

MEAC Member Schools Meeting Minutes		Date: 01/14/19						
		Time Convened: 2:00 PM EST						
		Time Adjourned: 3:00 PM EST						
		Type of Meeting: conference call						
Attendees Present								
MEAC Member Schools								
Bastyr Department of Midwifery								
• Wendy Gordon, Department Chair								
Birthingway College of Midwifery								
• Nichole Reding, Academic Coordinator; Holly Scholles, President								
Birthwise Midwifery School								
• Heidi Fillmore, Executive Director								
Florida School of Traditional Midwifery								
• Susan Nelson, Executive Director								
Maternidad La Luz								
• No representative present.								
Mercy in Action College of Midwifery								
• Kristen Benoit, Academic Director; Vicki Penwell, Executive Director								
Midwives College of Utah								
• Kristi Ridd-Young, President; Megan Koontz, Academic Dean of Undergraduate Studies								
National College of Midwifery								
• Cassaundra Jah, Chief Development Officer								
National Midwifery Institute								
• Elizabeth Davis, Program Director, Molly Hockin								
Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery								
• Claudia Breglia, Executive Director								
Southwest Wisconsin Technical College								
• Hilary Schlinger, Program Director; Sherry DeVries								
MEAC Applicant Schools								
Commonsense Childbirth School of Midwifery								
• Tara Dalles,								
Heritage School of Midwifery								
• Christy Hicks								
MEAC Administrative Staff								
Rachael Bommarito	No	Amari Fauna	Yes	Trixi Packmohr	Yes	Jessica Shaieb	Kelly-	No
Guests								
None								
Notes taken by: Amari Fauna								

Minutes

Agenda Item:	Welcome and Announcements	Presenter:	Cassaundra Jah
Documents:	Documents b, c, d		
Discussion:	Reminder of the Members section of the MEAC website.		
	Call for MEAC Board members. Nominations are open. Ballots will go out in June.		
	Review of MEAC staff.		

Kristi Ridd-Young shares the results from the previous Member School Meeting to set-up role-specific meetings between schools. See the Collaborative Calls for MEAC Schools Administrators schedule with upcoming groups and meeting dates/times. (document d)

2019 Fundraising goal: \$50,000 for technology updates. This will include some accreditation software as well as some other needs. The end goal is to reduce costs to the organization that can be passed on to the schools.

Conclusions:

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓		

Agenda Item: School “Shopping Sheets” | **Presenter:** Kristi Ridd-Young

Documents: Document E

Discussion: Kristi announces that she would like to receive data and summary information from each school that can be compiled and posted to the MEAC and NACPM websites to give comparison information to prospective students. NACPM, the public, and a number of potential students have all asked for this.

Action step for schools: are there data that you would also like to see on the comparison sheet that isn't there already? Please send this to Kristi by email at president@midwifery.edu.

Would your school be willing to participate in a comparison like this?

- NCM-yes
- SWTC- yes
- BMS- yes
- MIA-yes
- NMI- yes
- BUDM- yes
- NIZ- yes
- CCSM- yes

Will there be options to add more text to the answers? Yes, the format of the final result still needs to be finalized. How much additional text will get included is still to be determined. We are open to student volunteers needing projects that might like to work on this project.

Conclusions:

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓		

Agenda Item: Prompts	Presenter: Cassandra Jah
Documents:	
<p>Discussion: What do you notice that MEAC does?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes accreditation decisions, sets standards. • Completing the SER helps us as a new school ensure we are organized and serve the students well. • We live by the competencies. • MEAC requires a lot of reporting. <p>What is one thing you find MEAC does well that supports you as a school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allows for connection to the wider Midwifery Education community. • With each standards revision, the standards and the glossary get clearer so that with each SER, we get better. It's a continual assessment and improvement process. • MEAC allows us to participate in federal financial aid. • MEAC allows us to participate in SARA. • MEAC helps increase access by offering an alternative pathway. <p>What is one thing MEAC could do better to support you as a school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuation and expansion of the MAST program. • Would like to see MEAC have a more known presence with the allied midwifery organizations... help them know what MEAC does, what we are beholden to, and the need for the member school organizations to financially sustain MEAC instead of relying on the member schools. • We are starting to do this more, but we could build more collaborative relationships between us. • We are in the process of re-accrediting. The documentation appears most appropriate for programs in midwifery schools, less so for a program/department within a state college. • We would appreciate simple, brief email notices/updates of any cardinal changes in policy. • Our last accreditation took many, many months to hear back from MEAC. Probably short staffed? • Better and more frequent communication in general would be helpful. • It took 6 months for our SER review and request for more information to be received; but we are being asked to provide this within 3 weeks. <p>Free association: one word that comes to mind when thinking about MEAC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential • Detailed • Hard-workers • Thorough • Continuous improvement • Motivating growth 	

Conclusions:		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓		

Agenda Item: Questions and Answers	Presenter: Cassaundra Jah	
Documents:		
Discussion:		
<p>How can MEAC work to prevent any perception of conflict of interest re having program directors also be accreditors. This is a large concern of mine. How is it addresses in parallel professions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a common question, and a common arrangement among other professions. This is particularly curious within midwifery since our community is small and it is likely that we each know the other. This is the essence of accreditation- that there is peer review. • And to remember that there are at least four people evaluating- two ARC members, then two Independent Board Reviewers. Then their feedback is given to the entire Board who makes the final decisions. • And, people associated with a school do not participate in votes or discussion related to their programs. 		
Conclusions:		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
✓		