Certified Nurse-Midwives in North Carolina

Overview
Perinatal Health Committee
Child Fatality Task Force
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Presented by
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Mission

• To promote the health and well-being of women and infants within their families and communities through the development and support of the profession of midwifery as practiced by certified nurse-midwives, and certified midwives.

• Every individual has the right to safe, satisfying health care with respect for human dignity and cultural variations¹.
Definition of Profession

A certified nurse-midwife (CNM) is an individual educated in the two disciplines of nursing and midwifery, who possesses evidence of certification according to the requirements of American College of Nurse-Midwives\textsuperscript{2}.

There are 225 active CNMs practicing in North Carolina\textsuperscript{3}.
Definition of Care

• The independent management of women’s health care, focusing on pregnancy, childbirth, the postpartum period and the care of the newborn as well as common primary care, family planning and GYN needs.

• Practices within a health care system that provides consultation, collaborative management or referral as indicated\(^1\).
Pathways to Midwifery Certification in the United States⁴

Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)  
38 Programs  
Graduates eligible to sit for exam  
American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)  
Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)  
Recognized in 50 states

Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC)  
9 Programs  
Graduates eligible to sit for exam  
North American Registry of Midwives (NARM)  
Certified Professional Midwife (CPM)  
Recognized in 26 States

U.S. Department of Education recognition as an accrediting agency for midwifery programs  
Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP, or apprentice training)

National Commission for Certifying Agencies accredited
Provision of Care

In 2007, the most recent year for which final birth data statistics are available from the National Center for Health Statistics, CNMs/CMs attended 316,811 births.

This represents 93% of all midwife-attended births (others are with CPM’s and other midwives), 10.8% of all vaginal births, and 7.3% of all births nationally\(^5\).

In 2004, North Carolina CNMs attended 12,019 births, which is 14.1% of all births in North Carolina for that year\(^6\).
Provision of Care

CNM/CM-attended births reflect the diversity of the US population.

In 2007, CNM/CM-attended hospital births were most frequent among American Indian/Alaska Native women (17.2%), followed by Hispanic women (8.0%), non-Hispanic Black women (6.8%), non-Hispanic white women (6.8%), and Asian or Pacific Islander women (5.8%)\(^5\).
Need for Midwifery Care

There is a solid and compelling body of literature to demonstrate that midwifery care is safe and effective.

After adjusting for socio-demographic and medical risk factors, a nationwide study compared outcomes for physician vs. CNM attended births:

- 33% lower risk of neonatal mortality with CNM
- 31% lower risk of low birth weight with CNM
- 19% lower infant mortality rate with CNM
Need for Midwifery Care

The Cochrane Review:

*Midwife-led versus other models of care for childbearing women* found, among other things, that midwife-led care increased a woman’s chance of having a spontaneous vaginal birth and her initiation of breastfeeding.\(^8\).
Need for Midwifery Care

Access to an maternity care provider in North Carolina:
29 counties have no OB/GYN\textsuperscript{9}
47 counties with no nurse-midwives\textsuperscript{3}
24 counties have neither an OB/GYN nor a CNM\textsuperscript{9,3}.

To shift resources toward wellness, disease prevention and primary care for women, policies must promote a greater supply and wider use of CNMs and CMs\textsuperscript{10}.
Endorsements

Recommend Midwives as Essential to the Improvement of Perinatal Outcomes

MOMS 21\(^{11}\) (current federal legislation)
Coalition for Improving Maternity Services\(^{12}\) (CIMS)
Amnesty International\(^{13}\)
The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act \(^{14}\)
Childbirth Connection’s Blueprint for Action/Milbank Report\(^ {15}\)
Request

The NC Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives recommends review of the current North Carolina midwifery law to reflect midwifery practice as defined by our national organization and as recognized by most states in the U.S.
Request

• We also recommend collection of the most current and accurate statistics for CNMs in NC as a way to monitor our impact on perinatal outcomes.

• Monitoring of legislation that impacts CNMs in this state to be certain CNMs are able to practice to their fullest extent as a means to maximize the improvement of maternal and child health outcomes in North Carolina.
References

1. http://www.acnm.org/about.cfm, retrieved October 4, 2010
4. NC Chapter of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, Legislative Committee, 2010