



TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY
Regular Council Meeting

April 1, 2021
10:14 a.m.

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Council of Certified Professional Midwifery was held via webex in the Poplar Conference Room, at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37243 on April 1, 2021.

Teleconference

Members Present: Debra Church, CPM, Chairperson
 Sandra Tinnin, CPM
 Donna Lafferty, CPM
 Dr. John Wilters, OBGYN
 Sarah Hochstetler, CPM
 Jennifer Davis, consumer member

Staff Present: Angela Lawrence, Executive Director
 Stacy Tarr, Administrative Director
 Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Deputy General Counsel

Stacy Tarr welcomed the board members and introduced the staff.

Angela Lawrence opened with the teleconference script and a roll call. Ms. Lawrence explained how the meeting would be conducted and the Council voted to accept the meeting by teleconference. Dr. Wilters made the motion to accept the meeting. Ms. Church seconded the motion. The motion passed. Dr. Wilters also made the motion that the meeting met the requirements to have a teleconference meeting. Ms. Church seconded the motion. The motion carried. All Council members stated they received the meeting materials. The necessary number of council members joined the meeting and a quorum was established. The meeting was called to order by Debra Church at 10:14 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Lafferty made the motion to approve the minutes from the 04/02/2020 meeting, which was seconded by Dr. Wilters. The motion passed.

Review and Ratification of Licenses

After a review of the list of licensees, Ms. Lafferty made a motion to approve the list for ratification. Ms. Church seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Department Reports

Investigations

Lori Leonard presented the report from Investigations.

Currently, they are monitoring 2 practitioners: 1 probation and 1 for unlicensed practice

In 2020, 3 complaints were received. All were concerning unprofessional conduct. 1 complaint was closed with letter of concern. 2 open complaints being investigated or reviewed.

In 2021, there were no new complaints. No complaints were closed and 2 are being investigated or reviewed.

Finance

Ms. Grice gave the Council an overview regarding an excess of funds in their carryover balance and options for drawing down the reserve balance, including adjusting renewal and application fees. This encouraged a discussion between Ms. Grice, the Council, and the Council's counsel which covered topics including the fiscal readiness of the target carryover balance, the legislative processes involved, what the statute allows for and requires, and alternate options for allocating excess funds.

Discussion began to focus on the Safe Baby Transfer program and the best way to move the program forward. Ms. Grice and Ms. Hughes-Toombs informed the Council on the process required to do so. An additional meeting was proposed, contingent on the availability of the Council. Ms. Grice informed the Council on the differences in the proper avenues for funding, which would be either via contract or via grant and the legislative requirements for each. Ms. Lawrence included information on bidding and the contract process.

Ms. Tarr contacted Ms. Heather Munoz from the Safe Baby Transfer Program and relayed information from their conversation to the Council regarding the fees quoted on the prior year and that Ms. Munoz would like to review the financial information previously provided to the Council for accuracy and to update them, if necessary.

A motion was made by Ms. Church to accept the proposal Ms. Munoz presented the prior year within \$1,000 (one-thousand dollars) increasing each year. Ms. Church conferred with Ms. Hughes-Toombs to ensure that motions were made that addressed each of the Counsel's separate decisions, informing Ms. Church that an additional meeting would need to be held for a rulemaking hearing.

Ms. Church returned to her initial motion to accept the proposal from Heather Munoz for the Safe Baby Transfer program and pursue funding approval from Finance and Administration. Ms. Davis asked for clarification as to whether the funding might still need to go through a bid process. Ms. Hughes-Toombs stated she would get a definitive answer. Ms. Tinnin seconded Ms. Church's motion. Ms. Lawrence proceeded with a roll call vote. Motion passed.

An additional motion was made by Ms. Church to reduce the renewal fees to \$300 and reduce the application fee to \$200, which was seconded by Ms. Tinnin. Ms. Lawrence conducted a roll call vote. Motion passed.

Administrative office report

Ms. Stacy Tarr, administrative director, presented an administrative office report for the period 4/2020-3/2021:

New applications: 8

New licenses: 9

Renewal: 20 with 12 renewing online, for a 60% renewal rate

There are currently 65 certified professional midwives in Tennessee.

Ms. Hochstetler asked for clarification if number included nurse midwives and Ms. Tarr informed her that the number was solely for CPMs.

OGC

Ms. Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs presented the report from the OGC. Currently, there is 1 open file in the Office of General Counsel.

There is 1 set of rules regarding written documentation of collaborative plans with a definition for compensation; however, that rule packet is still in internal review.

Public comment

Wendy Owens called in to express her gratitude for the work that the midwives do and the educational experience of the Council's meeting.

Ms. Church made the suggestion to adjourn the meeting but Ms. Tarr inquired as to whether they would like to try and schedule the additional meeting, stating that both Ms. Hughes-Toombs and Ms. Munoz had a timeline that would be preferable to each of them, respectively. Ms. Davis inquired about the process for the Safe Baby transfer being sent to Finance and Administration, including would the Council be involved with drafting the request. Ms. Hughes-Toombs explained that the Council did not need to be involved in the draft and that she would provide a timeline at a later date. Ms. Davis posited that it would be convenient if the second meeting could include both the fee change as well as the Safe Baby Transfer proposal instead of two separate meetings.

Ms. Tarr inquired as to whether the Council members were able to review the December meeting minutes. Ms. Church stated she was unable to see them. Ms. Tarr suggested bringing them before the Council at the next meeting to give everyone the opportunity to review and approve them.

Motion to adjourn 11:20 a.m. was made by Ms. Church. Since a motion is not required to adjourn, Ms. Lawrence stated the meeting was now adjourned.