

Bylaws for Border Area Midwives (BAM)

A collective organization of midwives and community members on the US/Mexico border, encompassing southern New Mexico, west Texas and northern Chihuahua.

We are working to support childbearing people and families in making informed and respected choices around pregnancy, birth, and parenting.

MISSION

- Ensuring everyone knows their options and rights when having a baby, in any setting and with any provider.
- Supporting people and families in accessing their options and choosing the place and provider that feel safest and most comfortable for them.
- Giving options for people in families by creating a vital supportive midwifery community across national and international lines.
- Providing continued education and professional support to local midwives for safe and sustainable practices.
- Our members include: independent and group practice midwives, homebirth and birth center midwives. Long time student midwives, and new student midwives and other members of the community who believe that midwifery care makes birth and families safer and stronger.

MEMBERS

1. Members

- A. All midwives, however, they define themselves.
- B. Midwifery students
- C. Community supporters interested in the mission of the collaborative

- D. Annual membership will be determined at each annual meeting.
- E. Payment is due at the annual meeting in August, which is the beginning of the fiscal year.
- F. General meeting of the collaborative are done quarterly.
- G. Location of the meetings will vary and rotate between states.
- H. Annual meetings will be held at the beginning of the fiscal year, in August.
- I. Notice of all meetings will be given in the minutes of the previous meeting.
- J. A quorum for conducting business of a regular meeting will consist of those present.
- K. Meetings will be called for special events as needed by committees or by members.

COORDINATING COUNCIL

1. Coordinating Council Positions

- a. Co-chairs
- b. Scribe and Treasurer
- c. Committee Chair
- d. Education Chair
 - i. The education committee will be ongoing.
 - ii. The education committee may have co-chairs, who act as a part of the coordinating council, they must be elected each year at the annual meeting.
 - iii. The committee will have the following goals:
 - 1. Organize opportunities for education for the members and the community.
 - 2. Provide continuing education credits.
 - 3. Report its activities to the members of the collaborative.
 - 4. Coordinate peer review for members.

2. Committees

a. Special Committees

- i. Committees will be called for conferences, political issues, special events, and other issues deemed necessary by members.

MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. All Members

- a. Commit to upholding and exemplifying the mission of Border Area Midwives.
- b. Work within the collaborative with the spirit of motivation.
- c. Assist with projects, events and goals of the collaborative.
- d. Recognize and share opportunities to support the mission of the collaborative
- e. Make a concerted effort to participate and/or follow up with BAM meetings and activities. When unable to participate, make the effort to stay connected to the communication network of the collaborative.
- f. Make oneself in the collaborative aware of the activities and events that involve community and support for the mission of the organization.
- g. Utilize skills and talents that assist in supporting other members in their endeavors.
- h. Address concerning issues to individuals, the coordinating council and the group as appropriate.

2. Co-Chair

- a. Responsibility to the members
- b. Coordinate business of the collaborative.
- c. Facilitate magazines of the coordinating council and its membership.

- d. Create an agenda for all meetings.
- e. Call quarterly meetings for the collaborative, convene any additional meetings as deemed necessary by the membership.
- f. Review current issues facing the collaborative, midwifery, and bring to the collaborative those issues deemed important to act on.
- g. Facilitate establishing committees as necessary for special events, based on importance in relevant issues at hand.
- h. Make interim appointments for coordinating councils as necessary.
- i. Seek nominations for the coordinating council for elections at the annual meeting.
- j. Responsible, with the scribe, for correspondence for the collaborative.
- k. Assure continuity if unavailable to attend meeting, follow up with another coordinating council member to facilitate meetings and share any important information with the members.

3. Scribe/Treasurer

- a. Record the minutes of coordinating council and member meetings.
- b. Keep achieved minutes of meetings and then distribute minutes.
- c. Coordinate the funds of the collaborative.
- d. Report yearly finances to the members.
- e. Maintain a bank account.
- f. Handle the correspondence of the collaborative
- g. Maintain a current list of all members.
- h. Keep an archived list of past members.
- i. Maintain an operating budget and any special events budget as they arise.
- j. Discuss with members about any donations
- k. Summarize current status in outstanding unpaid obligations in the sum of those bills for which the collaborative is responsible when leaving positions on the coordinating council.
- l. Sign all contracts for the organization with the co-chair.

ELECTION AND REPLACEMENT OF COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

1. Elections

a. Term

- i. Term is two years, from annual meeting held closest to August 1st ending one month after elections of new council members to assume smooth transition.

2. Nominations

- a. Any member can nominate themselves or another member one prior to the annual meeting, all nominations will be given to co-chair.
- b. Co-chair will make a list of nominations available to the members at least two weeks prior annual meeting.
- c. Elections are done every two years at the annual meeting closest to August 1st.
- d. All members are eligible to vote.
- e. Those members who cannot come to the annual meeting can vote by correspondence votes must be received by the co-chair two days before the annual meeting.
- f. Coordinating council members are chosen by a simple majority of those present in those absentee votes received.

3. Replacement of Coordinating Council Members

- a. If a collaborative member has a serious issue about the performance of a council member, it is their responsibility to address that issue with the council. If unable to resolve this issue it should next be brought to the members for discussion of a replacement period.
- b. If unable to replace member, the other positions on the council may pick up that members responsibility until the election at the next annual meeting.
- c. Replacement of a council position is done by consensus vote of the members present at the meeting, and will be initiated if a council member misses two meetings without being excused by the council.

ISSUES OF CONCERN

1. Any collaborative member with an issue of concern should first address that issue with the person involved. If unable to resolve the issue, it should then be brought to the attention of the coordinating council and the members.
2. Complaint may be made by another member of the collaborative in a written statement sent to the coordinating council.
3. A special meeting of the collaborative will be called to address the issue with all participants present.
4. Action on the issue will be determined by the members through the consensus model.

AMENDMENTS

This organizational structure may be amended at any general meeting of the members. Notice of the proposed change will be accompanied the call to meeting. Amendments are made through consensus vote of the membership present.

DISILLUSION

In the event of dissolution of the Border Area Midwives, remaining assets after the satisfaction of all applications shall be given to the community based on consensus agreement of the collaborative.