

MINUTES
TENNESSEE COUNCIL OF CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MIDWIFERY
June 18, 2009

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Council of Certified Midwifery was held in the Iris Room at 227 French Landing, Heritage Place, MetroCenter, Nashville, TN 37243 on June 18, 2009.

Members Present: Rufus Clifford, MD, Debi Church, CPM, Carol Nelson, CPM, and Mary Anne Richardson, CPM

Staff Present: Rosemarie Otto, Director, Marsha Arnold, Manager, Mona Jean-Baptiste, Advisory Attorney and Elizabeth Miller, HRB Director

Members Absent: Pame Moore-Morrow, Public Member, and Linda Hughlett, MSN, RN

The council convened at 9:05 a.m. with Ms. Richardson presiding. Ms. Richardson determined that a quorum was present in order to conduct Council business.

Election of Officers

Ms. Nelson made a motion to elect Debi Church as chairperson and Dr. Clifford seconded the motion. After discussion Ms. Church was unanimously elected by a roll call vote.

Ms. Nelson made a motion to elect Ms. Richardson as vice chairperson of the Council and Ms. Church seconded the motion. Ms. Richardson was unanimously elected by a roll call vote.

Conflict of Interest

Ms. Jean-Baptist asked the council members to please review the new Conflict of Interest Statement and to sign it. She informed the Council that this new document was created in November, 2008 and has been presented to all members of the various health related boards for review and signature. She explained each item and answered all questions.

Minutes

Ms. Richardson made a motion to accept the minutes from the April 10, 2008 and the April 9, 2009 meetings. Ms. Church seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Managers Report

Ms. Arnold gave the Manager's Report stating that two new licenses had been issued between April 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009. The total number of active licensees is 29.

Office of General Council Report

Ms. Jean-Baptiste reported that there were no rules pending in the Office of General Counsel and that there is one open case. She explained that the open case would be non-suited but not closed and that the Office reserved the right to re-file within one year.. She also reported that their office is requesting greater direction as to what kind of infractions the Council is interested in prosecuting. She stated she would like to discuss promulgating rules which would define ambiguous terms in the statute, the scope of midwife practice and establish the standard of care to be applied.

Budget Report

Ms. Otto reported there is an adjustment to the Midwifery financial report. The Council had been inadvertently charged \$4,618.69 for printing. The charge should have been \$188.65. The adjusted cumulative carryover should be -\$10,347.54 instead of -\$14,777.58 as reported.

Ms. Otto then opened a discussion concerning a possible adjustment to increase licensure fees and renewal fees to address the council's budget deficit. Ms. Nelson suggested a one-time assessment as well as a fee increase. Ms. Miller spoke to the legality of a one-time assessment and deferred the discussion to Ms. Jean-Baptiste. Ms. Jean-Baptiste said she would do some legal research to determine if a one-time assessment was possible.

Ms. Nelson made a motion to increase fees to \$1,200 for renewal and \$1,200 for initial licensure. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Ms. Jean-Baptiste stated we would be getting back to the Council to initiate a Rule Making Hearing electronically in order to expedite the process.

Disciplinary Coordinator Report

Ms. Juanita Stone reported that she is currently not monitoring any midwives.

Division of Investigations

Ms. Juanita Stone reported that there are two open complaints open in the Office of Investigations.

Criminal Background Checks

Ms. Otto asked the council to allow the administrative office to process applications for any applicant whose fingerprints were returned as “unreadable” on two occasions. She asked the Council’s permission to be able to accept “name search only” on applicant’s whose prints had been rejected twice. Ms. Richardson made a motion to accept the prints on name search and Ms. Church seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ratification of Licenses

Dr. Clifford made a motion to approve two new licensees and one reinstate. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion

A discussion was held concerning a rule amendment to clarify the Council’s position on standard of care to include the definition of collaborative care plan and a definition of high and low risk pregnancies. Ms. Richardson informed the Council that the Tennessee Midwifery Association was preparing changes to the association’s practice guidelines. After discussions with Ms. Jean-Baptiste and reviewing the statute it was concluded that acceptance to these changes in the association’s practice guidelines would suffice.

Adjournment

Ms. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

These minutes were ratified by the Council April 8, 2010.