

AMERICAN MIDWIFERY CERTIFICATION BOARD
2009 Annual Report

The mission of the American Midwifery Certification Board (AMCB) is to protect and serve the public by establishing and maintaining the certification standard for individuals educated in the profession of midwifery. AMCB fulfills its mission through three primary activities: a national examination for initial certification as a nurse-midwife (CNM) or midwife (CM), a re-certification program for CNMs or CMs to assist certificants to fulfill their professional responsibilities to maintain competence, and through professional discipline. In 2006, AMCB was reaccredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies for another 5 years.

In January, 2009, AMCB convened its first Strategic Planning Retreat, attended by the AMCB Board of Directors and staff, representation from AMCB Committees, and representation from ACNM and ACME. The goals that were generated from this meeting included providing maintenance of certification for ALL CNMs and CMs, restructuring the certificate maintenance process, ensuring that the AMCB is using optimal technology to facilitate the work of the organization, continuing to collaborate with other health care organizations, assuring a fiscal stability, and maximizing staff and volunteer satisfaction.

The most important change agreed upon by consensus was that AMCB would require maintenance of certification with accompanying time-limited certification for every CNM and CM, including those who were certified prior to the implementation of the current Certificate Maintenance Program in 1996. This requirement will be effective January 1, 2011. The participants at the Strategic Planning Retreat agreed this change was necessary to have an objective process to document currency of CNMs and CMs. AMCB announced this policy change at the American College of Nurse-Midwives Annual Meeting in May, 2009. The staff and volunteers have been working diligently to inform all CNMs of this change. Another change to the CMP Program was to change the Cycle from 8 to 5 years.

The sixth 8-year cycle of the Certificate Maintenance Program (CMP) was completed in December 2009 for midwives initially certified in 2001. There were a total of 427 CNMs/CMs up for recertification, of whom 93.4% recertified. Of the certificants who did recertify, 6 took the exam as a means of re-certification. Over the six year history the rate of recertification has been consistent, ranging from 92.1 to 93.7%. With the implementation of a new database, AMCB will be able to begin collecting data regarding the reasons that a CNM/CM does not recertify, such as retirement, never actually practicing, disability, etc.

The national certification exam (NCE) has now been administered via computer-based testing (CBT) for 5 years. In collaboration with AMCB's testing partner, Applied Measurement Professionals (AMP), the NCE continues to be available 52 weeks of the year, 5 days each week (except for federal holidays), at more than 150 sites serving all 50 states of the U.S. Candidates for certification are able to take the examination at their convenience at any of AMP's testing sites as soon as their application is approved. Effective July, 2007 the candidates began receiving official pass/fail results at the conclusion of their examination. AMCB issues wallet-sized certification cards in addition to certificates for ease in documenting current certification.

Once again, the number of newly certified CNMs and CMs increased over the previous year. The overall pass rate on the NCE for first-time candidates in 2009 was 84.5%, which is consistent with previous years.

Table 1. Annual Number of New CNM and CM Certificants since 2000.

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Year	First Time Candidates	Total New CNM/CM	New CNM	New CM	Annual % Increase or (Decrease)
2000		458	451	7	N/A
2001		428	422	6	(5.3%)
2002		402	400	2	(6.0%)
2003		340	335	5	(16.8%)
2004		356	341	15	4.7%
2005	297	299	293	6	(15.8%)
2006	307	295	291	4	(1.3%)
2007	281	287		2	(2.7%)
2008	342	320	318	2	11.5
2009	332	325	323	2	1.6%

The 2009 AMCB Board of Directors was composed of the following individuals:

- Barbara W. Graves, CNM, MN, MPH, FACNM, President
- Patricia Caudle, CNM, DNSc, FNP, Secretary
- Cara Krulewitch, CNM, PhD, FACNM, Treasurer
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- Jane Mashburn, CNM, MN, FACNM, Chairperson, Credentials, Administration & Reporting Committee
- Peggy Mancuso, CNM, PhD, Chairperson, Examination Committee
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- Kathleen A. Fagerlund, RN, CRNA, PhD, Professional Liaison Member
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- Carrie Bright, IOM, CAE, Executive Director, Ex-officio Member
- Tanya Tanner CNM, MS, MBA, ACNM Liaison Ex-officio Member