What is Direct Assessment Competency Based Education?

- A dynamic innovation in the field of higher education in the U.S.
- Driving access, flexibility and affordability in higher education
- Reflects the strengths and innovations of the Portfolio Evaluation Process
- Holds great promise for new avenues for educating midwives
- Department of Education has issued guidelines for Direct Assessment Programs
What is Direct Assessment Competency Based Education?

- Innovative pedagogical approach
- Time is variable, learning is fixed
- Flexible, self-paced approach
- Demonstration of learning
- Mastery or proficiency of standard, consistent behaviors
- Rigorous assessments
- Focused on the student journey
- May be alternative to credit-hour system
- Eligibility for student financial aid
- Recognized by USDE as an alternative pathway
2014 Agreement to mutually support the development and implementation of MEAC and/or ACME-accredited direct-assessment midwifery education programs
Steps to Fulfill on this Agreement

- US MERA Direct Assessment Task Formed Summer 2014
- Representatives appointed from each organization
  
  NACPM Representatives: Mary Lawlor, Keisha Goode & Nancy Anderson
- Guided learning about Direct Assessment
- $20,000 grant from Transforming Birth Fund to hire direct assessment consultant
- Hiring of Charla Long, national DA expert, to plan and facilitate a convening of the Task Force
- Plan to convene the Task Force to development a model for applying DA to midwifery education
- US MERA Direct Assessment Task Force members & other stakeholders met outside of Washington, DC, in August 2015
- Additional $5000 grant was awarded to keep convening costs minimal for participants
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DAY ONE</th>
<th>DAY TWO</th>
<th>DAY THREE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➢ Introductions</td>
<td>➢ Competency Model</td>
<td>➢ Accreditor Substantive Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Refresher</td>
<td>➢ Levels of Mastery</td>
<td>➢ Learning Activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Visioning</td>
<td>➢ Sequencing &amp; Scaffolding</td>
<td>➢ Work plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>➢ Backward Design Thinking</td>
<td>➢ Assessment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
US MERA Direct Assessment Task Force Meeting
August 2015
The Village Model
Post-Convening Next Steps

• Preparation of Final Report by Charla Long
• Meeting of the US MERA Task Force before the end of 2015 to make a report and recommendations to the US MERA Steering Committee
• Assessment of what infrastructure is needed to continue to support the work of the committee
• Search for improved and diversified resources to complete the development of the model