**MEAC Member School Meeting**

**May 9, 2012**

**Attendance:**

BCM: Julia Reid, Nichole Reding;

BUDM: Mary Yglesia, BMS: Heidi Fillmore-Patrick;

FSTM: Denise, Stacy, Erin;

MCU: Kristi Ridd-Young, Nicole Croft, Heather Whitley

MLL: Judith Lane, Deborah Kaley;

NCM: Jenny West, Jessica Goodfriend;

NMI: Shannon Anton;

NIZ: Gerri Ryan, Marla Hicks;

MEAC: Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko, Sandra Bitonti Stewart, Nasima Pfaffl, Jeanne Madrid

Minutes taken from recording by Jessica Kelly-Shaieb

**Staff Updates:**

Office has moved from WA to MI. Staff changes include new Administrative Assistant, Jessica Kelly-Shaieb. Anana Integre has moved to the role of CEU Coordinator. Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko is now working on collaboration work with NARM and other opportunities surrounding ICM and sisterhood relationships. Phone number remains the same; follow the prompts to be directed to the right person.

**BOD Updates:**

Holly Scholles’s term ends in Spring 2013. Elections to fill the position will be held in Fall 2012. Members are encouraged to apply or nominate others with the application available online. Nomination deadline is September 1, 2012.

Question from Jessica Goodfriend (NCM): Should a board position representing schools be a rotating position rather than the potential conflict of interest that exists now with some schools being represented more than others.

Answer by Jo Anne Myers-Ciecko and Mary Yglesia: BOD members do not represent schools. Rather, the expertise and professional skills of the member him/herself is what the person brings to MEAC, as required by USDE. It is important to have a variety of types of experiences of BOD members so that MEAC benefits from a variety of perspectives. Turnover of members is important but it takes a while for a new member to be up to speed.

Question from Jenny West: What are the time requirements for BOD membership?

Answer by Sandra Stewart and BOD members on call: It takes a while for a new member to get up to speed, possibly a whole year where the new member tends to observe and ask questions. Later, they contribute to work groups, accreditation decisions, etc. Approximately 10-15 hours/month. One in-person meeting per year, monthly teleconferences.

**School Status and Accreditation Activity**

Nasima Pffafl presents report and describes the ongoing activity of new schools and existing schools that are undergoing review processes. There are 9+ schools currently seeking more information about future accreditation.

**MEAC Annual Reports**

2011 reports have been sent to schools. They are customized with last year’s student reports so that tweaks can be made rather than starting from scratch. Nasima provides clarification on report format.

Schools in the process of reaccreditation will need to provide information on annual reports.

**Standards for Accreditation Regarding NARM CPM Requirements.**

Jo Anne reviews the process of the NARM changes, including MEAC’s feedback. Schools will need to report compliance with the new requirements. MEAC is working on plans for reporting.

NARM and MEAC have committed to a standing committee to tackle the challenges of the new requirements and challenges that schools have had with NARM in the past. A board-to-board relationship for problem-solving. Some P+P for clarification. MEAC will appropriately and adequately address the NARM requirements with schools so that NARM won’t see problems in applications later.

**ICM Standards and Collaborations**

Jo Anne says that the profession is in a upwelling of interest. MANA, NARM, MEAC, NACPM are taking stock of how we line up with international standards and working to develop understanding within our own community. There are documents, glossaries, and video interviews with ICM project chairs on the ICM website.

Question from Gerri Ryan: Concern that this might take requirements to a PhD level.

Response: ICM doesn’t go there. Many in US midwifery community is also concerned about raising level to PhDs. CNMs would be happy if we all went to accreditation standards.

**Revision of MEAC Standards for Accreditation**

Last revision was 2007. Currently, MEAC is looking at standards line-by-line along with feedback and comments from surveys, stakeholders, ICM standards, research, etc. Draft should be ready for MEAC BOD by October 1 and available to schools and stakeholders by fall. All schools will have 2 years to come into compliance. MEAC will support schools to work toward compliance. Feedback from schools will be solicited in the fall but comments are welcome now.

MEAC is working to revise competencies and curriculum checklist in the standards. Will attempt to streamline the NARM/MANA/ICM requirements to develop our own, explicit list that is easier for schools to follow. BOD members and workgroup members are on the call and are available to answer questions. Friday, June 15, 2012, will be a call where schools can give input and to discuss areas where schools seemed to disagree on the survey.

Question from Marla Hicks: Wants to know more about competencies and requirements over contraception and abortion counseling. NIZ objects to mandatory competencies regarding these issues. Sees this as a question of autonomy of curriculum.

Question from Judith Lane: Will the MEAC list of competencies replace the NARM/MANA requirements?

Response: Yes. Streamlined, explicit MEAC list that will include all NARM/MANA requirements add possibly more. NARM and MANA are aware of the plan.

**Interactive School-to-School Discussion**

**State Authorization**

Schools must do their own work to determine where they need to seek authorization from each state but MEAC has provided a link to a resource that is updated with state-by-state requirements.

Could there be a coalition for licensing education for midwives? Could MEAC write a cover letter that schools could use in states where they need it? Yes, but we’re not sure what the letter would need to include yet. Perhaps a general letter would suffice. Use Jo Anne’s letter to NY as a starting place.

Nasima will facilitate schools talking to each other to share information about contacts within states, etc. Perhaps a yahoo group where the various MEAC letters can be stored, etc.

**MEAC Standards**

With all of the changes happening, is there a way to delay the implementation of MEAC Standard changes? USDE requires that MEAC review its standards regularly so that they are current and adequate. MEAC will be mindful of the rest of the happenings.

**NARM Standards**

Issues for the NARM/MEAC Committee:

1. 2-year requirement for schools. MEAC has been assured by NARM that there are exceptions for MEAC-accredited schools that provide intensive clinical training opportunities.
2. How MEAC documents continuity of care and how MEAC audits that.
   1. Focus on homebirth experience makes it likely that students will have a harder time getting experience with non-white women (and therefore serve non-white women later). Will this further health care disparities?
   2. Hospital birth requirements are problematic because it is harder to get in.
   3. International training is problematic because students may have no access to hospitals.
3. What is the cultural competency module.

Some feeling that NARM is overstepping its bounds by micro-managing the schools when schools are the jurisdiction of MEAC. There is an unusual dynamic between NARM and MEAC. There are very different visions. NARM values PEP before schools. MEAC values accredited schooling (and ACNM agrees). There are issues that the standing committee needs to discuss. There are commonalities between NARM and MEAC.

**Additional Issues**

Member schools are always welcome to contact BOD members or staff with ongoing concerns or feedback on MEAC work.