

Midwifery Regulatory Council of Nova Scotia (MRCNS) Council Meeting Minutes Halifax – February 17th 2022 - Online 1pm - 3pm

Call to order 1:03pm

Regrets: Laura White

Approval of the Agenda; K. Wallace/A. Houstoun

Approval of the Minutes: P. Anderson/K. Wallace

Committee Updates

1. HR Committee Update

T. Crawford (HR Chair) updated the council, that the HR committee met three times to prepare ED performance Review. T. Crawford and T. Pickart (Chair) met with J. Wright to present the Performance review. The Performance Review is complete. T. Crawford thanked the Council for their feedback. Note: The chair of the HR Committee, currently T. Crawford, will store the performance evaluation and hold copies of all documents. All files of the HR Committee will be transferred when a new chair is appointed. The ED was given a copy as well. T. Pickart thanked the committee for their work put into the process.

2. Clinical Policy Review Update

A meeting has not occurred due to holidays/sickness. A meeting will be scheduled in February.

Old Business

1. Update from the Nova Scotia College of Nurses – ED to update Council after NSCN February 9th Board meeting.

J. Wright informed the Council that there was not an update from the NSCN at the time of the meeting. When a response is provided J. Wright will update the Council.

2. Proposal from members requesting their ability to provide episodic care

Note: Episodic care will be referred to as Alternative Practice Models in Councils discussions going forward.

As requested, J. Wright presented the board with an audit of Canadian Alternative Practice Models (APM) for their review and the document prepared by MRCNS's legal council regarding the issues related to adopting APM's. The Council discussed that they continue to be *in principle* supportive of adopting this practice as policy. Council explored the following:

- Concerns regarding, draining current midwives' resources from the health authorities, the burden of changes to standards, consultations, and the importance of the continuum of care.
- Benefits in terms of labour mobility, the option to work outside of the employment model and exposure to the public of various elements of midwifery practice.
- Legal counsel briefing suggests that there is no legal rationale to prohibit APM's based on our current legislation, regulations, and standards.

Council requested that the ED draft a policy on APM's for their review.

A. Houstoun Motion: *The ED to create a draft policy on APM's for Council review.* K. Wallace second. Vote: unanimous

3. **Government Discussion Paper** re: proposed Changes to regulatory changes.

J. Wright presented the council with the discussion paper generated by Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) outlining its proposed legislative model for modernizing the regulation of health professions in Nova Scotia. The proposal includes establishing a new Act to serve as a common legislative foundation for all health professions in Nova Scotia, with profession-specific regulations. MRCNS provided Initial Feedback to the Government's questions regarding the potential impact, concerns, opportunities for the proposed legislation.

J. Wright informed Council that MRCNS will continue to be a part of the ongoing consultations with DHW and will keep the Council informed as needed.

New Business:

1. **As per MRCNS the Chair of the Council is to be reconfirmed annually.**

Motion: P. Anderson: *The Council will appoint the current Chair for another year.* A. Houstoun 2nd Vote: unanimous

2. As per MRCNS bylaws the Council will reappoint the Registration Committee

Motion: A. Houstoun: To appoint K. Jackson, T. Pickart and Karin to the registration committee for a two-year term: 2nd T. Crawford Vote: unanimous

3. As per bylaws the Council will reappoint the Registration Appeal Committee for a 2-year period.

Motion: T. Crawford: To appoint (Teri Crawford (Chair) Dr. Ann Houstoun Laura White) to the committee for a two-year term 2nd P. Anderson Vote: unanimous

Next meeting: to be April 21st, 2022