Chapter Expansion!

Happy 2017 from the NACPM state chapter community! We have many new chapters to congratulate as the new year brought in a fresh wave of energy and enthusiasm. A warm welcome and congratulations to our newest chapters in Maine, Wisconsin, Washington, Nevada, Florida, and Oklahoma! And let's not forget our trail blazing chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Minnesota, and Illinois. This brings our current total to twelve active state chapters across the country, and growing! We have five additional chapters actively in formation and many others who have reached out to learn more. This ever-evolving network of Certified Professional Midwives is the platform through which we can truly come together to unify and promote our credential. These twelve chapters are only the beginning, and we want YOU to be part of it!

Our quarterly Chapter Collaboration Calls continue to offer a space for relationship building and information sharing between our national organization and each state and among the state chapters themselves. Most recently, we reviewed together the State Legislative Toolkit -- a set of resources that NACPM has created to help states navigate the legislative process and take full advantage of the US MERA consensus work that's been done on the national level. This toolkit continues to grow, and we are working in direct response to suggestions from our chapter leaders by adding a new guide for hiring and working with lobbyists. We are always eager for feedback, so please, put this toolkit to use and let us know how we can make it better!

Per your request, we are varying when Chapter Collaboration Calls are held. Please join us for our next call Monday, March 13 from 1:30-3:30. Contact Susan for information about participating in the call or starting a NACPM chapter in your state.

Support Against The Threat

The groundwork has been laid for a NACPM Oklahoma State Chapter for the last year, and the official formation could not have been more timely. This month, Oklahoma CPMs were unexpectedly thrust into a
legislative battle to protect their ability to practice in Oklahoma. Currently, there are two highly functioning, regionally affiliated professional midwifery organizations in the state, and the chapter has offered an ideal bridge between the two organizations. The chapter is functioning as the joint legislative arm of the two groups, even to the extent that the presidents of each organization serve on the board of the chapter. This has exponentially enhanced their effectiveness by enabling them to mount opposition to this restrictive legislation with a unified voice.

Last week, NACPM Executive Director Mary Lawlor attended the official launch meeting for the newly formed OK State Chapter. Midwives came from all over the state to share with Mary about their concerns and challenges around regulation, and to learn together about the national picture that is developing for Certified Professional Midwifery. They specifically discussed the benefits of the US MERA agreements and principles for model legislation and how alignment with US MERA has proven critical in recent legislative success. The chapter board also had a work session with Mary using the Regulatory Assessment Tool from the NACPM State Legislative Toolkit to explore how the US MERA principles might be applied in Oklahoma. Mary also met with our lobbyists to better understand the culture and climate in Oklahoma and the strategy we are building to protect autonomous midwifery practice in the state.

Mary's visit was deeply valuable to the community, both from a practical information sharing perspective, and from a relational perspective. Legislative efforts are often tiring and lonely, and it brings needed vitality and energy to the effort to know that local organizations are plugged in to and supported by a much larger web of colleagues, advocates and friends.

Upcoming Webinars:

Informed Consent and Shared Decision-making
Thursday, March 9, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time.

The next webinar in our Clinical Practice Series builds on Dr. Courtney Everson's excellent presentation on "Evidence-Informed Practice" and features Brynne Potter of Maternity Neighborhood taking a closer
look at **Informed Consent and Shared Decision-making**. A midwife and trailblazer in the development of digital tools designed to strengthen the connection between women and their care providers, Brynne will also discuss how these tools are being used in various settings to support client education, facilitate provider-client communication, and evaluate the impact that shared decision-making can have in maternity care.

This webinar also qualifies for **NARM Category 3 Bridge Certificate CEUs**.

**Register here for this free webinar!**

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**Diversity Matters; What Are Our Challenges?**  
**Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 2:00 to 3:30 pm Eastern time.**

As we think about the changing demographics of our country, the critical difference that midwives of color make in improving health, and the future of midwifery, we must ask serious questions about how we can expand and diversify the profession. Policymakers and other health professionals are asking similar questions. This webinar will explore the evidence supporting the imperative of diversity in the health professions and examine more closely the experiences of student midwives and midwives of color entering the CPM profession.

**Keisha Goode, PhD** will discuss her research entitled *Birthing, Blackness, and the Body: Black Midwives and Experiential Continuities of Institutional Racism.*

**Nancy Anderson, MD, MPH**, will share her research project/needs assessment sponsored by NACPM that aimed to understand the barriers that women of color experience with respect to the midwifery profession, and to describe the optimal structure for a midwifery education scholarship program aimed at women of color.

**Register here for this free webinar**

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**Recognizing Exceptional State Leaders**

Autumn Vergo nominated **Kate Hartwell, NHCM CPM** for her incredible work on maintaining access to liability insurance for midwives. Kate has been a midwifery activist on many fronts. She spoke at NACPM’s CPM Symposium 2012 about reimbursement for CPMs as an essential component of creating access for women to CPM services and described New Hampshire's early experience of implementing the ACA mandate for Medicaid coverage of...
Kate is also lauded for opening the River Guild Holistic Health Collective in Concord, New Hampshire. Kate says, "We value community and believe that people are happiest when supporting each other. We believe that, at any time, every person in our community has something valuable to offer, and every person has something valuable to learn. The River Guild has a large, open space for classes, workshops, and community gatherings." Visit the River Guild website to see how a midwife's vision for building community and supporting families has come to life.

*Everyone is invited to nominate an exceptional state leader deserving of recognition by emailing Susan Smartt Cook, NACPM Chapters Coordinator.*

**Alert - Deadline for Discount**

Midwives and midwifery students have an incredible opportunity to participate in the next Congress of the International Confederation of Midwives to be held June 18th - 22nd in Toronto, Canada. The next deadline for discounted registration is Tuesday, February 28th. You can save several hundred dollars by registering today!!! Visit the ICM Congress website for more information.

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