

Midwifery Working Group

September 5, 2024 | 3:00pm-3:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Members present: Lucinda Canty, Dante Costa, SciHonor Devotion, Tonia Douglas, Sera Gadbois, Camille Grant, Sam Haun, Daileann Hemmings, Shayna LaFlam, Priya Morganstern, Christina Mukon, Selina Osei, Kati Villeda.

Members absent: Cynthia Bean, Anna Cobler, Kara Crawford, Christy D'Aquila, Carolyn Greenfield, Dawn Havener, Gengi Proteau, Amy Romano, Kim Sandor, Michelle Telfer, Fatmata Williams.

Introduction

- Sera called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.
- Christina Mukon re-introduced herself to the group.
- Priya motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Lucinda seconded.

Housekeeping and Scheduling Discussion

- The group discussed shifting the monthly meeting date and time, and members shared times that work best for them.
- Melia will send out a scheduling poll based on the times that work best.

Planning for Future Meetings: Discussion of Potential Topics

- The group brainstormed topics and presenters around midwifery, maternal health, and community birth, that they would like to see at future meetings.
- Sera plans to see if Joyce Kimball, a practicing midwife in Massachusetts can come and speak to the group about the recent midwifery bill in MA, and how it affects practicing midwives in her state.
- Dante also has a speaker that can update the group on the homebirth landscape in Rhode Island
- Priya Morganstern brought up the idea of having a presenter update the group on the state of CPM regulation across the country - potentially someone from NACPM could fill this role
- The group discussed learning more about the AHEAD (Advancing All-Payer Health Equity Approaches and Development model and waiver process – CT was one of the early states selected to pilot a CMS initiative regarding payment models. It may be useful to meet with the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and speaking about midwives and the role of homebirth.
 - Sam Haun shared that Connecticut Health Foundation's annual advocacy convening is scheduled for Oct 18 at the Bushnell, 9:00am to 3:00pm, breakfast and lunch provided. The OHS Commissioner will be speaking at this event, so this could also be an opportunity to network.

- Lucinda asked for updates in Connecticut on what CPMs and other direct entry midwives want in terms of regulation or next steps. She expressed a desire to protect and support all midwives in the state, so they can feel safe.
 - Sera mentioned that a group of practicing homebirth midwives feel protective of midwives that do not hold a CPM credential, because they are a valuable part of the community. The group is concerned especially in light of NARM's decision to eliminate the experienced midwives pathway to a CPM.
- Selina Osei shared interest in hearing follow-up from Fatmata on the launch of the DSS maternity bundle.
- Sam Haun brought up the end-of-year legislative report: Dante encouraged members to think about how the group wants to include in the report so have a strategic impact to the legislature. The report is written and submitted by the group, not by DPH, so members have agency over how they would like to shape the report.
- Dante brought up a perspective from the department, saying that there is little interest from the agency and the Governor's Office to add to the list of licensed healthcare professions, so there is not agency pressure for licensure.

Closing

- The meeting adjourned at 3:33pm.