

**New York Midwives
Board of Directors Meeting via Zoom
August 25, 2020**

Board members present: Sascha James-Conterelli, MaryAnne Laffin, Pat Burkhardt, Nancy Kraus, Marian Seliqini, Elizabeth Sullivan, Helena Grant, Jessica Allison, Caitlin LeGros, Audrey Stedford

Other members present: Kate Finn, Jamie Rose Carroll, Kelly Walker, Heather Hines, Beth Cooper, Phyllis Lynn, Lisa Benedetto, Feeta Caphart, Whitney Hall, Jennifer Seymour, Susan Altman, Susan Pantano, Lisa Craig, Suzanne ??, Nicole DiNuccio, Cindy Lynch, Rachel Blatt, Diane Kim, Anne Gibeau, Rachel Ritter Snow, Tania Alicea, AnneMarie Krim

President Sascha James-Conterelli called the meeting to order at 10:05am and asked for permission to record the meeting which was granted. Members of the Board and all other members present introduced themselves.

1. Review and approval of Minutes: Minutes of January 6, 2020 held at Greenberg Traurig NYC reviewed and approved. Minutes of May 6, 2020, a Zoom meeting that was recorded and posted on the ACNM Connect Affiliate Leadership site, were approved.

2. President's Report: Sascha James-Conterelli read a statement which is attached; in summary, 2020 was a year of intense trauma both within and outside our organization. Several midwives, including the Board members who resigned earlier this year, commented on the President's report and their views and concerns about what happened in NYM in 2020 and about how leadership and our organization are structured. This discussion lasted about 90 minutes.

3. Acting Treasurer's Report: Pat Burkhardt, Acting Treasurer, presented a financial report for January-August 2020. Income thus far is equivalent to previous years. Our contract with Greenberg Traurig this year is for \$38,500. Expenses have been minimal this year, but funds have been budgeted for committee work. Pat is still trying to unravel a problem with how our assets were reported to the IRS several years ago; Susan Pantano volunteered to help her. Pat will begin work on the proposed budget for 2021.

4. Nominating Committee Report: Pat Burkhardt, chair of the committee along with Beth Cooper and Betsy Arnold-Leahy, advised that anyone who is interested in running for an open position should fill out the Consent to Serve and send it along with their CV to the committee.

Currently the bylaws do not list co-officers, but also do not prohibit them. A long discussion about how the bylaws are interpreted then took place. A motion was made and seconded to interpret that the bylaws would allow co-officers; the Board vote was 1 abstention, 2 opposed and 6 in favor. However, during the discussion on the bylaws, a legal opinion was requested and received from NYM's attorney Elizabeth Sacco: "Unfortunately, if that is the language in the bylaws, then I think you are limited to a single vice-president. Is there any other language that might allow for some flexibility on this?"

The Board subsequently agreed that we will use SurveyMonkey to assess whether the membership agrees with the Board's interpretation of the bylaws; this will be an interim step until the bylaws can be updated. The Secretary will organize the survey. The upcoming election will also include electing a Nominating Committee which hopefully will expand the diversity of our organization.

5. Regional Reports:

New York City: Helena Grant reported that the city is still recovering from the Covid onslaught. NYC Midwives is considering incorporating separately from NYM; Helena suggests that some mediation needs to be done with them to apologize and repair our relationship. She is willing to coordinate this effort along with Anne Gibeau and also suggests that some education regarding where the state organization leads and when the local chapter has authority would be useful.

Hudson Valley: Marian Seliquini and Whitney Hall reported that they are hoping to revive the chapter with a socially-distanced gathering. A birth unit at the FQHC Refuah Health Center opened under the Covid guidelines; although the midwives there are not NYM members, the regional reps are trying to make contact with them. Two midwives from Northern Dutchess Hospital got commendations from the ACNM at the annual meeting.

Western NY: Caitlin LeGros reported that they are having issues with Covid testing. The Beth Cooper Lecture is scheduled for October 8 via webinar with Jessica Brumley on anti-racism and maternal mortality. Kate Finn added that two CPMs from the region who serve religious communities were arrested on felony charges. Sascha reported that at that time of their arraignment, she was advised by our lobbying firm that they did not recommend a public statement of support from NYM for the CPMs. However, the Board feels that if the CPMs' lawyer feels a statement would be useful, we would be happy to craft one. Currently, under an Executive Order during the Covid crisis, CPMs who are licensed in another state are allowed to practice legally in NY.

Long Island: Elizabeth Sullivan reports that Stony Brook now has 17 midwives on staff. Gaia Midwifery has hospital privileges there now as well.

Northeast: Susan Pantano reports that people in her area feel that NYM focuses primarily on the downstate area and so do not feel engaged.

6. Committee Reports:

Bylaws: No report

Communications: Chairperson Yuliya Labko is on vacation, but sent an email soliciting new members. Caitlin LeGros has volunteered to monitor our Facebook page. Nancy Kraus suggests that we pay an extra yearly fee to have our website secured and that we consider password protecting some more sensitive documents in the "For Midwives" section.

Finance: No report.

Insurance: The committee met last week. CMs are still being denied participation in insurance panels. One upstate insurance company will not reimburse sonograms unless they are ordered by the PCP. Liability insurance and facility fees for birth centers are developing issues. Coveris is the only private company offering liability insurance; they offer a very low introductory rate and then raise their fees substantially.

Legislation: Pat Burkhardt and Beth Cooper have been working with NYS CPMs for over a year to craft the Unified Midwifery Practice Act which would license all midwives in the state. Gottfried is now looking at separate CPM licensure, but the committee has not yet seen a draft bill.

Quality: Kate Finn reported that the Community Birth document has been updated and will be uploaded to the website soon. The next step is to get the Department of Health to consider the AABC accreditation criteria as equivalent for NYS.

Other Business:

1. Campfire discussions: Whitney Hall and Pat Burkhardt agreed to coordinate some Zoom discussions “around the campfire,” to give everyone a chance to chat and bring up issues informally.

2. ACNM Affiliate preceptor tax credit: The State Government Affairs Committee is seeking a Subcommittee Chair and members to champion preceptor tax credit legislation in the states. This subcommittee would educate, support and assist state affiliates who want to look at efforts to introduce this legislation. Students are encouraged to apply. The application can be found here: [Division/Committees Application Form | Division Committees Application Form](#). You will need to log with the same email address and password that you use for the ACNM website. If you experience any difficulties accessing the application, please feel free to email leadership@acnm.org for assistance. The deadline for applications is September 15, 2020.

3. MOCC Affiliate Equity Toolkit proposal: Grants are available to help state affiliates develop equity toolkits. Sascha will get more information from ACNM.

Next meeting: Friday, December 4 will be our annual meeting; it will be done via Zoom.

We took a 30 minute lunch break, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:08pm.

Nancy Kraus, Acting Secretary

Minutes Approved December 4, 2020