

## 2020 Annual Report, NYSALM Quality Committee -- Submitted by Kate T Finn, MS, LM, Chair 12/1/2020

1. The Quality Committee has continued to represent NY Midwives through advocacy for regulations for expedited CON approval in NY regulations for the midwifery-led birth center (MBC). This was brought to Governor Cuomo's Task Force on COVID and Maternity Care, as unique NYSALM input to the Governor's goals. The DOH office overseeing the application and vetting process for new MBC released the application process, which varies only slightly from a full treatment and diagnostic center CON. The process that was released is not consistent with the input of NYSALM and NYABC during the initial stages of stakeholder input for regulations. We had a call with DOH license reviewers in which we reiterated our position to this group at DOH that the intention for the MBC legislation, the input to the Governor's Task Force during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the DOH regulation stakeholder agreements was to adopt the stringent certification process of the Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers (CABC). Only one new MBC has completed the onerous CON application and is waiting a determination.
2. The documents under Quality Committee responsibility were reviewed and updated:
  - a. Compliant Policy – Originally approved in 2013 and reviewed in 2017. A review was due for 2020, and the document was checked for representing current legal requirements and active weblinks, and logo updated.
  - b. The document Planned Home Birth in NY: NYSALM Best Practice Guidelines was retired and replaced by an updated document, [Community Birth In NY: NYSALM Best Practice Guidelines](#). The review team were 4 midwives and 1 consumer with geographical, rural/urban, and racial diversity, as well as birth center experience: Kate T. Finn, MS LM CM, Chair, NYSALM Quality Committee, Vice President, New York Association of Birth Centers (NYABC), Ithaca; K. Michelle Doyle, MSN LM CNM, Troy; Trinisha Williams, MPH LM CM, FACCE, LCCE, LC, Director of Midwifery, Brooklyn Birthing Center Executive Board, American Association of Birth Centers; Whitney Hall, MA MS LM, CM, Secretary, NYSALM, President, NYABC, Hurley; Dallas Gilpin, Consumer, Treasurer, NYABC, Saugerties. The document was updated in the following areas:
    - i. Evidence review and update
    - ii. Expanded from planned home birth to include midwifery-led birth centers, under the umbrella of "community birth". The indications for collaborative care were reviewed against AABC/CABC standards.
    - iii. Addition of midwives as counselors for unintended pregnancy and abortion providers in response to updated NY Reproductive Health Act recognizing licensed midwives as abortion service providers.
    - iv. Use of Nitrous Oxide in the community birth setting.
    - v. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, addition of routine care utilizing innovative care delivery methods for office, group care, telehealth and observing universal precautions for infection control. Active COVID-19 infections during labor with symptoms was added to indications for collaboration and/or transfer of care.
    - vi. Guidelines reminded midwives it is warranted for the midwife to consider the additive impact when several moderate conditions interact.
    - vii. The appendix was expanded to include the Home Birth Summit Collaboration Task Force developed Best Practice Guidelines for Interprofessional Collaboration: Community Midwives and Specialist Providers.
3. The NYSALM Quality Committee has kept abreast of the legal challenges faced by two upstate midwives who were arrested for practicing midwifery without a license. These midwives are CPMs serving the Mennonite and Amish communities, which have large number of homebirths. Several other religious midwives have been investigated by police. Liz Catlin, CPM, has been charged with 95 felonies, including negligent homicide. She plead not guilty in July and will face trial.