

NYSALM Board Meeting January 6, 2020 at Greenberg Traurig office, NYC

President Sascha James-Conterelli opened the meeting at 10:40 AM. Introductions of the following people. Quorum not present.

Attendance in person: Board members Caitlin LeGros, Cynthia Lynch, Elizabeth Sullivan. Midwives Pat Burkhardt, Nancy Kraus, Rebekah Rupert, Kyra Caruso, Helena Grant, Kathy Herron, Eugenia Montesinos, Sharon McDowall, Godgive Okali. Student midwife Kim Bylander.

Attendance on Zoom: Midwives Karen Feltham, Lisa Benedetto, Jen Seymour, Yuliya Labko, Shana Elias. Student midwives Lisa Cray, Nicole DeNuccio. Guest Tamara Wren. Board members Marian Seliqini and Anne Gibeau joined for closed session.

Minutes: Neither the outgoing secretary Mimi Niles nor the incoming secretary Whitney Hall were present. Approval of November Minutes deferred for meeting with a quorum.

President Updates: Sends out regular posts on ACNM Connect. An ACOG MD is interested in doing survey re midwives and abortion, but it was suggested that since the enabling law is so new, perhaps NYSALM needs to do more education first. HHC and PP midwives already have started medical abortion care. Suggestion that this organization needs to make an official statement after better evaluation of law and ACNM position and then possibly offer an educational webinar. Need to speak with PP for their official policy on midwives as well.

V-P Cynthia Lynch attended a round table with two state senators in Brooklyn on women's health. Ideas addressed: Postpartum care should be extended to one year, need more midwives, decreasing maternal mortality. NYS DOH also has a work group which has started to address how to expand and pay for postpartum care which Sascha attended.

GT Updates: Beth and Jane reported that they are expecting a weird legislative season since the primaries are now scheduled for June which condenses the session to only four months. Opening day is January 8 with the Governor's State of the State address. Will be difficult to have policy issues addressed in such a short session.

Assemblyman Gottfried thinks we may need another law to clarify the birth center regulations. Additionally, the Legislative subcommittee of NYSALM has been working on amendments to the MMA to include CPM licensure. The state is facing a \$4billion deficit for Medicaid with an across the board reduction of 1% to fee-for-service Medicaid providers.

ACNM Updates: Our Regional Representative Karen Jefferson not available today.

Treasurer Report: Ashley Mecariello has resigned. She discovered that during transition from the past 3 treasurers, the income tax statements developed a deficit in assets; she recommends that NYSALM use an accountant for tax preparation in the future. Ashley's accountant recommended that we use Quickbooks since it makes tax preparation easier, but our treasurers have found it difficult to use and unnecessary for an organization of our size.

Proposed Budget: In 2019, we sustained \$3000 loss for Annual Meeting & Educational Conference. Sascha recently signed a contract with GT for 2020 for \$37,000, an increase of

\$2500. Projected income for 2020 is \$51K with deficit of \$5K. Budget not approved since Quorum not present.

Need to consider date, theme and geographic location for next annual meeting. Discussed scheduling in Rochester tied to the Cooper lecture which will be held on Thursday October 29, 2020. (Addendum: date later was changed to October 8; NK)

Committee and Regional Reports:

Insurance: Malpractice insurance cost is again a major issue for private practice. ACOG MDs also affected even if not doing IP care; plan to work with them on this issue. May need to consider a survey of members affected and whether a legislative effort will be useful. Some midwives have attempted to get NP licenses to lower malpractice cost for out-patient care. Beth forwarded her committee report in November; she is willing to be re-appointed for another 3 year term.

NYC: Helena Grant volunteers to be one of the NYC reps. There is a movement to have all midwives in HHC have admitting privileges. We discussed how to engage the midwives of the city who are not members of NYSALM. The Board also expressed appreciation to NYC Midwives for the financial support they have offered the state organization.

Legislative: see GT report. Possible issues: licensure bill, birth center clean-up bill, malpractice insurance, Medicaid payment schedule. Annual Advocacy Day will be on Wed April 1, 2020.

Communications: Chairperson Yuliya Labko looking at buying additional domain names for NewYorkMidwives. Scheduling a committee meeting.

Program: Susanrachel Condon has agreed to be chair of the committee again.

Long Island: Gaia Midwives is now offering hospital birth in addition to home birth. There are no longer any midwives at Nassau Medical Center. Northwell System has been schizophrenic about hiring CMs. More midwifery practices opening in the east end.

Western NY: Hosting another Spinning Babies conference in June in Rochester; although it will not be a profit-making event, it will require much less work from the midwife sponsors. Whitney Pinger CNM was the Cooper Lecture presenter last October on breech birth.

Town Hall Creation: Is an on-line venue through ACNM Connect which stays on topic and is a moderated conversation, but would still not include non-ACNM members. No decision reached.

Marketing: Two officers contacted a large PR company which would charge \$60K for a 6month contract. All agreed it would be a wonderful endeavor, but how to obtain a resource stream to support such an activity is an issue.

2020 Board Meetings:

Tuesday, Feb 11 Zoom meeting, 10-4

Tuesday, March 31 in Albany GT office 12-5 before Advocacy Day

??Friday, October 30 in Rochester, 8am-12 after Cooper lecture

Friday December 4, 10-4 NYC GT Office

Guest Tamara Wren from Orange County: Is a consultant in MCH. Was disappointed in the language of the doula certification bill in the last session, so glad that it was vetoed; is not sure

doula certification is warranted at this time. Feels that a NYS doula association would be useful and is trying to organize the "NYS Doula Alliance." Would like to present at NYSPA. Does not want either profession to step on the other's toes. Helena expressed concern that in some hospitals, midwives have been removed and "replaced" with doulas.

Open meeting closed at 3:45pm.
Nancy Kraus, Acting Secretary

**NYSALM Board Closed Session Meeting
January 6, 2020**

Closed Meeting opened at 3:48pm

Members present in person: Sascha James-Conterelli, Elizabeth Nelson, Cynthia Lynch, Caitlin LeGros, Helena Grant
Marian Seliquini and Annie Gibeau joined via Zoom. Quorum present.
Pat Burkhardt and Nancy Kraus invited to stay.

We have received two applications for Treasurer. Audrey Stedford from NYC and Susan Pantano from Saratoga Springs. Board reviewed their resumes and will offer Treasurer position to Susan and ask Audrey to join Finance Committee. She may also be considered for 2nd NYC representative.

Token of appreciation for retiring Board members: Anne Gibeau, Mimi Niles, Ashley Meccariello, Julie Carlson. We will donate \$100 in their honor to an ACNM Foundation fund.

The Board discussed the reflection on her tenure submitted by Mimi Niles after her 3 years as Secretary. She felt her written contributions were not acknowledged, that the organization is run in top-down model, that Executive Committee was not sufficiently involved in decisions, that the organization values history more than innovation, and has not used tech solutions as much as it should have. Sascha will reach out to Mimi and inform her that the Board did receive and discuss her communication.

Sascha may run for ACNM VP. If she is elected, she thinks she would be able to finish her term of office with NYSALM although this needs to be checked with ACNM bylaws.

Closed meeting closed at 5:03pm.
Nancy Kraus, Acting Secretary