

Division of Accreditation

The Division of Accreditation (DOA) is the official accrediting body of ACNM that plans, implements and evaluates the accreditation process of nurse-midwifery and midwifery education programs in order to ensure and enhance their quality and encourage their continuous improvement. The Division consists of the following units: the Governing Board, Advisory Committee, Site Visitors Panel and the Board of Review.

The Advisory Committee met in February 1999 adhering to an annual meeting schedule. In June Helen Varney Burst, chair of the Division, concluded eight years of service.

The DOA Governing Board met three times during the fiscal year. Major accomplishments included two orientation sessions for Education Program Directors and Site Visitors to the *1998 Criteria for Accreditation and Preaccreditation of education programs in Nurse-Midwifery and Midwifery with Guidelines for Elaboration and Documentation of Accreditation Criteria*. The DOA Standing Rules of Procedure were reviewed and updated. Additionally, a major revision of the *DOA Policies and Procedures Manual for the Preaccreditation and Accreditation of Education Programs in Nurse-Midwifery and Midwifery* began during this period.

The Governing Board continued its participation in the Alliance for Nursing Accreditation and its task force on a joint self-study. The following Governing Board members have served as representatives: Helen Varney Burst, Diane Boyer, Betty W. Carrington and Laraine Givette. The Governing Board also selected Betty W. Carrington to serve as the chair of the DOA at the close of the 1999 Annual Meeting.

Forsite, the semi-annual newsletter for site visitors was published by Teresa Marsico, the coordinator of the Site Visitors Panel. Under her leadership, the document entitled, *Site Visitor Panel Operational Guidelines* was revised and approved June 1999.

The DOA Board of Review (BOR) met in January and June 1999. As of August 1999, there were 47 accredited nurse-midwifery and midwifery education programs. Forty-six of the programs were accredited as nurse-midwifery programs, one was accredited as a midwifery program and none were pre-certification programs. Of the 47 programs, seven held preaccreditation status.

The DOA acknowledges the efforts of outgoing members Nancy Clark, Joyce Foster, Teresa C. Gesse, Lily Hsia, Teresa Marchese, Elaine Germano, and Kathy Patterson.