

US-MERA Update March 2014

The US MERA steering group has been working hard on development of the agenda for the facilitated meeting scheduled for April 11-13, 2014 at the Bolger Center in Potomac Maryland. Each of the 7 US MERA organizations will fund their own participants. In addition, funding to bring in outside speakers has been obtained from the ACNM Foundation and an anonymous donor found by CPM community.

The ACNM representatives who will be attending the meeting are:

Ginger Breedlove
Lorrie Kaplan
Holly Kennedy
Tanya Tanner
Maria Valentin Welch
Cathy Collins-Fulea

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- Develop a deeper understanding of our midwifery profession
- Develop a shared understanding how US Midwifery aligns with ICM standards
- Define a collaborative pathway forward

Agenda for the meeting is still in process but will likely follow this format:

Day 1: "Education Day" to inform ourselves about each other; to examine trends and context for US midwives related to education and regulation; and to understand a variety of perspectives and how our decisions at US MERA will impact stakeholders and communities.

The following presentations are planned:

- Current Trends and Issues for each Credential (Cathy Collins-Fulea, Mary Lawler, Gera Simkins)
- Education & Accreditation of Education Programs (Kathy Camacho Carr, Kristi Ridd-Young)
- The PEP process (Carol Nelson)
- The Certification Process for each Credential (Cara Krulewitch, Carol Nelson)
- ICM Global Standards & Impact in US Midwifery (Debra Lewis ICM Vice President)
- Maternity Workforce Issues: ACOG Perspective (John Jennings incoming ACOG President)
- Consumer Perspective on Maternity Care Providers
- Concordant Healthcare: How to Educate Midwives from/to Serve Vulnerable Communities
- Cutting Edge Trends in Higher Education

Day 2: Small group work to reflect on the presentations, issues that were raised and envisioning recommendations around these issues

Day 3: ½ day US MERA sustainability discussion
Where is the group going next?

Remember, there will be a presentation about US MERA at the ACNM Annual meeting in Denver as well as an open forum to discuss member concerns related to this.