

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS
MIDWIFERY LIAISON COMMITTEE
140 East Front Street, 2nd floor
Trenton, New Jersey
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 2006
12:30 P.M.**

A meeting of the New Jersey Midwifery Liaison Committee was held on August 28, 2006 at the State Office Building, 140 East Front Street, 2nd Floor, Trenton, New Jersey. The meeting was convened in accordance with the provision of the Open Public Meetings Act with previous notification having been sent to the Secretary of State and the following publications: The Bergen Record, Newark Star Ledger, Camden Courier Post, Trenton Times and Asbury Park Press to advise of the scheduling of this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Karen Criss, Chair of the Board at 12:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER - ROLL CALL

II. MINUTES

APPROVAL OF THE PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES OF JUNE APRIL 24, 2006

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. AUCOTT WHICH WAS SECONDED BY MS. CRISS TO ACCEPT THE PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES AS AMENDED. A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

III. Patricia Connolly-DeTura, CNM

Ms. Connolly-DeTura appeared before the Committee to discuss her request that the probationary status of her license be discontinued and that she presently receive an unrestricted license to practice midwifery. By way of background, Ms. Connolly-DeTura entered a consent order filed on August 2, 2005, which provided that her midwifery license was placed on probationary status for a minimum period of six months. The Order was based on findings that Ms. Connolly-DeTura accepted a patient to intrapartum care at home when she had multiple criteria making her inappropriate for out-of-hospital birth; failed to follow her own protocols and comply with regulations in her management of the patient's care; and maintained inadequate documentation. The Order imposed conditions on any practice of midwifery by Ms. DeTura during the period of probation, required her to complete course work in managing high risk patients and communicating with difficult patients, and assessed civil penalties and costs.

Ms. Connolly-DeTura appeared without counsel. After being sworn, Ms. Connolly-DeTura advised the Committee that she has been taking courses on meditation, homeopathy and herbal studies. Ms. Connolly-DeTura also informed the Committee that since the filing of the Order, she has not practiced as a midwife because she could not afford to do so. She informed that Committee that she could not afford malpractice insurance, as the rates would have been prohibitive as a result of the public action. She is currently pursuing a position with UMDNJ where she would be supervised and the hospital would cover the malpractice insurance. To date, she does not have an offer of employment due to the recent changes at UMDNJ. She also advised that she has worked on a homeopathy and pregnancy book. Ms. Connolly-DeTura stated that she speaks with new practitioners about her experiences in hopes that they will learn from her.

Ms. Connolly-DeTura informed the Committee that she has learned quite a bit from this experience, to include the need to be familiar with protocols and standards in place and not rely on her fellow midwives for secondhand information. She is hopeful to continue working with new and prospective practitioners to impact the profession

in a positive way. The Committee was provided with evidence demonstrating that Ms. DeTura had completed the course work required by the Consent Order, and that she had paid in full all civil penalties and costs assessed within the Consent Order.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MS. CRISS WHICH WAS SECONDED BY MS. PERRY TO TERMINATE THE PROBATION IMPOSED BY THE CONSENT ORDER FILED WITH THE MIDWIFE LIAISON COMMITTEE ON AUGUST 2, 2005 AND GRANT AN UNRESTRICTED LICENSE TO PRACTICE MIDWIFERY IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MS. CONNOLLY-DETURA PENDING THE COMPLETION OF A REINSTATEMENT FORM AND PAYMENT OF A BIENNIAL RENEWAL FEE AND REINSTATEMENT FEE. A VOTE WAS TAKEN AND THE MOTION PASSED WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT VOTING IN FAVOR.

IV. NORTH AMERICAN REGISTRY OF MIDWIVES

Submitted for committee review was the 2005 Annual Report from the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)

THIS MATTER WAS ACCEPTED AS INFORMATIONAL.

V. PHARMACOLOGY REGULATIONS

Discussion was held regarding the changing of this regulation. This matter was requested to be brought to the August meeting for review. Charles Manning will be asked to be present for discussion.