

NS Department of Health Primary Maternity Care Working Group

Bernice Martin

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Context of Current Work on Midwifery: Earlier Reports

- 1997 the RCP Report *The Potential for Midwifery in Nova Scotia, A Review by the Reproductive Care Program of Nova Scotia*
- 1999 NS DOH Interdisciplinary Working Group on Midwifery Regulation released *Recommendations for the Regulation and Implementation of Midwifery in Nova Scotia*
- Various reasons, changes of government, no action taken on the recommendations.

Context of Current Work on Midwifery: Primary Health Care Renewal

- The Advisory Committee on Primary Health Care Renewal was established in 2001.
- To advise the Department of Health on development of community-based primary health care system.
- Released their report in May 2003.

Vision for Primary Health Care

Working together with individuals, families, communities and all PHC stakeholders to influence the many factors that affect health and to improve the health of all Nova Scotians

Primary Health Care System

Communities will be supported in their efforts to improve health by a primary health care system that is:

- Comprehensive
- Responsive and flexible
- Accessible
- Integrated, collaborative and innovative
- Accountable
- Sustainable

PHC Services and Programs

- Delivered in a collaborative manner
- Provided in ways and at times and locations that are flexible and accessible for individuals and communities
- Established in a way that allows communities with different capacities to meet their needs

PHC Teams

- Providers and contributors work as a team
- Primary health care delivery involves health care providers and other contributors that reflect and are responsive to the needs of the community
- Collaboration among providers are supported by various mechanisms

Models of Delivery

- No single model will meet the needs of all communities
- Communities must work together to develop PHC delivery models that best reflect their assets and meet the needs of their community

Primary Maternity Care

- *Primary Maternity Care is part of comprehensive primary care for and within a community*
- *Based on the philosophy that pregnancy and childbirth are natural processes*
- *The continuum of primary maternity care includes pre- and post-conception, pre-natal and intra- and post-partum*
- *A variety of providers may be involved in delivering support and primary care throughout this continuum*

Providers of Primary Maternity Care

- Collaborative team-based
- Family physicians and midwives participating at their full scope of practice

Primary Maternity Care Working Group

- Formed in June 2004 in response to the recommendations of the ACPHCR

PMCWG Mandate

- provide a framework for primary maternity care collaborative teams that integrate providers from family medicine, public health, hospitals and other providers, including midwives, appropriate to the opportunities and needs of their District Health Authorities
- develop a regulatory framework for the inclusion of midwives in collaborative teams delivering primary maternity care in Nova Scotia

Membership

- Representatives from
 - Association of Nova Scotia Midwives
 - Midwifery Coalition of NS
 - Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health
 - District Health Authorities
 - Doctors NS
 - College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS
 - College of Registered Nurses of NS
 - NS College of Pharmacists
 - NS Reproductive Care Program
 - IWK
 - NS Department of Health
 - Chair Dr. David Gass

Report of the PMCWG

- Expected date of completion is June 2005
- That report will provide recommendations on
 - Legislation for midwives
 - A regulatory body for midwives
 - Midwifery Model of Care
 - Scope of practice
 - Funding for midwives
 - Collaborative practice guiding principles

Next Steps

- Report will go to the Executive Steering Committee for their review
- Senior Leadership within the Department will then analyze the recommendations and respond.

Thank You

Questions/Comments



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