

**Greater Houston Midwives' Alliance**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 11, 2017**

**I. Call to order**

**Natalie Wommack** called to order the Membership meeting of the **Greater Houston Midwives' Alliance** at 12:00 pm on May 11, 2017, at West Houston Birth Center, 11321 Richmond Ave, Houston, TX 77082.

**II. Sign-In Sheet**

Ashley Musil reminded members to sign the GHMA sign-in sheet. The following persons were present:

<i>Ashley Musil</i>	<i>Stephanie Palacio</i>	<i>Rowan Twosisters</i>
<i>Natalie Wommack</i>	<i>Holly Shearman</i>	<i>Lourdes Resendez</i>
<i>Jaymee Boughton</i>	<i>Kim Lane</i>	<i>Sarah Trost</i>
<i>Carol Schumacher</i>	<i>Afua Hassan</i>	<i>Tanya Rose</i>
<i>Sherry Rumsey</i>	<i>Patti Ghaly</i>	<i>Sophia Ness</i>
<i>Shannon Stelhorn</i>		<i>Ashley Larsen</i>
<i>Melissa Bates</i>		
<i>Paula Davis</i>	<b>Students:</b>	
<i>Camellia May</i>	<i>Debbie Hull</i>	

**III. Approval of minutes from last meeting**

Ashley Musil read the March 2017 meeting minutes aloud. Paula motioned to approve the minutes. Camellia seconded the motion with unanimous approval by members.

**IV. Business Meeting**

- A. ATM Report:** Paula gave the ATM Report. The senate bill to decriminalize erythromycin ointment went up for vote on Tuesday. The senator that sponsored the bill is not very well liked, so it did not pass. We are still hoping the house bill will go through. She reported that the conference was great, but small this year. The 2018 Conference will be in Dallas. ATM has an open position on the board for Treasurer. Our area has election next year.
- B. Financial Report:** Melissa gave the GHMA financial report. Financial categories included the Birth Fair (\$4 over budget), Conferences (new category - \$150.17 for GHMA basket donation), Website (on budget), Advertising (\$620.88 under budget), Speakers (\$170 under budget), and Incidentals (\$33.05 under budget). We were \$669.76 under budget for the year. This will change next year as Google Adwords only ran half the year last year. We purchased a new domain name this year – houstonmidwives.com. It is set up and pointing to our website. Melissa proposed keeping the budget as is, except for adding “Conferences” category. Natalie suggested monitoring the advertising spending in six months and give report to the members. Kim motioned to keep the budget as is. Paula seconded with unanimous approval by all members present.
- C. Dues Collection:** Melissa is available to accept dues today. She listed the members who have already paid and renewed online prior to this meeting.
- D. GHMA By-Laws:** Natalie opened the discussion on the proposal to change the by-laws regarding voting for executive board members. Only seven members voted since the survey was posted last month, which does not meet a quorum of 2/3. Sherry asked for the reason the change is proposed. Natalie explained that the positions have been fluid in the past anyway and this may simplify. We do not have a quorum present at the meeting today, and not everyone agrees to the change, so the by-laws will remain as they currently are.
- E. Voting for Officers:** Natalie read the job descriptions for President and Secretary. Thirteen members present voted for Camellia, making her the new President of GHMA. Ashley offered to stay on as Secretary, and the memberships present agreed. The Vice President position became open with Camellia moving to President. Afua and Kim both volunteered to fill the position.

- F. **Birth Survey:** Camellia mentioned “The Birth Survey” at [birthsurvey.com](http://birthsurvey.com) and asked if any members are encouraging clients to fill out the survey. Ashley and Kim both have had issues with clients not being able to add them as a provider or change their location. Discussed how the survey has been used to create statistics.
- G. **Outreach:** Natalie brought up outreach to other area midwives and creating community relations. She also emphasized that we need each other as support and advocates. We need to create a strong community of midwives and also help educate one another on changes that are happening in the laws. Camellia said our group is open to all midwives, regardless of credentials. Rowan suggested we should all reach out to all the midwives we know that don't attend meetings. Jackie proposed having a social gathering open to other birth professionals then inviting them to join the group. Patti requested creating a way to digitally attend meetings, and the membership discussed what options and limitations there may be.
- H. **“Breathe” Documentary and Diversity:** Afua attended the recent documentary screening of “Breathe: A Homebirth Documentary” and voiced that our community needs to do a better job of including diversity in the way we present ourselves. She wants us as midwives to be cognoscente of the information we post on social media and what we put up on our walls. Patti spoke up about “white Christian” midwives going into the hospital setting and not knowing how we will be treated by the medical community, and used that as an analogy to express that is how she and others feel all the time. She voiced that our job is to make our clients feel respected, loved, and cared for, regardless of their religious beliefs. A lengthy conversation ensued about the diversity in the midwifery community.
- I. **The Gathering:** Paula encouraged all members to attend The Gathering this fall, November 2-5, in Kerrville.
- J. **Review Upcoming Education Topics:** Ashley reviewed the education calendar for the remainder of the year, and asked for suggestions from the group for open months. Brief discussion of the Midwife Matrix, which will be addressed further next month.
- K. **EBB Classes:** Ashley announced her next Evidence Based Birth Seminar next month on June 8: Due Dates and Advanced Maternal Age.
- L. Education Topic Today: No education topic today, Annual Business Meeting
- V. Next Meeting is June 8, 2017: Educational topic: Midwifery Advisory Board Q&A

Meeting minutes submitted by Ashley Musil, Secretary