

ACNM DOA Annual Report 2004

Division of Accreditation

The Division of Accreditation (DOA) continued to fulfill its mission to foster excellence in midwifery education through its accreditation activities, which assure the public, students, administration, and faculty that the highest possible standards of education are maintained.

During the past year, the Standing Rules of Procedure were revised, criteria were written for institutional accreditation, and a process has begun to update "The Skills, Knowledge, Competencies and Health Sciences Prerequisite to Midwifery Practice" document.

The DOA held workshops to orient program directors, site visitors, and other interested parties to the DOA and to the new Criteria for Programmatic Accreditation and Pre-accreditation documents. The criteria were revised with the goal of streamlining the accreditation process, while maintaining high accreditation standards.

Three DOA Governing Board members presented a paper about the structure and function of the DOA at the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) 'Midwifery in the Americas' conference in Trinidad in April 2004. Deanne Williams reported to the DOA on the Toronto meeting between ICM and International Council of Nurses about regulation issues, where Canadian midwives expressed interest in exploring possible reciprocal recognition processes between the US and Canada. The DOA would like to be proactive in this area, and DOA members have attended national workshops on the emerging international role of accreditation and quality assurance.

The DOA continued its involvement with other accreditation organizations by participating in meetings and conferences with the Alliance for Nursing Accreditation, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and attending the first meeting of the APRN Consensus Conference. The DOA continues to collaborate with nursing organizations to facilitate the accreditation process for midwifery programs located in schools of nursing, while maintaining the integrity of our separate accreditation process.

The DOA conducted its first institutional site visit in October, 2004. Doing such visits is a prerequisite to applying to the US Department of Education for recognition as an institutional accreditor.

Seven accreditation and pre-accreditation site visits were conducted, the Board of Review made accreditation decisions about 12 programs, and 2 programs closed. There were a total of 43 accredited education programs at the end of 2004.

The DOA wishes to thank its excellent staff, all of its dedicated volunteers, and especially wants to acknowledge the excellent leadership that has been provided by Betty Carrington. We also thank Teresa Marsico and Laraine Guyette for their tireless work as Coordinators of the Site Visitors Panel, and to everyone who has made a donation to the DOA through the A.C.N.M. Foundation, Inc.