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midwifery education
accreditation council

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December 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: MEAC Member Schools; Direct-Entry Midwifery Education Stakeholders – ACCAHC, AME, ASPA, CFM, ICTC, MANA, NACPM, NARM; US MERA member organizations: ACNM, ACME, AMCB; self-identified potential applicants for MEAC accreditation; other interested stakeholders

From: MEAC Board of Directors

Re: Request for stakeholder feedback regarding proposed moratorium on out-of-country clinical training for students enrolled in MEAC-accredited programs and institutions

We are writing to ask for your feedback regarding our proposed moratorium (temporary ban) on out-of-country clinical placements for students attending MEAC-accredited programs and institutions.

We announced this proposed moratorium in the MEAC Dear Member Schools Letter #12 and the previous memo to stakeholders (both published on November 10, 2014 and available on MEAC's website at <http://meacschools.org/education-faq/out-of-country-clinical-training/>).

MEAC proposes adding the following benchmark and demonstrations to its standards for accreditation, both institutional and programmatic:

IV I Benchmark C **Clinical Sites**

IV I Benchmark C5

Note: Effective July 1, 2015, MEAC is placing a moratorium on out-of-country clinical placements, with certain exceptions as noted below.

Clinical experience may only be counted toward graduation requirements if it is obtained at a site within the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. The following exceptions are permitted:

- a) Any student who, as of June 30, 2015, is already working at an out-of-country clinical site approved by her/his program may finish out the agreed-upon term at that site.

- b) If a student is a citizen or **permanent resident** of a country other than the United States and wishes to pursue clinical training in a country where she/he holds citizenship or permanent residency, she/he may do so if the clinical site otherwise satisfies the requirements of MEAC standards and is approved by her/his program. Students who can document that they are in the process of obtaining citizenship or permanent residency status in the country where they wish to participate in clinical training may also qualify under this exception.

Demo IV.C5.1 | Complete the *Out-of-Country Clinical Placement Table*, which documents relevant clinical placement details for students currently participating in or anticipating clinical placement outside of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.

Demo IV.C5.2 | For each student participating or planning to participate in a clinical placement outside of the 50 United States or the District of Columbia beginning on or after July 1, 2015, provide documentation of citizenship or permanent residency status in the country where the proposed clinical training will occur. The following types of documentation are acceptable:

- 1) Evidence of citizenship or permanent resident status in the country of the clinical placement (e.g. copy of passport, permanent resident identity card) OR
- 2) Notarized statement that student is in the process of obtaining citizenship or permanent resident status in the country of the clinical placement OR
- 3) Notarized statement or other official evidence that the student is legally authorized to live and work indefinitely in the country of the clinical placement (applicable in situations of non-citizenship where the country in question does not have a formal permanent resident status).

MEAC invites all interested parties to submit comments on the proposed changes by **11:45 PM Pacific Standard Time on Sunday, February 1, 2015**. Please use the following link to provide your comments: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MEAC_OOC_moratorium.

MEAC will consider any comments on the proposed changes submitted timely before finalizing any changes to its standards.

After consideration of comments, the MEAC board anticipates making a final decision about the proposed change in the spring of 2015, with an expected implementation date of July 1, 2015.

If you have any questions about the survey or the stakeholder feedback process, please contact Karin Borgerson, Associate Director, at karin@meacschools.org.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your comments.