



**NEW YORK**  
STATE ASSOCIATION OF LICENSED  
**MIDWIVES**

## Quarterly Board Meeting

June 1st, 2022 | 10am-2pm

Board member Attendees: Ellie, Debbie, Whitney, Sherrie, Helena, Genevra, Pat. We have a quorum. There were no votes taken at this meeting.

### **Debbie: Opening meditation/poem Rudgurd Kipling**

**Treasurer and Finance Committee Report:** Debbie reports that Citibank continues to not respond, a conference call is proposed, bylaws changes have been suggested and we need a GAB committee and chair to assess and propose the changes.

### **Region Reps reports.**

- Jen Seymour reports western region is hard because it is geographically so far flung. They are disconnected. Jessica is the region rep, she was not present at the meeting.
- Whitney Hall reports the Hudson Valley Region is lacking a rep. Danbury Birth center controversy, picketing today outside of Danbury Hospital for independent, autonomous midwifery.
- Helena reports on NYC, the President's committee in Brooklyn giving 15 million each to Kings Co, Woodhull, Coney Island with strong recommendations to increase midwifery. NYDOH&H is hiring a midwife for DOH representative. This midwife needs to eat, speak and breath midwifery, know how to report on data, be politically savvy.
  - A Meeting June 7th MMB recommendation review report.

### **Committee Reports.**

- Quality Committee: Gottfried letter to the SED re collaborative agreements. Letter is available on connect. Next meeting is June 10. See report attached.
- Leg Committee: Discussed advocacy day and bills that have passed. See report attached.
- Insurance committee: Coverys is not covering independent midwives in NYS. They think we need to propose some legislative solutions for the Medmal crisis. MMIP state pool could be opened to midwives.
- Student and New Midwives Committee: student placements continue to be difficult. Both NYU and Downstate could not do clinicals at Jacobi due to epic programming issue. The downstate student is being told to quit her job in order to be a student at the hospital. Annie Gibeau reports that employees have not been able to be students at the same time. This barrier is being worked on by the midwifery service directors at H&H. The schools need to redesign their systems so that clinical placements can be guaranteed and paid preceptors can be valued for their work and held accountable for their work. The education problems have a lot of problems. Suggested that a survey of students by the SANMC be completed to present a report to the board with the main student issues.

**Annual meeting:** Debrief and reflections on NYM leadership path in the National Space. Discussed Helena's and Whitney's presentation. Discussed the anti-bullying lens at national



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level is confusing bullying with difficult truthful conversations. Discussed white supremacy/white fragility in professional spaces. Discussed harmful practices towards students in many sessions. Discussed here in NYS as well.

## **New Business/ Open Discussions:**

- **Midwives' Role in Abortion in NYS.** Pat L speaks to NYS Reproductive Health Act, 2019. Codified Roe v Wade in NYS. Decriminalized abortion care and included midwives and advanced practice clinicians to provide abortions. Midwives in NYS need to be aware that they are now included in providing abortions. There were 2 sessions at the annual meeting focused on increasing access to abortion. Telemed abortions and vacuum aspiration. Discussed bringing the presenters here to NY to help midwives add this valuable skill. We also need to inform the public and legislators that midwives perform abortion. What is the response to increasing abortion access in NY. We must plan for state hopping clients to provide abortion needs. Clinic hours need to be opened for this increase of need for abortion care. Women that can afford it will come from out of town for procedures with a support person like pre RvW populations. Persons who are not able to afford it will also come. This needs to be planned for and staffed in our practices. Time and funding needs to be designed. We need to scale up. Discussed regional training events.
- Helena speaks to MW jobs and MW Service Director jobs and what to look for. Look for a service that has a director. Look for a service that can speak to the culture of the space. Look for a service where you have access to the midwives. Be wary of these new services and practices that are being started to give lip service to black maternal mortality. Ask about orientation time. Ask how long the longest midwife has been on staff. Ask, when there is conflict, how it gets unpacked. Ask the right questions. Interview the service as well as them interviewing you. Speak with the chair or vice chair of the practice, and a separate group midwife
- NYC Free Birthing movement w/ Doulas and New Grads doing Home births. This is an issue that is happening in NY, LI, and the Hudson Valley. We do not want it to get attached to our brand. Student training in NYS is not focused on home birth or having home birth experience. Clients do not know the extent of the experience of their attendants when choosing free birth with a doula. Doulas and midwives roles are conflated. Should a taskforce be convened to create a statement?