Moving Forward: Response of the American College of Nurse-Midwives to the Consensus Model

Elaine Germano, CNM, DrPH, FACNM
Senior Education Policy Advisor
American College of Nurse-Midwives
The Profession of Midwifery

• Nurse-midwife: a hyphenated name for an individual educated in two separate professions, nursing and midwifery
• The international context:
  – Majority of countries recognize nursing and midwifery
  – International Confederation of Midwives
• Unique history of American midwifery
• CMs and CPMs
Midwifery Organizations

- **American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM)** – the membership association
- **American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB)** – the certification body
- **Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education (ACME)** – accredits midwifery education programs
Participation in development of the Consensus Model

• Representatives from ACNM, ACME and AMCB attended APRN Alliance meetings
• One CNM on the Joint Dialogue Group, reporting back to all three midwifery organizations
• Model endorsed by all three groups
Information sharing to ACNM members

- Letter from ACNM Pres. to members Jan 2009
- 200 midwifery leaders, including state legislative contacts, Division and Committee Chairs and education program directors invited to teleconference on LACE – Aug 2009
- Web page provides conference proceedings, copies of President’s letters, midwifery-specific FAQs, and LACEQA email address to answer members’ questions
- Editorial commentaries in Sept-Oct 2010 issue of *Journal of Midwifery and Women’s Health*
Most Model recommendations met by midwifery ACE

- **A:** ACME’s 2010 standards for accreditation of midwifery education programs comply with standards of parent organization
- **C:** requires graduate degree for exam applicants, instituted time-limited certificate
- **E:** all programs offer graduate degree or post-graduate certificate, 3 P’s in place or in process
Issues of concern to ACNM members

- ACNM seeks to work within the APRN network to address these concerns:
  - Differences between the NCSBN Model Nursing Practice Act and the Consensus Model
  - APRN title controversial among midwives
  - Midwifery is regulated by BONs in 38 states + DC; what about the other states?
  - Where does this leave the Certified Midwife?
NCSBN Model Nursing Practice Act differences from Consensus Model

- Model states “graduate degree from a formal education program accredited by a nursing or nursing-related accrediting agency” – does not require degree in nursing
- Model states that education programs must “ensure clinical and didactic coursework is comprehensive and sufficient to prepare the graduate to practice in the APRN role and population focus” – no mention of minimum number of clinical hours
APRN title controversial among midwives

- Many CNMs comfortable with the title APRN, others are not
- Does embracing the APRN title compromise recognition of midwifery as its own profession?
- Midwifery - a separate profession and an expanded role for nurses in the US
Most appropriate board for midwifery regulation?

- Consensus Model recognizes Boards of Midwifery and Nurse-Midwifery – does not say that midwives must be regulated by BONs
- CNMs also regulated by Health Depts, Boards of Medicine & jointly by BOMs & BONs in 10 states
- Boards that regulate midwifery should have midwifery board members or a midwifery category
Where does this leave the CM?

- CM educated alongside CNM, same graduate education without nursing prerequisite
- Specific prerequisite courses required by ACME: biology, chemistry, microbiology, human anatomy and physiology, psychology, sociology, US health care system history, nutrition; plus a list of specific clinical skills
- 2 education programs for CMs, newest is distance-based
Where does this leave the CM?

- Certified Midwives currently legal in 3 states: NY, NJ, RI
- ACNM is committed to supporting the legalization of this credential in all states – under which regulatory boards?
- As state boards respond to LACE, there may be an opportunity to add regulation of CMs
Formation of Midwifery LACE Network

• Representatives from ACNM, ACME, AMCB DOME (Directors of Midwifery Education), ACNM Government Affairs Committee, CNM BON rep and CM rep

• Meet regularly by phone to keep apprised of LACE issues

• Developing a white paper addressing how Consensus Model can be positive for midwifery profession