



# Commonwealth Midwives Alliance

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February 21, 2008

William L. Harp, MD  
Executive Director  
Virginia Board of Medicine  
[Perimeter Center](#)  
[9960 Mayland Drive, Suite 300](#)  
[Richmond, Virginia 23233](#)

**Subject: Letters Concerning Midwifery and Recommendation from the Advisory Board on Midwifery**

Dear Dr. Harp:

In reference to the above agenda item, the Commonwealth Midwives Alliance (CMA,) would like to submit the following comments:

**CMA supports the recommendation of the Advisory Board on Midwifery to take no action regarding these letters. It is clear that the authors of the letters were misinformed about the specifics of existing regulations that affect the scope of practice of Certified Professional Midwives who are licensed in the Commonwealth to practice midwifery.**

We would also like to take this opportunity to inform the Board of important work that our organization is pursuing toward the goal of improving communication among the stakeholder groups involved in providing services to women who seek out of hospital birth with CPMs. In the Spring of 2007, CMA convened a meeting of representative members of health care providers and program facilitators with a focus on maternal and child health. This group included the VA Obstetrical Society, VA Pediatric Association, VA EMS, and VA Dept of Health-Maternal and Child Services.

An important dialogue was begun at this meeting regarding the need for good communication and respectful problem solving for issues that any group identified as "priority areas of concern". It was agreed that this group would meet again in the Spring of 2008 for more dialogue and review of specific action items that were charged to CMA.

These action items were:

- To follow up with further meetings and information for VA EMS in order to establish guidelines for the rare event of intrapartum emergent transport (1 in 1000 births).
- Compilation of a detailed Resource Guide for VA Licensed CPMs that would extrapolate on the VA BOM Guidance Document regarding VA Statutes with which CPMs must comply.

In January of 2008, CMA made a presentation to the VA EMS Council of Regional Medical Directors. This council voted to create a Joint Committee of VA EMS and CMA to review the statutes and regulations that pertain to both the CPM and EMS, and create guidance materials for local EMS chapters to utilize in the development of transport protocols.

In the Spring of 2008, CMA will convene another group meeting where we will present our draft Resource Guide for VA Midwives. This Guide will be made available to the public and will include resources that will outline all the statutory and regulatory requirements for CPMs in Virginia. It will also include sample Practice Guidelines and Informed Choice Documents that reflect the Evidence-Based Practice that is the hallmark of midwifery care.

We look forward to being an important resource to professional midwives and this Board in the future.

Respectfully,  
Brynne Potter, CPM  
Legislative Coordinator  
Commonwealth Midwives Alliance