**Significant Cost Savings & Improved Outcomes Found in Washington State Study of Care Provided by Certified Professional Midwives (CPM)**

Cost Savings with CPM Care

- **Total savings to WA Medicaid are approximately $1.6 million per year** when facility fees and reductions in costly medical procedures achieved by CPM care are factored in.
- **At least $236,000 per year** in savings to Medicaid when women give birth at home or in free-standing birth centers in the care of CPMs – a very conservative estimate reflecting only cesarean section reduction.
- **Combined (public and private insurer) savings** to the health care system for cesarean reduction alone are an estimated **$1.35 million per year**.
- **Cost savings to Washington State** from the care of CPMs is approximately **10 times the cost of administering the state licensing program**.
- **Cost savings achieved** with CPMs attending just under 2% of the births in the study period.
- Subsequent analysis by Washington State shows **$3,939 savings per out-of-hospital birth**.

Improved Outcomes for Women and Infants with CPM Care

- Significantly **lower cesarean section rates** with the care of CPMs.
- Significantly **fewer low-birth weight babies and babies born prematurely** with the care of CPMs, all indicators for improved outcomes, especially for vulnerable populations.
- Significantly **higher breast-feeding rates** with the care of CPMs, with the accompanying demonstrated health benefits for mothers and infants extending throughout lifetimes.
- Improved outcomes achieved with rates of intrapartum and neonatal mortality comparable to low-risk hospital births.

Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits

- Commissioned by the Washington State legislature to determine whether the costs of administering the state’s midwife licensing program are offset by economic benefits of the care provided by CPMs.
- Conducted by Health Management Associates under contract by the WA State Department of Health.
- Includes all costs associated with CPM care, including those associated with hospital transfers when necessary.
- Team included a health economist, physician, obstetric nurse, public health professional, and other experts.
- HMA used the Department of Health’s First Steps Database of Medicaid claims and other healthcare economic indicators, as well as a thorough literature review, to perform the study and establish its conclusions.

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1 “Midwifery Licensure and Discipline Program in Washington State: Economic Costs and Benefits”