

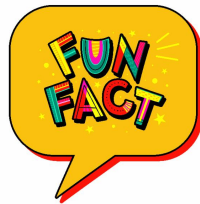


Volume 9, Issue 5: May 2024

Commissioner Spotlight:

Maria Petrie, MHIT, BSN, RN

CABC Chair



One of my greatest passions in life is travel. I vacation as often and as far as I can, but I am also fortunate that I travel nearly every week for work and recently began supporting more international travel.

One of the most unique trips I took for work was when I supported a government program sponsored by the National Science Foundation that took me to Utqiagvik (also known as Barrow, Alaska), a small community inside the Arctic Circle and one of the northernmost points in the world!

I visit different U.S. cities every week and would love to add a trip to a birth center to my itinerary whenever possible. Please let me know if you would welcome a non-official visit from a CABC guest! I'd be delighted to meet you and see your space!

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

I believe firmly that accreditation provides valuable education to birth centers and a promise of high-quality, safe, and evidence-based care to birth families. Despite progress over recent years, midwives and birth centers are still largely operating outside traditional medical systems in their respective communities. State regulations or hospital expectations don't always make sense for the birth center model. Having a dedicated accrediting body designed exclusively for the support and quality of birth centers gives practitioners and families a national standard to lean on so that the entirely industry can grow safely, together.

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

I have been supporting birth families for 12 years as a doula, childbirth educator, nurse, and now as a CABC board member. My full-time employment is no longer in nursing. I am a sales executive at a large consulting firm specializing in cybersecurity programs for healthcare entities. My birth center experience as a volunteer, doula, and nurse are the most important for my CABC work, but the experience from my corporate role is also tremendously helpful in leading the board in pursuit of our financial and strategic goals. My philosophy is anchored in respect for birth as a normal life event over which I believe families should have



as much choice and influence as possible. I also believe that midwifery-led care is the gold standard and should be the norm for most families. I hope that CABC continues to grow until there are accredited birth centers easily accessible nationwide for as many families who would like to use them!

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

I take this question seriously as the Chair of the Board - after all, CABC's strategic direction is my responsibility! My goal for CABC is that we continue to grow the number of accredited birth centers by about 10% or more each year. I envision our Indicators for Compliance and AABC's Standards for Birth Centers as widely accepted national standards referenced by state regulatory bodies and insurance companies, aiding in the overall sustainability of the birth center model of care. I look forward to a growing, diverse membership of accredited birth centers and board members that reflects the diversity of our community and that of birthing families. And it is my hope that with each passing year we hear more and more from birth centers about the value of the accreditation process and accreditation status.

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

I was invited to apply by a current board member. As a newly minted nurse already passionate about birth centers from my years of doula work, I was thrilled at the prospect of learning from those leading CABC and felt honored to be invited! I first served as a volunteer panelist, later the Chair of the Board Education and Development Committee, and most recently as Chair of the Board of Commissioners – the most challenging and yet my favorite role to date!

Announcement!
NRP Instructor criteria has been expanded to include Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives who work in accredited birth centers or hospitals.

Neonatal Resuscitation Program®

Update on the NRP Steering Committee

Recent communication from the NRP Steering Committee shows they are listening! They have announced:

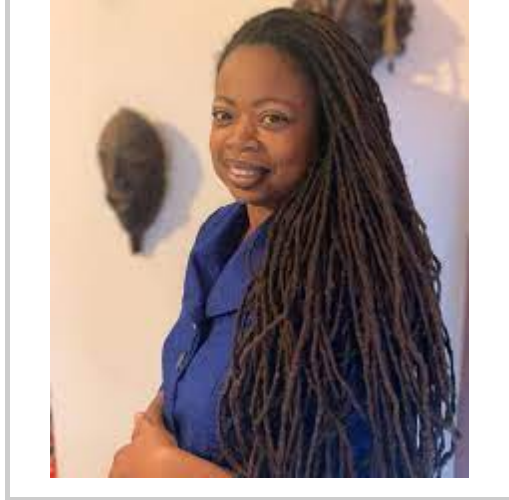
- Appointment of Dr. Pandora Hardtman as the first ACNM liaison (and first midwife) to the NRP Steering Committee
- Expansion of the NRP Instructor criteria to include Certified Midwives and Certified Nurse Midwives who work in accredited birth centers.

Pandora Hardtman, DNP, CNM, FACNM, FAAN

Dr. Hardtman is Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer at jhpiego.

She has midwifery experience as both a clinician and consultant for midwifery capacity building in diverse health care settings around the globe, specializing in midwifery and maternal and child health services in low-resource, conflict and fragile settings.

Born and raised in the Caribbean, she represents the



Achievement Spotlight

April-May 2024

Congratulations on Your Re-Accreditation!

Twin Cities Birth Center - St. Paul, MN

Anchorage Birth Center - Anchorage, AK

Perkin Alternative Birthing Center - New Orleans, LA

Congratulations on Your First Accreditation!

The Bridge Birth Center - Vancouver, WA

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](#).