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To: David Glaccum (davidglaccum@gov.sc.gov) <davidglaccum@gov.sc.gov>
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Subject: midwives

David,

On midwives, there are two specialties. First, certified nurse-midwives must be nurses with master or graduate degrees. These are regulated by the Board of Nursing (BON) at LLR. A certified nurse-midwife is available as a specialty by statute. SC 40-33-20 provides under definitions:

(19) "Certified Nurse-Midwife" or "CNM" means an advanced practice registered nurse who holds a master's degree in the specialty area and provides nurse-midwifery management of women's health care, focusing particularly on pregnancy, childbirth, postpartum, care of the newborn, family planning, and gynecological needs of women.

There is also (29) "Graduate Registered Nurse-Midwife" or "GRNM" means a new graduate of an advanced organized formal education program for nurse-midwives accredited by the national accrediting organization. A GRNA is required to become certified within one year of graduation or program completion.

The statutes are replete with references regarding Under the Board of Nursing (BON).

DHEC, on the other hand, provides a certification for midwives that are NOT nurses. Unlike LLR where they are regulated by nursing professionals, DHEC is responsible for monitoring the profession and providing the criteria. Here is the link to the DHEC page, and I printed the regs and put in your chair, which you can link to on this page as well.

<http://www.scdhec.gov/Health/FHPF/HealthFacilityRegulationsLicensing/HealthcareFacilityLicensing/FacilitySpecificInfo/Midwives/>

The issue is that DHEC does not have the expertise to decide such criteria. LLR cannot put them under nursing because they are not nurses. The mid-wives are not regulated by doctors either as they have minimal training, no degree in the field. When I was at LLR, we did the research on midwives and the majority of LLR type entities do not license such midwives.

DHEC is uncomfortable regulating this. LLR does not want it as it will not fit with current practice. Marshall wants to explore options. It is confusing, as can be seen in an opinion on it by the BON. See <http://www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Nursing/AdvisoryOp/AO8.pdf>

I hope that is a good framework for the discussion!

Richele

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