



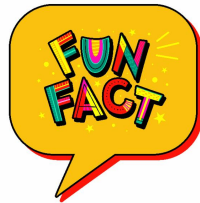
Volume 9, Issue 3: March 2024



Commissioner Spotlight:

Kara Peterson, MSN, FNP, CNM

Chair, Indicators & Research Committee



I play in a rock & roll band called **9 Volt**



Why do you think that CABC-accreditation is important to birth centers and alongside midwifery units?

When a birth center or alongside midwifery unit goes to the expense and effort to achieve CABC-accreditation, it shows that they are seeking excellence. This enhances trust in their community and provides a solid framework for their program.

What expertise, experience and philosophy do you bring to the CABC board?

I have been a nurse for 25 years, a midwife for 15 years and a family nurse practitioner for 9 months. I had almost 20 years of experience in a birth center setting as a nurse and midwife, and I currently provide primary and gynecologic care in a practice that serves individuals with severe mental illness, substance use disorder, and homelessness. I also moonlight at a local hospital as a laborist and triage provider.

I bring my strong support for the birth center care model and believe that it provides family centered, evidence based care to improve health outcomes for pregnant people, families, and babies. I love research and writing and I love bringing that to CABC.

What is your vision for CABC in 5-10 years?

Continued growth, with more diverse

What piqued your interest in a position as a CABC Commissioner?

I spent many years working on protocols in a CABC-accredited birth center, and loved the idea of working with CABC to ensure that birth centers are meeting standards of excellence.

representation. I want CABC to continue its important work of ensuring that birth centers and alongside midwifery units provide safe, satisfying, and evidence-based care.

Advocating for Community Birth Providers with the NRP Steering Committee

By now, many of you have seen ACNM's call for applications from midwives who are NRP instructors to serve as a representative to the NRP Steering Committee. AABC and CABC played a pivotal role in getting to this moment.

In the fall of 2022, AABC and CABC joined the leadership of NARM (North American Registry of Midwives) to compose a letter to the Neonatal Resuscitation Program Steering Committee.

In that letter we addressed several challenges in the implementation of the Neonatal Resuscitation Program in the community birth setting:

- Access to Instructor Led training (as exacerbated during the pandemic)
- The need for relevant training and tools for Community Birth providers
- Gaps in training and communication between Community Birth providers, Emergency Management Systems (EMS), and critical access hospitals

We recommended several priorities, including

- Inclusion of a community based midwife on the NRP steering committee
- A change in policy that new instructor candidates must be from a hospital setting
- Increased scientific attention to the needs of learners in settings besides tertiary care hospitals

The letter was circulated to agencies who were stakeholders in community birth work. It was endorsed by NACPM, [Birth Center Equity](#), ACNM and the [Elephant Circle](#). It was sent to the [NRP Steering Committee in November 2022](#).

In January 2024 we received a response from the NRP steering committee. Their letter acknowledged the need for a midwife representative to the steering committee and said the Committee would seek a nomination from ACNM. It also announced a policy change, noting that an "accredited birth center" would be recognized as a setting from which clinicians can apply for instructor candidacy, and that the "CNM/CM" credential would be added to the list of qualified clinicians who may become instructors. All three of these changes signify enormous steps in a positive direction toward integration of care and the inclusion of midwifery in NRP policy.

However, NRP's response excluded the important role of Certified Professional Midwives and failed to acknowledge that their organizations, NACPM & NARM are involved in midwifery policy and education in the United States.

We have sent a [response to NRP](#) to thank them for these important changes, but also to affirm that CPMs (and their organizations) safeguard newborns and provide neonatal resuscitation. We emphasized that CPMs work in, lead, and own CABC-accredited birth centers. NACPM, ACNM and Elephant Circle have again endorsed our response.

Our gratitude is expressed to all of these groups for their advocacy and commitment to midwives and the families we serve, and to AABC and CABC for their leadership with the NRP Steering Committee.

Julie Moon, MS, CNM and Olga Ryan, RN, MS-NL - [Midwives Untethered](#)

Achievement Spotlight

January-February 2024

Congratulations on Your Re-Accreditation!

Center for Birth - Seattle, WA

Andaluz Waterbirth Center - Portland, OR

Congratulations on Your First Accreditation!

My Family Birth Center - Layton, UT

Canyon Midwifery - Peoria, AZ

Now In-Process

Oasis Family Birth Center - Birmingham, AL

Is there someone at your CABC-Accredited or In-Process Freestanding Birth Center or Alongside Midwifery Unit who would like to receive the newsletter?

Contact Michele at Admin@BirthCenterAccreditation.org

Not one of the above?

Everyone can learn about CABC accreditation and activities on the [CABC website](#) or by following us on [Facebook](#).

Commission for the Accreditation of Birth Centers



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