norman, is a community space used by Cleveland County. We will be hosting our meeting here. The address is 210 S. James Garner Ave., Norman, OK
- e. Travis noted that 1 severe update has been reported. Baby is fine.

VII. Election of 2022 Chair & Vice Chair

Nikki clarifies that nothing is required to change, but the election needs to be done as a formality. Michelle motions to keep the current Chair & Vice Chair. Shaun Baranowski seconded. We need to clear with Dr. Hall at the March meeting to make sure she is good with continuing in her current capacity.

Aye: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Motion carries.

VIII. Discussion, review, and possible action on license applications received

Committee reviewed the application for J. Schmidt. Michelle Hernandez motioned to recommend acceptance of her application. Seconded by Sarah Foster.

Aye: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Motion carries.

IX. Petition to the Committee by V. Giron on license issues

Travis Splawn explained to the committee that Venessa Giron's license was issued in error. OSDH asked if she would voluntarily surrender her licensure before we pursue the revocation process. She was told if she resolved her issues with Arkansas, we would consider another application. Upon notification of this, Ms. Giron requested to petition the committee.

Travis shared a letter sent by Arkansas 6/17/21 where her denial was discussed. Arkansas also made sure Oklahoma OSDH had access to the court documents. That most recent letter stated that Venessa did not follow the steps that were laid out during their revocation process.

Ms. Giron sent us a dismissal of the case they were referencing. When Travis spoke with the Arkansas Dept. of Health, he was told if Venessa would resolve the court case by completing the items requested in the provisions of that letter, she could re-apply to Arkansas.

Her licensure was inadvertently issued by OSDH 06/02/21. Michelle Hernandez wonders if the June letter was prompted by the issuance of that certificate. Michelle asks if she chooses not to get licensed in Arkansas, can our board require the same course of action, with a provisional license under supervision? Travis states he believes it would have to be a similar situation to what was done with Ms. Coffee’s agreement. Michelle feels that even if Venessa doesn’t want to practice in Arkansas, we should still have her complete the terms required by them.

Sarah Foster has spoken with Venessa on this topic previously and feels that if Venessa knew there were a path to fix the issues with Arkansas, she would take that path. Sarah feels Venessa may not know they will still allow this option for her.

Shaun wants to clarify options.

Travis clarifies that we previously decided to pursue a hearing to revoke a license issued in error with the option of voluntary surrender. Option 2 would be to solve the issues in Arkansas with a suspension of her Oklahoma license while her Arkansas license is being resolved. Option 3 is to just allow her to continue to practice. Shaun feels that it is bending the rules because you don’t just get your money back if you apply and are denied. Why are we making this exception? Nikki Imes brought up that new people on the board in a year should be able to review the application with fresh eyes and fresh circumstances once Arkansas has been resolved.

Board contact’s Ms. Giron. There was a slight issue with TEAMS and she needed to be contacted via Travis’ cell phone to get everything quickly straightened out. Meeting continued with TEAMS connection throughout. Nikki Imes motions to go into executive session. Sarah Foster seconds.

Aye: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Motion carries.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION*****

Out of exec. session...Nikki Imes states that the intent of the committee is to continue with the original course of action to request the voluntary surrender of the inadvertently issued license. Steps will be submitted to her in writing so she can bring herself into compliance. Steps are clarified by Travis Splawn, and will be sent to her in the form of a letter/e-mail.

1. A definition of what practicing midwifery means, followed by the clarification that she may NOT practice in Oklahoma (due to her NARM certification, she can’t practice as unlicensed)
2. Clarification that she may not administer medication in Oklahoma.
3. She must notify all online & Oklahoma vendors she can’t administer medication
4. She must relinquish her paper licensure
5. This must all be done within 30 days of the receipt of letter.

Nikki Imes motions to vote on the acceptance of these terms. Shaun Baranowski seconds.

Aye: Shaun Baranowski, Sarah Foster, Michelle Hernandez, Nikki Imes

Motion carries.

X. Discussion, review & possible action on complaints received

Travis states we received 3 complaints on an unlicensed midwife. They are all outside of the authority of the department because she is unlicensed. They are all on the same person. Travis responded to all complaints explaining what provisions be followed. Travis sent his responses to his supervisors in case it needed to be sent to legal.

Sarah Foster is asking if we can request the complainants signed informed consent form or disclosure form to see if she is saying she is licensed. Michelle Hernandez wants to know what the penalty is for claiming licensure when you're not licensed. Travis clarifies that nothing was given to us as proof of any of this happening. Everything was in terms of what the unlicensed midwife had verbalized to the complainants.

Breaking @ 2:51pm.

Resume from break @ 2:59pm.

Travis didn't receive anything back from any of the responses he sent out, specific to things we could act upon. So, this case is considered closed on our end. He just wanted to make the committee aware.

Sarah Foster asks if there is a document on our website saying what an unlicensed midwife should provide you, as someone looking to hire a midwife. Michelle Hernandez asks if we notify the subject of the complaints, that we received them. Travis said we will consider responding to the subject of the complaints, letting her know what is legally required of her.

The committee reviewed the email that was previously sent in response to the subject of the complaints, herself, when she inquired if licensure was necessary. The committee requested a follow up email be sent to her stating the requirements of an unlicensed midwife

XI. Old Business

No old business.

XII. New business

No new business brought for discussion.

XIII: Adjournment

Nikki Imes motioned to adjourn at 3:09 pm. Motion was seconded by Sarah Foster.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:09 pm.