



2013 Student Report

Summary by Lillian Funke, SNM, Student Representative to the ACNM Board of Directors and Elaine Germano, CNM, DrPH, FACNM, ACNM Senior Education Policy Advisor

At the 2013 Annual Meeting, over 400 students were in attendance. The Student Issues Section of the DOE, with student liaisons from almost every midwifery program, met all year in preparation for the student report through online collaboration, conference calls, webinars and finally a series of meetings at the ACNM annual meeting. What follows are recommendations made to the board/membership based on that work.

First, the student liaisons would like to express sincere gratitude to the ACNM for creating a space for our voices to be heard. The opportunity to attend the annual meeting at a student rate allows us to network with professionals who share common interests. We also want to thank the dedicated faculty, preceptors and fellow students for all of their indispensable wisdom and support.

Based on the 2012 student report and input from current students throughout the year, topics were identified and four work groups were created within the SIS:

- Best practices in midwifery education
- Transition to practice
- Preceptor issues
- Certified midwives

Best practices in midwifery education

Students from all programs graduate with varying comfort with different competencies. We celebrate the diversity and strengths of different programs, but recognize that every program has areas for growth. We believe that collegial sharing of information, resources, and ideas among programs can promote consistent quality. We respectfully recommend that ACNM and DOME:

- Enhance collaboration among midwifery educators
- Prepare new graduates for inter-professional practice through increased inter-professional education
- Integrate new technology, including high-quality internet resources, webinars, and simulation

Transition to Practice

New graduates are often not being considered for job openings. There is a limited availability of residency programs, and existing programs are limited to out-of-hospital settings. Additionally, many students have difficulty navigating the state licensure process.

This issue has been addressed in recent years: The ACNM Residency Task Force was established in 2012, and is currently exploring the issue. Midwifejobs.com is a valuable resource for midwifery students, who find it to be accessible, current, and widely used. Education sessions focusing on new grads have been added to the Annual Meeting program. Finally, students greatly appreciate those practices that are willing to hire new grads and provide valuable mentorship.

Student recommendations:

- Provide an outline of the certification process in the ACNM student webpage.
- Include students in ACNM's strategic planning to facilitate hospital credentialing.
- Begin student prep for certification and hospital privileging early in educational programs.
- Implement more annual meeting workshops or webinars for students.
- Help students create a "road map" from graduation to certification to beginning a job.

Preceptor issues

Lack of availability of preceptors limits the number of student positions available and contributes to stagnant growth in the profession. Access to preceptors and facilities may be limited, professional liability requirements may limit where students can practice, and many students find that they are competing with medical residents for training spots in hospital birth settings.

What has been done so far? The DOE has developed a handbook for preceptors, there are preceptor workshops at the annual meeting, including an exhibit booth with resources for current preceptors, preceptors are recognized at the awards dinner, and funding continues to be addressed through legislative channels.

Student recommendations:

- Develop and implement a "push for preceptors" using multiple outreach channels.
- Create a link on the ACNM website that would match potential preceptors to potential students – this might follow a model like online dating!
- Add interested midwives to the preceptor database.
- Consider ACNM incentives for preceptors, such as membership and conference fee discounts, encourage programs to grant access to university libraries, and increase awareness of CE credit from AMCB for preceptors.

Certified Midwives

All of the issues above are shared by students pursuing the certified midwife track. Additionally, SMs expressed concern that there are fewer opportunities for both education and training and that CMs face additional burdens, including limited third party reimbursement, exclusion from the

Medicare Equality Provision of the ACA, inability to qualify for loan repayment through HRSA, restricted access to prescriptive authority, and a lack of understanding of the CM credential among ACNM members and potential preceptors.

What has been done so far? We applaud the recognition of the CM credential in Missouri and Delaware. ACNM continues to challenge provider bias by raising awareness of our identical standards of education and practice. There is research on equal academic outcomes of direct entry vs. nursing-prepared midwives, and some programs are addressing inclusion of SM intensive health skills sessions to address a perceived initial lack of comfort in the clinical setting.

Student Recommendations:

- Involve input from students and recent graduates in discussions regarding inclusion of CMs in the Medicare Equity provision and plans toward inclusion of CM students in the HRSA loan repayment program.
- Highlight the CM pathway when addressing preceptor issues and provide materials for preceptors and site staff about the CM pathway.
- ACNM's state affiliates consider opportunities for both SMs and SNMs to participate in the advancement of the CM credential.