



BUREAU OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE
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**Naturopathic Medicine Childbirth Attendance
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2006**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Paul Crane, MD
Donnalee Hart, ND
Farra Swan, ND
Faith Gibson, LM
Cynthia Watson, MD

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Amy Levi, Certified Nurse Midwife

STAFF PRESENT:

Tonya Blood, BNM Chief
Francine Davies, Program Coordinator
Linda Brown, BNM Program Assistant
Norine Marks, Legal Counsel

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Schunke, Medical Board
Linda Whitney, Medical Board
Gloria St. John, Calif. Naturopathic Doctor's Association
Shannon Smith-Crowley, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM – Roll call was taken. Quorum present.

II. Introductions and Statement of Interest

Each attendee introduced themselves. Committee members gave a brief description of their practice and interest in the committee. Francine will lead today's meeting in lieu of a Chairperson.

III. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

Francine explained that the responsibilities of the chair-person of the committee would include setting the agenda items for the next meeting and leading the committee meetings. It was suggested that Morgan Martin from Bastyr College be utilized as a consultant to the committee.

Dr. Hart was elected Chairperson and Dr. Watson Co-Chairperson.

IV. Discussion of Agenda Items

- A. Sections of SB907 applicable to the committee were reviewed, focusing on Naturopathic Childbirth Attendance (NCA) Committee requirements for recommendations for the Report to the Legislature based on a review of education, training, and practice. [Business and Professions Code Section 3628(a)(b)(d)]
- B. The code section relating to educational requirements [3628(c)] was reviewed. The Bureau is required to issue a certificate of specialty practice that has not been developed. Regulations would need to be developed in order to create a NCA specialty certificate. It was suggested to include either the ACNO or NARM for testing standards.

It was also suggested to consider alternatives for home-births: the committee does not want to invent their own exam. They may want to use an equivalent but not identical exam. Naturopathic doctors (ND) are already taking board exams for physician skills. A discussion concluded that NDs would need additional training and clinical experience in order to qualify for midwifery tests.

Certified Nurse Midwifery (CNM) allows medical standards to apply to Licensed Midwives (LM); the Nursing Board does not accept lay-midwifery testing because you have to be a nurse to be a CNM. California licensing is the NARM for LMs. You must be a ND and have additional training to be a ND with a childbirth attendance certificate. In order for the Bureau to approve an exam they need regulations. The committee will also need to discuss Section 3615.5 on what constitutes a written plan regarding supervision by a medical doctor (MD).

There was discussion about scenarios of how and why home birth patients turn up at emergency rooms. There was further discussion regarding cancellation of malpractice insurance for MDs that supervise LMs. A suggestion was made that MDs make themselves available to home birth patients in case of complications. The decision to do home birth is between the patient and the practitioner. In Arizona, it's the responsibility of the ND to transfer care to MDs so they aren't officially being supervised. May want to rework language on supervision.

ACOG only recognizes midwives certified by the AMCB. No competent midwife would give care without providing a back-up plan to the patient.

- C. The committee reviewed examples of extremes in statutory and regulatory language regarding childbirth attendance. Some states, such as Idaho, have no language. Montana gives educational requirements only. Oregon is more detailed and requires twice as many hours as Montana. Vermont is extremely detailed in all its childbirth attendance requirements. Areas to consider for California NCA would be malpractice insurance and transfer of care. Supervision by MDs creates vicarious liability.

Arizona is currently trying to clarify their language. Washington does not grant certification for ND childbirth attendance – NDs must have dual licensure as a LM. Dr. Swan will get information from Arizona.

- D. Licensing information was provided for LM and CNM as well as the ACOG core competencies document.
- E. There was difficulty in obtaining childbirth curricula at the naturopathic colleges. Responses from the colleges varied from the actual programs. For example, Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine offers clinical hours through a preceptorship in private practice, by serving in Texas for three months, and by utilizing classes at local hospitals.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Set Date for Next Meeting

March 29 at 6:00 PM.

Committee wants more information from Arizona.

Discussion of future agenda items: 1) Compliance with Section 3651 – testing and equivalency exams; 2) MD supervision; 3) What constitutes appropriate education/training.

Bureau will copy and distribute information requested of them for future meetings.

Requested information: 1) More information from colleges; 2) NARM packet; 3) ACNO exam credibility. Morgan Martin of Bastyr can provide ACNO contact information.

Dr. Swan suggests bringing Morgan Martin on to committee in her place.

VII. Meeting Adjourned