

Legislative and Policy Committee

Goals:

- Promote and protect midwifery, perinatal health and health equity in WA state
- Support national efforts to increase access to midwives and the midwifery model of care

Legislative and Policy Committee

Efforts:

- Influence policy change
- For decades, educate our elected officials especially at our annual Midwife Lobby Day
- Communicate the concerns and needs of midwives & families to the Department of Health, the Health Care Authority, the Midwifery Advisory Committee and third party payors



2023 Policy Accomplishments

- Maintained the cap on LM licensing fees for another biennium, preventing an increase in our licensing fees to more than \$3000 per year.
- Raised the Birth Center Facility Fee from Medicaid (Code 59409SU) from \$1743 to **\$2500.**
- Increased Medicaid reimbursement for Home birth supplies (S8415) from \$75 to **\$500.**



These increases will come into effect in January of 2024 (due to the biennial fiscal cycle which begins then).

More Relevant Policy Updates 2023

Language was included in the budget ensuring that Medicaid professional services rates are reimbursed at 100% of the allowable Medicaid rate.

This means that no Washington Apple Health Plan may contract at less than that!



Families Deserve Timely Access to the Quality Care they Need

By: Midwives' Association of Washington State

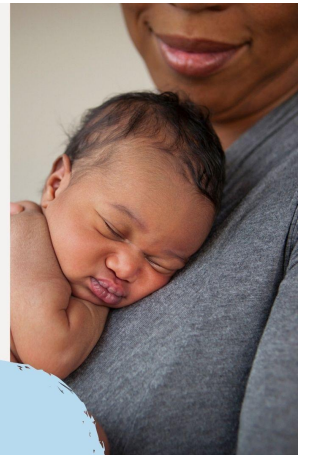


Reduce costs and barriers to care by

Eliminating unnecessary additional visits with another provider

Clients might not attend an additional visit with another provider due to cost or insurance obstacles, time, inconvenience, transportation barriers, or new provider trust issues

Photo Credit: Whitney Hardie Photography



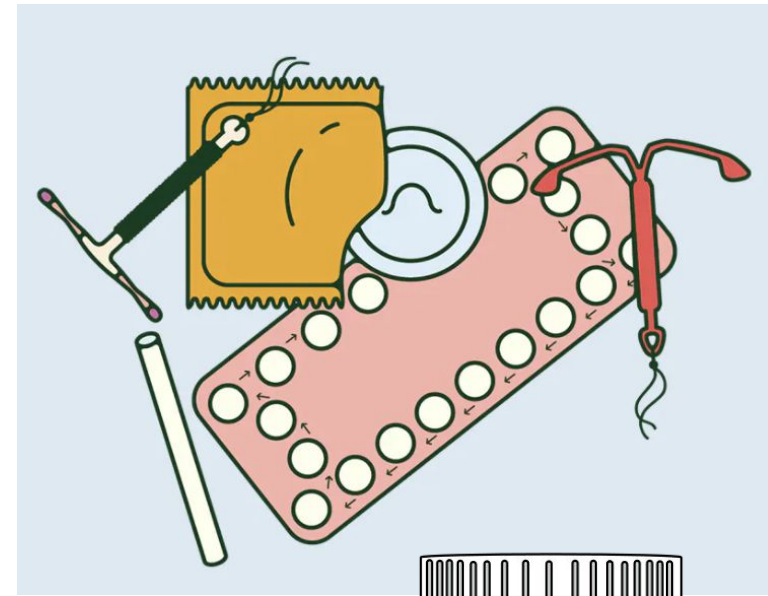
2023 Guideline Update

- Last VBAC guideline update was in 2012
- Team met and completely revamped the recommendations, including risk and benefits, predictors of success, considerations for practice, and suggested policies.
- Complete with 8 pages of information and 4 pages of footnotes for additional resources
- With sufficient interest, we can offer a webinar early next year to review and discuss



2023: Ongoing Work

- Meeting with the HCA to update the midwife billing guide to include new medications, vaccinations, and new codes
- Actively participating in the Rules making process for our LM Scope change (License Extensions for Rx Authority)
 - Just learned that meetings now have to happen with the Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission (Dec) & the Washington Medical Commission (Dec & Jan)
 - Multiple workshop meetings have already happened
 - Draft language is written up
 - Public meetings have to be scheduled (hopefully early in 2024)
 - If no new concerns are raised, then the DOH will approve as written



Currently in the Rules Draft:



- Additional Drug Categories: galactagogues, topical analgesia for anal/vulvar/perineal pain, and
- Preterm labor preventatives, stool softeners, vitamins and minerals for prevention and to treat deficiencies, over-the-counter medications as needed and medications for SAB prevention and completion and smoking cessation and prescription referrals for IV Iron infusions.

2023: Ongoing Work

Actively participating in the Rules making process for our:

- Birth center facility rules changes and updates
 - Workshop meetings are complete
 - Draft language is written up
 - DOH internal committees must review
 - Public meetings have to be scheduled (hopefully early in 2024)
 - If no new concerns are raised, then the DOH will approve as written



More 2023 Policy Accomplishments

Supported the Passage of the following Bills:

SB 5581:

- Developing strategies to reduce or eliminate deductibles for maternal support services & postpartum care
 - Bill signed into law on May 11, 2023, sponsored by Sen. Ron Muzzall

HB 1177/SB5137:

- Creating a missing and murdered indigenous women and people cold case investigations unit
 - Bill signed into law on May 20, 2023, sponsored by Rep. Debra Lekanoff, and requested by Attorney General Bob Ferguson



More 2023 Policy Updates

RE: Bills we Supported

These bills gained traction, but ultimately didn't make it to the finish line:

HB 1541:

- Establishing the nothing about us without us act to increase access and representation in policy-making processes for people with direct lived experience
 - This bill died just before the finish line by not getting brought up for a vote on the Senate floor

SB 5477:

- Implementing the recommendations of the Washington state missing and murdered indigenous women and people task force.
 - This bill died just before the finish line by not getting brought up for a vote on the House floor

SB 5580:

- Update the maternity support services program to address perinatal outcomes and increase equity and healthier birth outcomes
 - After a unanimous vote in the Senate, this bill died in the House



Recent Updates to WAC 246-834-250: Legend Drugs & Devices



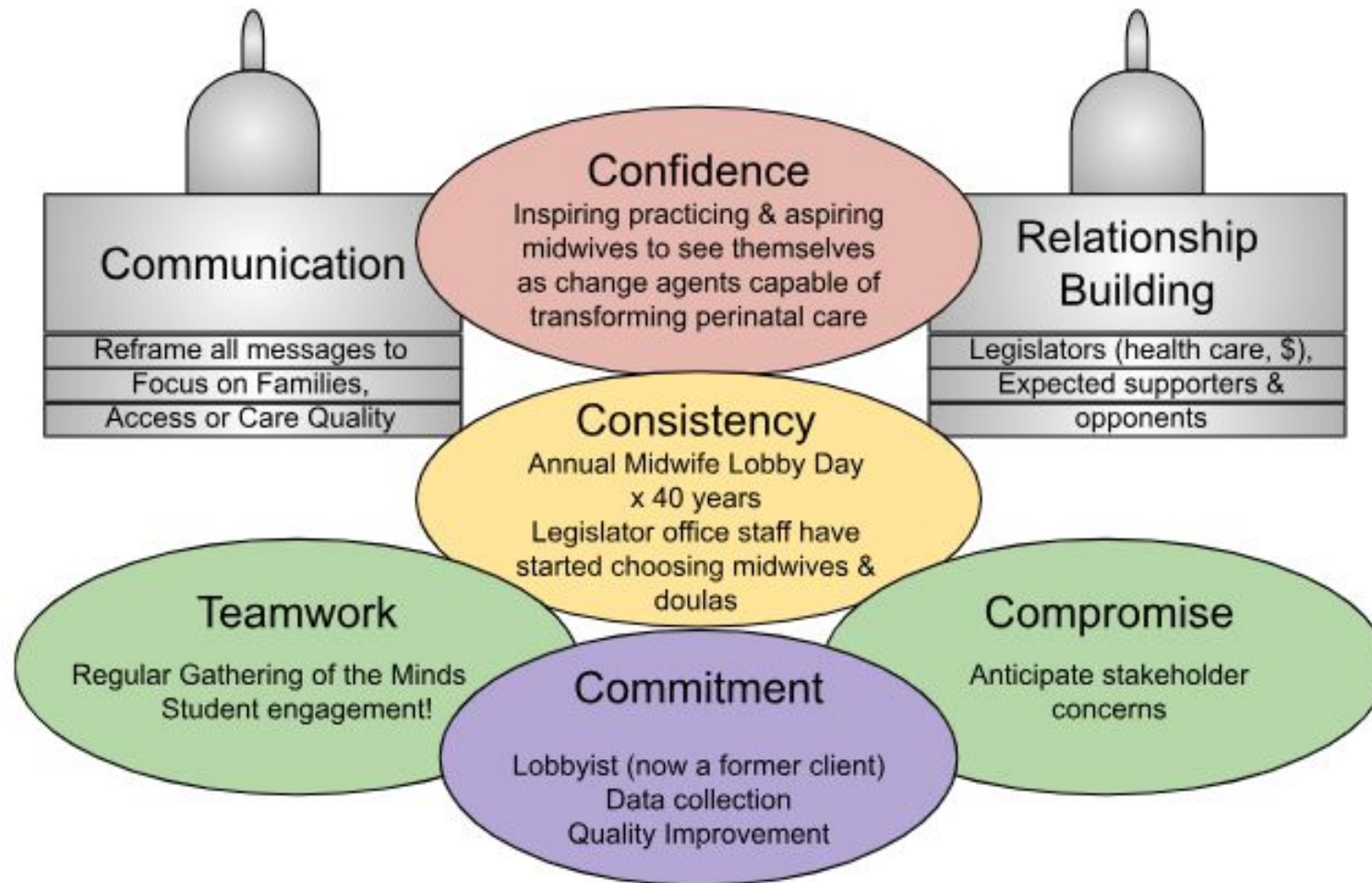
- "A licensed midwife shall have a procedure, policy or guideline for the use of each legend drug and device. A midwife may not administer a legend drug or use a legend device for which they are not qualified by education, training, and experience."
 - (1) A licensed midwife may purchase and use legend drugs and devices as follows:...
 - (c) **Ultrasound machine** used in the real time ultrasound of pregnant uterus for the confirmation of viability, first trimester dating, third trimester presentation, placental location, and amniotic fluid assessment"
- "licensed midwives may obtain and administer the following medications:...**intravenous tranexamic acid**"

Date Changes Adopted: June 10, 2022.

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/wac/default.aspx?cite=246-834-250>



New Publication Coming Soon by WA Birth Workers



Zell, B., Effland, K.,
Hays, K., Snyder, M.,
Gordon, W. (In press).
Prescriptive Authority
for Direct Entry
Midwives in
Washington State:
Increasing Client
Access to
Contraception.
*Journal of Midwifery
& Women's Health.*

V

B

A

C

2023: VBAC Guidelines Update

- Last update was 2012
- VBAC committee reviewed and completely updated recommendations
- Includes:
 - Predictors of VBAC Success/Failure
 - Risk/Benefits of TOLAC/VBAC/Repeat Cesarean
 - Considerations for Practice - shared decision making, evidence based practice, malpractice, distance to nearest hospital, consultation, appropriate testing, and induction
 - Recommendations for Practice - factors in medical history, antepartum care, labor management
- Template for Informed Consent still in progress

V

B

A

C

2023: VBAC Guidelines Update

- Many thanks to the core team who has worked on this (Deborah Gleisner, Cynthia Flynn, Anna Humphreys)
- Plan in place for a webinar update to go over these guidelines in depth in the new year
- Informed Consent template will be available

Looking Ahead: 2024



- Start Educating Elected Officials about Expanding LM scope to include inter-pregnancy and well-person care
- Support for Doula Medicaid Reimbursement Bill
- Support Medicaid Reimbursement for Lactation Education & Support work
- Now that midwives have limited prescriptive authority, there is a heightened need to add midwives as a prescriber in RCW 69.41.030 and a practitioner in RCW 69.41.010

Looking Ahead: The Birth Center Regulations

Birth center regulation changes are in process. We've had over a dozen meetings about specific changes. Currently our contact at the DOH is finalizing a draft of the changes. The next - and FINAL - step is a public meeting.



When that meeting is scheduled, we'll want your support by writing emails or speaking in support of the changes.

If we get enough public support from the public meeting, changes will go into effect very soon after that meeting. If not, we'll have to schedule more meetings to revise the draft rules again.

Looking Ahead: The Birth Center Regulations



The main areas that will be being changed are:

- allowing VBACs in the birth center setting
- streamlining the inspection process to allow CABC inspection to be used in lieu of DOH inspections (but NOT requiring them)
- updating gendered language
- removing language for responsibilities that should be left for midwives rather than the birth center (ie filing birth certificates, providing Rhlg)
- adjusting room size requirements to be more in line with other outpatient facilities
- defining a birth center as “B occupancy,” (a maxi-house), and not like an ambulatory surgery center (a mini-hospital) in terms of the building requirements
- cleaning up confusing language

Looking Ahead: License Extension Options




Three license extension options are in final draft mode and ready for public meetings (hopefully Q1 of 2024, for implementation in Q2 of 2024)

1. Limited prescription authority
will require additional training in pharmacology, family planning and treating low risk conditions as well as documentation of clinical experience or DOH course
2. Contraceptive devices - IUDs
requires additional hands on training and supervised procedures
3. Contraceptive devices - Nexplanon
requires additional hands on training and supervised procedures





Looking Beyond 2024

- Funding for new Birth Centers
 - Improved reimbursement for high quality care
 - Expanded options for VBAC
 - Funding for education & loan repayment
 - Pay equity
 - Expand/preserve/defend scope of practice
 - Revisions to the LM Drug Legend and Devices
 - Midwifery Advisory Committee role
 - Raise awareness about the benefits of midwifery care
 - More employment opportunities for LMs
 - Increased reimbursement
 - And more...
- 

**Olympia
WA**

**SAVE
the
DATE**



Thursday, Feb 15th, 2024!

Midwife Lobby Day

www.washingtonmidwives.org/lobbyday

So Much Thanks to the Team!



Co-Chairs:

- Kristin Effland & Siri Larson Iverson

Awesome Legislative & Health Policy Team:

- Cynthia Flynn
- Deborah Gleisner
- Anna Humphreys
- Lynette Pettibone
- Sheila Mary

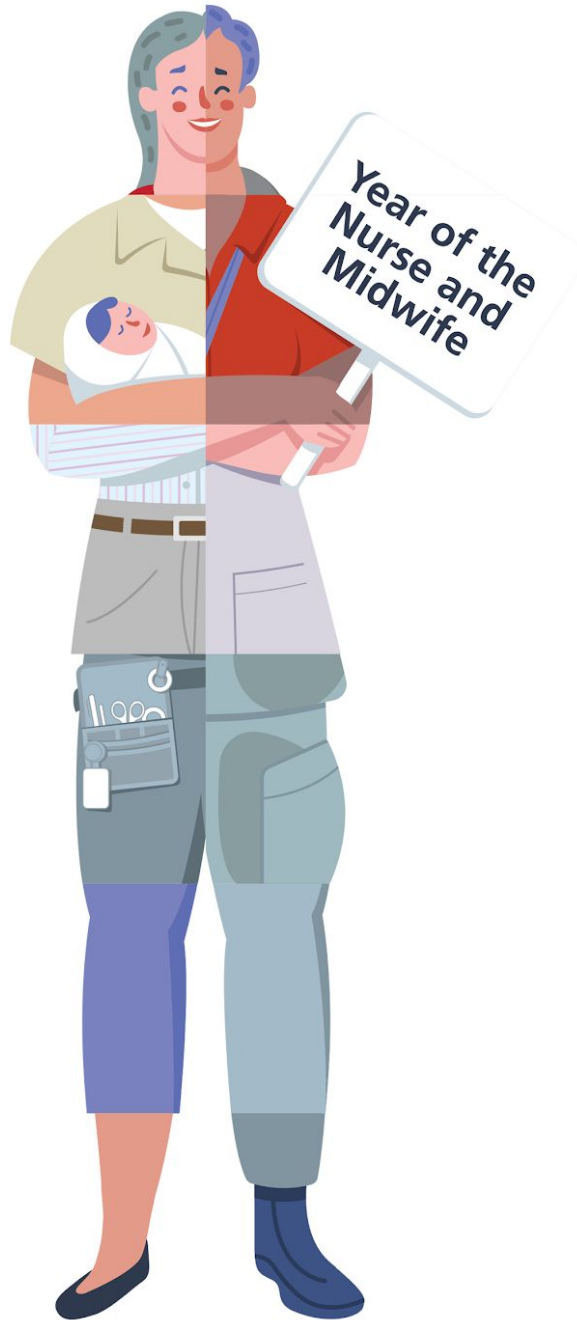
Lobbyist:

- Amber Ulvenes

For more info: kristineffland@gmail.com

The Co- Model: Team Work for the Win!





Calls for Action

- Join us for Annual Midwife Lobby Day
Thursday, Feb 15, 2024
- Be on alert for updates re: federal bills!
- Come Be a Part of Our Team
 - Weekly Thursdays 9am on Zoom!
 - Contact kristineffland@gmail.com

WA LMs are transforming perinatal & postpartum healthcare systems.

Local midwife opens WA's first Black-owned birth center

Nov. 14, 2023 at 6:00 am | Updated Nov. 14, 2023 at 6:00 am



The Seattle Times

Recent Publications by WA Trained Birth Workers!



Insights into Practice and Policy

Could Education Be the Best Galactagogue? Development and Content Validation of Provider and Patient Checklists to Promote Lactation Among Black Parents

**Triniti Gorbunova, MA, CLC¹ , Jennifer Segadelli, JD, MSM¹,
Nancy Anderson, MD, MPH¹, and
Cristina Ciupitu-Plath, MSc, DrPH¹**



Journal of Human Lactation

1–5

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DOI: 10.1177/08903344231172989

journals.sagepub.com/home/jhl



The Birth Bundle Project: A Rainier Valley Midwifery-led Collaborative Care Initiative Offering Patients and Providers a Paradigm Shift to Impact Health Equity

Tara K. Lawal¹, DNP, MS, RN, Jodilyn Owen¹, MA, LM, CPM, Andi Garcia Brown^{1,2}, BA, Kristin J. Effland³, MA, LM, CPM 

More Recent
Publications by
WA Trained
Birth Workers!



<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/share/author/J3AVDV3245QRVTU5TNUE?target=10.1111/jmwh.13571>

Other Recent Publications by WA Birth Workers

Augur, M., Ellis, S. A., & Moon, J. (2022). The Early Care Model for Initiation of Perinatal Care: “I Actually Felt Listened To”. *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, 67(6), 735-739.

Levine, A., Souter, V., & Sakala, C. (2022). Are perinatal quality collaboratives collaborating enough? How including all birth settings can drive needed improvement in the United States maternity care system. *Birth (Berkeley, Calif.)*, 49(1), 3.

Nethery, E., Schummers, L., Levine, A., Caughey, A. B., Souter, V., & Gordon, W. (2021). Birth outcomes for planned home and licensed freestanding birth center births in Washington state. *Obstetrics and gynecology*, 138(5), 693.

More Research Published this Fall by WA-Trained Birth Workers



Sep 27, 2023

Black, Hispanic and poor children are more exposed to pollution that ends up harming their brains: Study

Researchers point to environmental injustice.



**Tanya
Khemet
Taiwo**

CPM, MPH, PHD

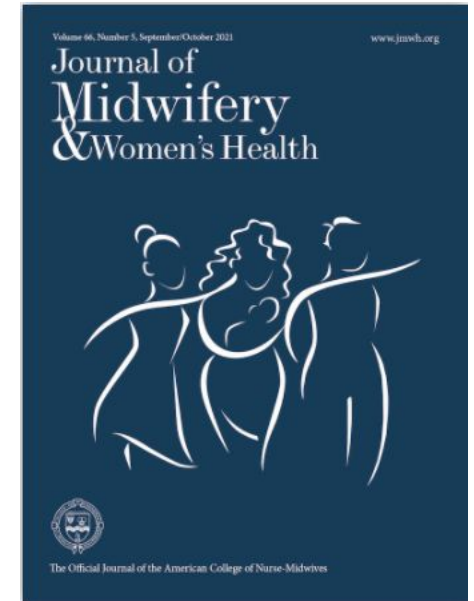
“...it’s just as important that we find a way to improve the unjust systems and social policies that create harmful conditions in the first place.”

More Recent Publications by WA Birth Workers

Increasing Access to Medications and Devices for the Care of Low-Risk Childbearing Families: An Analysis of Existing Law and Strategies for Advocacy

Kristin J. Effland CPM, LM, MA✉, Karen Hays CNM, DNP, ARNP, Britney A. Zell MSM, Tara K. Lawal MS, RN, Rhonda L. Grantham, Megan Koontz CPM, MM

First published: 26 August 2021 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/jmwh.13275>



Birth

Medication Access & Midwifery Integration: An Example of Community Midwifery Advocacy for Access in Washington State, USA

Open Access <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/birt.12523>

Published Dec 14, 2020