



**TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY
Regular Council Meeting**

**October 13, 2022
10:00 a.m.**

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Council of Certified Professional Midwifery was held in the Poplar Conference Room, at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN, 37243, on October 13, 2022.

Members Present: Debra Church, CPM, Chairperson
 Jennifer Davis, consumer member
 Sarah Hochstetler, CPM

Members Not Present: Sandra Tinnin, CPM
 Dr. John Wilters, MD, OB/GYN
 Donna Lafferty, CPM

Staff Present: Stacy Tarr, Executive Director
 Ronda Webb-Stewart, Senior Associate Counsel

Approval of Minutes

Due to the absence of a majority of the council, the minutes were not able to be approved.

Review and Ratification of Licenses

Due to the absence of a majority of the council, the minutes were not able to be approved.

Expired/Lapsed License Policy

Ms. Ronda Webb-Stewart, the counsel for the Council gave an update to the new policy informing the Council that it interferes with statute 63-29-111. She explained that because the certification ends after the 60-day grace period then they are unable to be penalized. If the license expires then the midwife would need to recertify. It was discussed that if the license expires and the midwife continues to practice, then the Office of Investigations would penalize the midwife due to practicing on an expired license.

Safe Baby Transfer Collaboration

The update regarding the Safe Baby Transfer Collaboration was a discussion that midwives need to be able to send in that statistical data. The data would include the number of babies born, deaths, breeched, stillborn, or multiples. This data would be to prove that home birth has similar statistics to hospital birth. Originally, the website Survey Monkey was considered to collect this data; however, it was discovered that the website would not be able to collect the data the council is looking for.

It was suggested that when the licensee renews that they need to submit that information instead of the licensee submitting a letter or using Survey Monkey. Ms. Tarr suggested that this be tabled until the next meeting so she can see if this can be utilized using the state renewal system.

The council agreed that the Safe Baby Transfer Collaboration would be tabled until the next meeting to give the council time to put together the questions for the renewal and to give administrator staff time to discuss the types of options for the survey when a licensee renews.

Department Reports

Investigations

Dorsey Luther, the intake review coordinator for the Office of Investigations, presented the 2022 year-to-date complaint reports.

In 2022, there is 1 (one) new complaint for unprofessional conduct and 1 (one) complaint closed for insufficient evidence.

Finance

Keyyona Love, the fiscal manager for the Dept of Health, Licensure, and Regulation, presented the Council's the midyear report for 2022.

In 2022, the Council finished with a healthy carryover balance. Ms. Debra Church asked Ms. Tarr how much it would cost to create the change for the renewal process. Ms. Tarr was unable to give an answer due to this being a new type of change.

Administrative office report

The activities that have transpired in the administrative office between April 1, 2022 and September 30, 2022 concerning Midwives are as follows:

New Applications Received: 4

Total New Licenses Issued: 5

Total Number of Renewals: 13

Total Number of Renewals online: 12-92%

Total number of active licensees as of September 30, 2022 is 73.

Office of the General Counsel

Ms. Ronda Webb-Stewart gave an overview of the various open items that the Council has in motion and gathered feedback and direction from the Council on how they wished to approach them. She then proceeded to present the report from the OGC.

Currently, there is 1 (one) open complaint in the Office of General Counsel and no cases are pending.

The Council approved a fee reduction to reduce the license application and renewal fees. The draft rule is in an internal review. The fee rule will be reviewed by the Osteopathic Board for implementation. The Council has approved the proposed language for a rule change defining compensation and outlining written documentation of a collaborative plan. This rule is drafted and is in an internal review with a proposed rulemaking hearing for the April 2023 Council meeting. OGC provided proposed language for an Expired/Lapsed License Policy for review by the Council.

Discuss RFP Process

The council was introduced to Melissa Painter, Competitive Procurement Coordinator with the Tennessee Department of Health, to discuss the council's request proposal and the fee for service contract. Ms. Painter explains that this process from start to finish can take a year to complete due to the drafting of the different documents. The Council would prepare the request for proposal (hereinafter "RFP") by working with Lindsey Olivares, Procurement Manager. The document would then go to the Central Procurement Office.

Public comment

There were no public comments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m., CST