



# Quarterly Board Meeting

April 21st, 2021 | 10am-2pm

## Agenda

### **Board members present:**

Jessica Allison, Danielle Assibu-Gilmore, Carol Bues, Michelle Doyle, Helena Grant, Whitney Hall, Cindy Lynch, Ellie Miller, Marian Seliquini, Audrey Stedford

*Quorum present*

### **Opening:**

Reading, Helena Grant: "Our Deepest Fear" by Marianne Williamson

### **Good news announcements:**

- Midwife Birth Center Bill progressing! Reported out of Senate Health Committee
- NYC Midwives and Mayors meeting went super well!
- Several NY midwives to be inducted into ACNM Fellows
- 2 BILPOC students/new midwives to be given grants to attend ACNM Annual Meeting
- At Large Public Member to the Board position has been filled -- Debbie Mercer Miller will be joining us

### **Opening Remarks:** Marian and Whitney

- Acknowledgement of the verdict in the Derek Chauvin case on 4/20--guilty on all charges for murder of George Floyd. Hope for progress toward racial justice is coupled with acknowledgement that there is much work to be done, by all, in all spaces. Racial justice work must be centered in midwifery work, it is inextricably bound to our goals for increasing midwifery and improving maternal health.
- Review of platform on which Marian, Cindy, Helena, and Whitney ran for office: reproductive justice and antiracism organizational work. Review of work happening so far within affiliate and within NYS:
  - Legislative goals: NYHA single payer health care, postpartum care coverage x 1 year, Midwife-led birth centers, meeting with Governor
  - NYSBEIP initiative: >115 hospitals involved statewide, racial equity lens, decreasing cesareans goal
  - NYC DOH moving toward requiring all hospitals to have full scope midwifery services?
  - IMPACT committee starting work again--to address issues with credentialing and privileging
  - Affiliate organization work towards good governance: onboarding orientation for all board members and committee chairs, establishing open communication (google groups) and information/resource sharis (google drive and google calendar). Committee rebuilding work by VPs to repopulate dormant committees and bring new members into existing committees. Constant attention to Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee has evolved into the Governance and Bylaws Committee, charged with reviewing and bringing to board recommendations for good governance practices.
- **ACNM Truth and Reconciliation Statement:** Helena Grant
  - [https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000008214/ACNM\\_Truth\\_and\\_Reconciliation\\_Resolution-2021.pdf](https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/cclibraryfiles/filename/000000008214/ACNM_Truth_and_Reconciliation_Resolution-2021.pdf)
  - Review of process for creating this statement -- process allowed to unfold, take time
  - Antiracism work is hard and can be painful, personal work is necessary

- Whitney organizing a study group for white people who want to engage antiracism work together (“Me and White Supremacy”) -- starting to schedule dates, be in touch if you wish to join in
- **Governance and Bylaws Committee, Mission and Vision Statements:** Whitney Hall
  - 2020 Bylaws Revision changed Mission, as stated in bylaws to mirror ACNM National: “Midwifery for Every Community”.
  - GAB asks board to review and develop new mission statement and vision
  - Activity/Discussion - breakout rooms to discuss:
    - What is your dream/vision for our community?
    - What would you like to see change?
    - What do you see as the community's major issues or problems?
    - What do you see as the community's major strengths and assets?
    - What do you think should be the purpose of this organization?
    - What would success look like?
  - **Ellie will create a “word salad” from responses shared in discussion and present at next meeting**
  - Mission and Vision Task Force proposed and formed - focus on new voices in this task force. Volunteers: Feeta Caphart, Ellie Miller, Tara Fitzgerald, Nicole DeNuccio. **Task Force to report back to Board in September.**
- **Business Items:**
  - **Resolution 1** (Helena): I move that the At Large MOC position to the NYM Board be changed to At Large BILPOC Midwife to provide greater representation of the diversity within all melanated, non-white midwives and more accurately reflect the needed understanding of differences under the umbrella society places over hued peoples. **Vote: PASSED**
  - **Resolution 2** (Whitney): I move that the membership committee be renamed the membership engagement committee in keeping with the intention to increase not only the membership numbers of the organization but the active engagement of all our members’ voices. **Vote: PASSED**
  - **Resolution 3 (Marian) :** Appoint Tahiti Starship as chair of IMPACT Committee. **Vote: PASSED**
- **Presentation: Care of Transgender Women,** Lily Dalke and Colleen Peck
  - See Powerpoint posted on Connect
  - Asks of NY Midwives:
    - Endorse ACNM’s Position Statement on Health Care for TGNB people, or write one of their own
    - Incorporate gender inclusive language in all NY Midwives’ documents, starting with mission statement
    - Advocate for NYS BOM to explicitly state in their Q&A that care of transgender women falls within midwifery scope of practice
    - If/when the Midwifery Practice Act is re-opened, ensure that care of transgender women is explicitly included.
  - Next steps: Connect Lily and Coleen with our new Mission and Vision Task Force. Bring Motions to the board for specific asks.
- **Committees - written reports posted for all to review, discussion devoted to addressing specific questions or needs**
  - **Governance and Bylaws,** Whitney Hall on behalf of chair Susan Pantano: reviewing good governance materials, will present recommendations to the board. Example: “guardian” or ombudsman at all meetings
  - **Quality:** Kate Finn, chair, anticipating being called as expert witness in CPM trial in the fall, requesting motion from the board that her role as Chair of Quality Committee is

- congruent with her role as expert witness. **Kate will make a motion in advance of the next board meeting.**
- **Nominating Committee**, Feeta Caphart: needs to fill vacant Hudson Valley Rep position, awaiting information from last election to know who to contact to fill this spot. One applicant for At Large BILPOC Midwife now received. Nominating Committee in general needs support and mentoring into positions--they are all new.
    - Discussion of process for proceeding with candidate for At Large BILPOC Midwife. Recommendation for appointment by Board vote rather than election with one candidate. Candidate's info to be shared with the Board and vote planned to occur as soon as possible, by Survey Monkey if possible or at the next Board meeting in May by the latest. **Marian to set up vote.**
  - **Finance**, Ann Visser: need help locating past statements in order to settle discrepancy in account. There is no money missing, but statements are incorrect. Will connect with past treasurers and finance committee members to locate records. Looking ahead--budget for a professional to manage taxes. Issue of account discrepancy to be on agenda for next board meeting. **Need 2 new volunteers to perform next audit.**
  - **Legislative Committee**, Betsy Arnold Leahy and Sherrie Hunter Kelly:
    - Supporting 4 bills: Midwife Birth Center, NYHA, Postpartum Coverage, Telehealth Parity
    - **Action needed by all members to support MBC Bill -- Nancy Kraus put info and template letter in Connect to send to senators to support bill!**
    - Work on Unified Midwife Practice Act is on pause -- intention of this work in past to license CPMs in our practice act and make necessary updates to modernize our practice language. Did not get anywhere with Gottfried. In process of reviewing goals and strategies. Ongoing conversations with CPMs in work group. NY Midwives to help organize a Stakeholders meeting (in ~6 months?) --educate, assess, and strategize how to be successful for CPM licensure. Board to consider: ok to defer updates in our own practice language if it increases likelihood of CPM bill passing? More concrete conversation and decision anticipated as recommended strategy comes into focus.
    - New Code of Conduct for committee work
  - **Region reports:**
    - NYC (Carol Bues): NYC Midwives holding elections in May, new officers.
    - Mid-State NY (Jessica Allison): Jennifer Seymour making progress on opening Birth Center. Building is now acquired!
    - North East Region (Michelle Doyle): Changes at St Peters to have big effect on reproductive health care in region, meetings occurring
    - Western NY (Marian provided): met with midwives affected by Kaleida elimination of midwife services at MFSH in Buffalo, planning letter of support from affiliate
    - Long Island (Elizabeth Sullivan, provided in writing):
      - New GYN midwifery practice – The Village Midwife, Amanda Sini
      - Gaia Midwifery expanding into Nassau County with new Greenvale office
      - Stony Brook Midwives – expanding lactation and behavioral health services
      - Next Long Island Midwives Meeting 4/22/21 7:30pm via Zoom



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- Privileging issue with Mount Sinai South Nassau Hospital – not renewing privileges for CM without a RN licenses and collaborative practice agreement with MD
  - Hudson Valley - rep stepped down from position, awaiting replacement
- Introduction: Debbie Mercer Miller, At Large Public Member