Midwifery Landscape and Future Directions for CPMs

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- Audience is currently muted for sound quality
- Please use questions or chat feature if you need assistance OR EMAIL NPFAFFL@GMAIL.com
- Submit questions for speakers during presentation. These will be addressed during the q&a
- This webinar is being recorded and will be available in a few days
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Introductions

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Certified Professional Midwives

- 1970s: Grassroots movement to reclaim natural childbirth
- 1982: MANA founded to create space for development of direct-entry midwifery in the U.S.
- 1991: Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) incorporated to create accreditation process and standards
- 1992: North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) incorporated to create national credential
- 1995: First Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential issued by NARM
- 2000: NACPM founded to create collective voice for CPMs
- Today: >2000 active CPMs, 11 accredited schools, 31 states have a path to licensure for CPMs, more than half of all birth centers in the U.S. are owned by or employ CPMs
Certified Professional Midwives

Why do CPMs really matter?

How can more childbearing families have access to CPMs?

How will we build a more representative profession?

What will it take to achieve federal recognition, universal state licensure?

How do we assure that our understanding and passion for physiologic birth is preserved?
CPMs: Midwifery Landscape and Future Directions

A set of briefing papers and recommendations from NACPM - October 2017

- To inspire a shared vision for the future of CPM/midwifery
- To inform midwives, students and aspiring midwives about changing
  environment for regulation, education, employment and reimbursement
- To address questions/concerns about current strategy for federal
  recognition (definition of CPMs for Medicaid coverage)
- To create common understanding of value of national credential and
  accreditation

http://nacpm.org/midwifery-landscape-and-future-directions-for-cpms/
CPMs: Midwifery Landscape and Future Directions

- Why CPMs Matter
- NACPM Vision & National Landscape for CPMs
- Recommendations: Preparing for the Future
- Federal Recognition: Linchpin for the Profession
- Building Blocks to Strengthen the Profession & Increase Access
  ~ Certification & National Credential
  ~ Education & Accreditation
  ~ Licensure & Regulation
  ~ Reimbursement & Employment
CPMs: What We Have Learned; Why Our Practice Critical to Improving Health and Saving Lives

• CPMs understand birth is a healthy life process, a pivotal life experience
• Support for physiologic processes reduces poor outcomes and saves millions of dollars
• Value of CPM care rooted in our belief in and commitment to relationship and partnership
• Setting and environment for birth matters
• Independent, autonomous practice matters
• CPM care locates power within the person having the baby

• CPM care restores the humanity of birth, produces better health, and promotes the agency and empowerment of people giving birth, their families, and their communities.
NACPM Vision and National Landscape for CPMs

• We envision a primary maternity care system where
  → all childbearing people access care through a midwife,
  → birth place is the choice of the family, and
  → all have the same chance to be healthy
NACPM Vision and National Landscape for CPMs

- 8.3% of all births attended by midwives
- Tragic disparities in health outcomes for childbearing people and infants of color
- More than half of all counties in the US do not have an obstetric care provider available
- Educational opportunities for aspiring midwives are limited and people of color experience particular challenges in accessing midwifery education
- Midwifery In U.S. has complicated history of marginalization and division, bringing the threads of midwifery together is extraordinarily challenging
NACPM Vision and National Landscape for CPMs

Midwifery is gaining important ground:

• ICM Global Standards for Education and Regulation adopted in 2012

• US Midwifery Education, Regulation, and Association (USMERA) collaboration, adapting ICM standards to US context, endorsed principles for legislation and agreements regarding requirements in new licensing laws that serve as foundation for mutual support

• ACOG also endorsed ICM standards and US MERA agreements

• Five states passed new licensing laws in 2016 and 2017

• Work continues, with new support, on federal recognition of CPMs
NACPM Vision and National Landscape for CPMs

Looking to the future, we believe:

• National certification will be required for licensure in most, if not all, states

• New licensing laws will likely require accredited education for new CPMs, Bridge Certificate for CPMs who have not completed an accredited education program

• Participation in federal programs, such as Medicaid, third-party insurance, and employment are likely to have similar requirements

• The landscape is shifting in favor of our vision for midwifery and CPMs have the chance to position ourselves now to achieve that vision
NACPM Vision and National Landscape for CPMs

We are committed to:

• Safeguarding the right to normal physiologic birth
• Eliminating unconscionable disparities in birth outcomes and dismantling systemic racism in maternity care
• Securing licensure and equitable reimbursement for CPMs
• Supporting excellence and innovation in midwifery education, aligning new legislation with US MERA agreements
• Investing in strong, diverse workforce of CPMs, doing all we can to ensure traditional and community midwives are not left behind
• Unifying and strengthening midwifery through partnerships with midwives, consumers, and policymakers.
Preparing for the Future:
Recommendations for Midwives and Students

Future emerging in which the national credential will be essential to licensing, regulation, and reimbursement. Take action now:

• All midwives should become nationally-certified, including licensed midwives and experienced midwives (NARM note: the experienced midwife route will end 12/31/2019)

• CPMs who did not complete an accredited education program, should apply for NARM Bridge Certificate
Preparing for the Future: Recommendations for Midwives and Students

Anyone considering becoming a midwife should seriously examine their options for training:

• Explore the wide variety of accredited programs available, including distance-learning, part-time or self-paced options, accelerated programs, certificate or degree programs. All include community-based preceptorships.

• If considering a non-accredited program or designing a unique educational pathway to become a CPM through PEP, check both national and state requirements to be sure the plan serves their future interests.
Federal Recognition: History and Current Strategy of the MAMA Campaign

Midwives and Mothers in Action Campaign is national effort to gain federal recognition of CPMs so childbearing people will have increased access to quality affordable maternity care in the settings of their choice.
CPMs/LMs are Medicaid Providers in only 13 States
But one-half of all births are financed by Medicaid and most childbearing people do not have access to CPMs.
Federal Recognition: History and Current Strategy of the MAMA Campaign

• Federal recognition will be achieved by amending Social Security Act to mandate federal Medicaid reimbursement for state-licensed CPMs

• Draft bill includes a definition of CPM, for the purpose of Medicaid reimbursement, that aligns with language endorsed by organizations participating in US MERA collaborative:
  • CPMs who have completed an educational program or pathway accredited by the Midwifery Education Accreditation Council (MEAC) will qualify for reimbursement by Medicaid.
  • CPMs who are credentialed by January 1, 2020, but who did not complete a MEAC-accredited program, will be required to obtain the Midwifery Bridge Certificate issued by the North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) to qualify for reimbursement by Medicaid.

• Based on this definition, ACNM has joined lobbying effort

For more information, see NACPM webinars on US MERA and strategy for federal recognition for CPMs: http://nacpm.org/legislation-and-policy-webinar-series/
Implications of Federal Recognition on Medicaid Reimbursement for CPMs

If the draft bill becomes law:

**CPMs who graduated from MEAC-accredited program:**
- State licensed and reimbursed by Medicaid – no change
- State licensed and **not** reimbursed by Medicaid – will become eligible

**CPMs who received credential by 2020**
- State licensed and reimbursed by Medicaid, but did not graduate from MEAC-accredited program – will need NARM Bridge Certificate to remain eligible
- State licensed and **not** reimbursed by Medicaid, did not graduate from MEAC-accredited program – will need NARM Bridge Certificate and will become eligible
Implications of Federal Recognition on Medicaid Reimbursement for CPMs

If the draft bill becomes law:

CPMs who are credentialled after 2020
• Will need to have completed a MEAC-accredited program to be eligible

Midwives who are not CPMs
• Will need to obtain CPM credential by 2020 to be eligible

• If CPM is defined in federal statutes, is there a potential conflict between NARM and federal government over who defines a CPM?

• Are CPMs being singled out by referring to educational requirements?

• Why does the draft bill include all of these specifics about education and the Bridge Certificate?

• What are the advantages of aligning the definition of CPM with language in US MERA agreements?
Building Blocks that Reflect and Strengthen Midwifery
Building Blocks: Certification and a National Credential

• Health professional regulation in the US generally takes places in framework that dovetails with national certification

• Growing commitment among divergent stakeholders to achieving state licensure for all nationally-certified midwives

• When state regulation is based on the national credential for CPMs:
  - Assurance that qualifications and scope of practice are based on national midwifery standards
  - State legislatures and agencies can rely on expertise and resources of the national certifying agency to maintain standards of competency and psychometrically sound testing, limiting expense of regulation
Building Blocks: Certification and a National Credential

When state licensure is based on national certification, the profession as a whole plays an important role in regulation through the mechanisms of accountability maintained by NARM.
Building Blocks: Education and Accreditation

• Education to become a CPM is competency-based regardless of route of study and all applicants for certification must provide evidence of mastery of critical clinical skills and experience in out-of-hospital settings.

• With the US MERA agreements to support new licensing laws that require completion of an accredited program, the landscape is changing.

• This presents new challenges to meet the needs of student wanting the accessibility, affordability of the Portfolio Evaluation Process (PEP); to increase the number of accredited programs; and to address the barriers encountered by people of color in midwifery education.
Building Blocks:
Education and Accreditation

• Accreditation is a process, similar to certification of individuals, for establishing that educational programs meet established criteria.

• MEAC is the accrediting agency that specializes in direct-entry midwifery recognized by the US Secretary of Education.

• MEAC standards encompass the requirements for NARM certification and essential competencies adopted by ICM, adapted to the US.

• MEAC standards serve a consumer protection function by establishing minimum requirements for faculty qualifications, facilities, financial management, and student support services.
Building Blocks: Education and Accreditation

• Similar to NARM’s mechanisms of accountability to the profession, MEAC solicits input from midwives on the standards for accreditation.
Building Blocks:
Education and Accreditation

- 11 accredited entities: 2 programs and 9 institutions
- 7 offer diplomas or certificates; 4 offer BSM or ASM; 2 offer MSM
- Brick & mortar; low-residency/hybrid; long-distance schools/programs; accelerated options
- 6 schools/programs participate in Title IV financial aid
- Total enrollment over 600 students
- High exam pass and placement rates across schools/programs
- Anticipate 5 new schools/programs in the next 5 years
- More than ½ new CPMs now coming through accredited schools/programs; others coming through PEP
Building Blocks: Licensure and Regulation

• Every childbearing person deserves access to quality midwifery care for pregnancy, birth and the postpartum period

• Licensure is key to making midwifery more widely accessible
Building Blocks: Licensure and Regulation

- NACPM is committed to securing licensure in all states and territories.
- NACPM supports licensure based on national midwifery standards for certification, education and practice.
- In 2015, NACPM and the other organizations participating in the US MERA collaboration endorsed the *US MERA Statement on Licensure of CPMs* and the *US MERA Principles for Model Midwifery Legislation and Regulation*.
- Since then 5 new states have passed licensing laws for CPMs bringing the total to 31.
Regulation: CPMs are Licensed in 31 States
Regulation: State Legislation in 2018
Regulatory Support to States
NACPM State Legislation and Advocacy Toolkit

- ICM Global Standards for Education, Regulation and Association
- ICM Toolkit for Regulation
- US MERA Principles for Model Midwifery Legislation and Regulation
- CPM qualifications and the Bridge Certificate
- NACPM Regulatory Assessment Tool
- How to Hire and Work with a Lobbyist
- Home Birth Transfer Guidelines, state examples and related resources

NACPM provides technical assistance to align legislation with US MERA accords; conducted “Home Visits” in 12 states in 2016 and 2017
NACPM State Legislation and Advocacy Toolkit

http://nacpm.org/state-legislative-and-advocacy-toolkit/

Preparation
Guidance for learning, discussion, and planning

References
Additional resources to further inform and support your work

Persuasion
Outreach materials about CPMs
Building Blocks:
Federal Recognition for CPMs

• Federal recognition will be achieved by amending the Social Security Act to mandate Medicaid reimbursement for state-licensed CPMs

• This will open doors for CPMs to participate in other federal programs and increase opportunities for education, reimbursement and employment, such as:
  • Tricare
  • National Health Service Corps
  • Indian Health Service
  • Federally-qualified health centers
Building Blocks: Reimbursement and Employment

• Public and private payer reimbursement is essential to building a viable role for CPMs and our capacity to serve the critical needs of the childbearing population

• Adequate compensation and opportunities for employment are critical to the growth of the profession
NACPM Briefing Papers: What else would be useful?

• Workforce Analysis – number and geographic distribution of CPMs, racial representation in the profession, employment status, etc.
• Bibliography – references for the briefing papers and other relevant resources
• Information available in different forms, particularly more accessible graphic versions

Send questions and suggestions to info@nacpm.org!
NACPM Briefing Papers: A Resource to Inform Strategic Action

- Individual decisions about plans for education and certification
- Classroom and study group discussions about the status and future of midwifery
- State meetings and planning for legislative or policy action
- Collaborative planning for developing and strengthening the profession

http://nacpm.org/midwifery-landscape-and-future-directions-for-cpms/
Q&A: please type your question or raise your hand

NACPM is committed to collaboration and to supporting midwives to meet our emerging future

www.nacpm.org
Thank you for joining us!

- NACPM Virtual Annual Meeting - November 15, 1:30 - 3:00 pm ET

- Gender, Sexuality, and Inclusion of All Families in Midwifery Practice. November 22, 2017 1:30 - 3:00 ET

- This webinar and slides will be available in the next week at nacpm.org

- Please complete the follow-up survey to give us feedback on your experience.

- Instructions for receiving CEUs can be found on the NACPM website, at:
  
  http://nacpm.org/for-cpms/resources/webinars/

- Support the important work of NACPM by joining today:
  
  http://nacpm.org/