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midwifery education
accreditation council

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MEAC MEMBER SCHOOLS LETTER #13

Revisions to MEAC Curriculum Checklist of Essential Competencies

December 4, 2014

Dear MEAC Member Schools:

I am writing to inform you that the Board of Directors has revised the MEAC Curriculum Checklist of Essential Competencies for two reasons:

1) In June of 2014, midwifery stakeholders informed us that the language around therapeutic abortion in the competencies checklist adopted in 2013 posed two problems. First, it could have been mistakenly or deliberately misinterpreted as meaning that CPMs will be trained to provide abortion services, which has the potential for serious political fallout. Second, midwifery students may have believed they would be trained to provide abortion services or obligated to advise women on how and where to obtain such services. The MEAC board recognized and acknowledged the stakeholder concerns, and voted to eliminate Competency #7 from the curriculum checklist as a separate category. The individual competencies contained in #7 were moved to the respective category within which a midwife would encounter each particular issue.

Example #1: Midwives may encounter a client who has experienced abortion in her past, so having knowledge of how that history may impact her current pregnancy would fall under the prenatal care section (Competency # 2).

Example #2: Because a client may choose to undergo genetic testing, sonography, or other procedures that may reveal severe or non-survivable problems with the fetus, all midwives should have the knowledge and understanding to provide emotionally supportive care and counseling to women confronting this difficult circumstance. Accordingly, we have added those counseling and supportive aspects of care which relate to health education (Competencies #2 and #3).

How individual midwives may choose to make use of that knowledge once they are in practice will, of course, be up to them. Nonetheless, we judge that the

ability to provide emotional support and help clients make informed decisions is within the CPM's scope of practice and an essential component of reproductive care.

2) The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) released an update to their 2010 Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice. MEAC reviewed those ICM updates and edited our checklist to align with those changes.

Schools receiving Self Evaluation Report (SER) templates on or after December 15, 2014, will be expected to demonstrate that the sequence and content of the curriculum enable the students to acquire essential competencies for midwifery practice in accordance with the MEAC Curriculum Checklist of Essential Competencies v.2.

Enclosed is a version of the 2013 Curriculum Checklist with the changes highlighted so that you may see the revisions that were made. As with all MEAC materials, you may find the current version of the Curriculum Checklist on our website at www.meacschools.org/handbook/. (Section I of the Accreditation Handbook)

Feel free to contact Sandra Bitonti Stewart, Executive Director, if you have questions or need additional information. She can be reached at (360) 466-2080, ext. 4.

Sincerely,



Kristi Ridd-Young
President

Encl.