



State of Idaho

Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses

State Board of Midwifery

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Board Meeting Minutes of 10/6/2023

Board	Elizabeth Hartman - Chair	Division	Nicki Chopski, Health Professions Bureau Chief
Members	Charity Catlin	Staff:	Russell Barron, Division Administrator
Present:	Megan Kasper M.D.		Greg Loos, General Counsel
	Amy B Redman		John Price, Investigative Unit Manager
	Valerie J Hall		Christian Runnalls, Board Support Specialist
		Others	Eric Nelson, Board Prosecutor
		Present:	

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Elizabeth Hartman.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 7/21/2023 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

DIVISION BUSINESS

Luma Update: Ms. Chopski provided background information regarding an email that was sent to all DOPL Board members regarding the new Luma system.

Financial Update: Ms. Chopski gave the financial report, which indicated that the Board had a cash balance of -(\$60,051.14) as of June 30, 2023.

Executive Agency Legislation Update: Ms. Chopski reviewed with the Board the email the Division Administrator sent to the Board members related to draft legislation the Division intends to move forward in the 2024 Legislative Session. She explained that the proposed renewal bill would change renewals from an annual renewal to a biennial renewal no later than the licensee's birthday.

Ms. Chopski also stated that the Board's statute sunsets in July 2024. She stated that the Division values the public protection that the Board of Midwifery provides and therefore a proposal was drafted that would merge this Board with the Board of Nursing to ensure a plan is in place before the July 1, 2024, sunset of the Midwifery Practice Act. Ms. Chopski discussed which other states have consolidated their midwifery Boards with their nursing Boards. The composition of the Board of Nursing would change by adding one Advanced Practice Registered Nurse and two midwife members to the Board.

Mr. Loos summarized the draft changes to the Board of Nursing Practice Act and the Board of Midwifery Statutes to allow for the midwifery laws and rules to be incorporated into the Board of Nursing. He clarified that the only changes being made are to combine the two board statutes and rules, and that no further changes are being made to the Board of Midwifery's laws and rules. Mr. Loos clarified that the two midwife board members will have equal powers and duties as the other board members and that the Board will have five nurses, two practical nurses, two advanced practice registered nurses, a public member, and two midwives.

Board staff stood for questions from the Board members.

Ms. Hartman clarified that Midwifery is not going away just because of this consolidation. Midwifery laws and rules will not sunset under the Board of Nursing.

Mr. Barron stated that he hopes fees will be reduced due to this consolidation and stated that the goal of DOPL is to strengthen and promote boards and to prevent liability.

Dr. Kasper stated that this is a massive change and that the Division should get feedback from stakeholders. She stated her concern about the potential conflict of interest when midwifery discipline cases come before the Board of Nursing and that the discipline committee for the Board of Nursing needs to have a midwife member.

Ms. Hall stated that nurses are in competition with midwives and that she wants the added APRN Board member position to be a nurse midwife.

Public Comment:

Laurie Hadden stated her appreciation for the Division and for Dr. Kasper's comments. She supports the idea of a midwife on the discipline subcommittee for the Board of Nursing.

Vivian Fischer asked why the Board of Midwifery was being merged with the Board of Nursing rather than another independent practice since midwives are an autonomous practice.

Nancy Drazan stated she only sees that Hawaii and Kentucky have their midwifery laws and rules under their Boards of Nursing. She stated that Idahoans are unique, and this feels like a bureaucratic decision with no input from Idaho midwives. Because Idaho is so rural, there is little access to care, and there is a historical contention, the nursing board is not the best choice for a merge. She stated that midwives are an independent practice and that the public deserves them in a separate place.

Susie Ellis asked if this consolidation will result in midwives requiring malpractice insurance.

Kryste Freed stated that she is struggling to see how this merge strengthens the Board of Midwifery in any way other than financially. She stated that the Board needs to focus on climbing out of the red and suggested changing licensing fees to stay independent. She also stated that there is a competitive environment between midwives and nurse midwives.

Andrea Rotger stated her agreement with Ms. Freed and that the Board has never consulted an RN.

Barbara Rawlings stated that this is a good step forward and loves seeing the passion and involvement of the midwifery profession. She believes that they can go through this process gracefully and would like to see more meetings held by the Board.

BOARD BUSINESS

Delegated Authority for Closing Unfounded Complaints: Following a presentation by Board staff, a motion was made and seconded to delegate authority to Division staff to close unfounded complaints. The motion carried unanimously.

Licensing Report: Ms. Chopski presented the licensing report.

Executive Session

A motion was made and seconded to enter executive session under Idaho Code § 74-206(1)(d) to consider records that are exempt from disclosure under the Idaho Public Records Law, Idaho Code § 74-106(9). The purpose of the executive session was to discuss documents relating to the fitness of a licensee to retain a license or registration. The vote was: Ms. Hall, aye; Ms. Redman, aye; Dr. Kasper, aye; Ms. Catlin, aye; and Ms. Hartman, aye. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made and seconded to exit executive session.

Discipline

A motion was made and seconded to close case number I-MID-2024-1 with an advisory letter. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.