

The Ohio Friends of Midwives

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The Ohio Friends of Midwives (OFOM) is a non-profit, grassroots, consumer-based organization dedicated to supporting and promoting midwifery, particularly direct-entry midwifery, also known as "lay midwifery", as a quality health care option for Ohio women and their families. OFOM serves as an educational resource for the public and for both professional and non-professional groups who share an interest in the Midwives Model of Care for pregnancy, birth, and postpartum.

We strongly believe that homebirth should be a safe, legal, and accessible option for all women and families in low risk pregnancies.



Ohio Friends of Midwives Celebrates 11 Years



The Years to Come Depend on YOU!

OFOM needs enthusiastic and passionate home birth and midwifery supporters to pick up the ball and run with it during this critical time in Ohio. Legislation is still in the wings. Consumers often have limited access to local direct-entry midwives. Birth choices are at risk. Midwives fear prosecution. Medical costs for institutional birth are on the rise. Cesarean rates are up. If you care about your family's future birth choices you need to take action in the present. Let your voice be heard!

Become an active member of OFOM today!

In order to mobilize midwifery supporters in Ohio, OFOM needs new State and Regional Coordinators (as well as other volunteers). As Ohio midwives and consumers prepare to introduce legislation that will finally recognize midwifery as a safe and legal birth option, timely mass communication and public education will be necessary. OFOM needs volunteers who will lead Ohio midwifery consumers in this effort. As the current coordinator, I am proud to say that working with OFOM over the past seven years has been wonderful and enriching. Yet, the torch must be passed and I look forward to talking with you about your interest in carrying it.

Qualification for State and Regional Coordinators include:

- MUST BE A CONSUMER of midwifery services (not a midwife or apprentice) who has a passion for securing access to midwifery care for all Ohio families as well as promoting public education on the Midwifery Model of Care
- MUST have excellent communication skills (both written and verbal) and be able to serve as a spokesperson for OFOM. This may also include some time spent talking to Ohio House and Senate Representatives and lobbying/promoting MMoC
- State Coordinator must possess ability to inspire and manage volunteers, effectively delegating tasks to all volunteers within the organization
- Have computer skills (necessary for state-wide coordination and organizational management)
- Be able and willing to travel to other parts of the state from time to time

With a handful or two of motivated women, these jobs will not require too much of a time commitment. Let's face it, if we are midwifery consumers, we have little ones running around us and WE ARE ALL BUSY! But together we can make big things happen!

OFOM's success depends on your participation. Please get involved! If you think you can be of help, *and I think you can*, Please send a letter of interest to OFOM stating the following:

(Continued from front page)

THE OHIO FRIENDS OF MIDWIVES

O.F.O.M.



Save the Trees! Help OFOM save a few bucks!

Sign up to receive future newsletters through email by joining our egroup (see back page). Find the message entitled Receive OFOM Newsletter Online and follow the instructions. OR, send an email to info@ofom.org stating your request. Don't forget to include your complete contact information for cross reference. In this way, we will send you an electronic copy of all newsletters and urgent messages rather than hard copies in the mail. Thanks for helping save the environment and our resources!



1. Why you are interested in getting involved in OFOM.
2. The skills you have to offer OFOM.
3. Other organizations to which you are affiliated. Title of Certificates you hold.
4. A list of midwifery related references (1-3), people who know your beliefs surrounding birth
5. Your curriculum vitae including all contact information (name, address, phones, email). If possible....

Don't be shy! Write your letter now, send it today. All responses must be received by August 1, 2007. You will be contacted during the month of September. OFOM must have new leadership in place by September 2007. Please help us keep this wonderful organization alive. If it is easier for you, pick up the phone and call Linda Keller, current State Coordinator, to discuss your interest in getting involved!

Please feel free to forward this message to other women you know who are passionate about midwifery and the Midwifery Model of Care. We look forward to hearing from you!

In peace,
 Linda Keller, OFOM State Coordinator
 Lkeller4@cinci.rr.com
 1544 Teakwood Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45224
 513-681-9033 (home, eves)

Ohio Legislative Changes in 2006....Ohio Legislative Changes in 2006....

Consumer Voices are Heard! Thanks to your letters and phone calls, two important changes took place last year that affect families who choose midwifery services.

In January, 2006 the State of Ohio instituted new procedures for filing out-of-institution

births. Filing a birth certificate for a child born at home became a more complex process. In an attempt to minimize the opportunity for fraudulent birth certificate creation, Ohio began to require additional verifications of pregnancy and birth along with identification of the birth mother. Under the new 2006 process, Ohio did not originally allow direct-entry midwives to sign their verification of a pregnancy or live birth and would only accept that proof from a licensed medical provider in the State of Ohio. This created big challenges for parents who birth at home with midwives due to their unlicensed status in the state.

OFOM's January, 2006 newsletter alerted consumers to the new birth certificate challenges. Consumers began to contact the Ohio Department of Health - Bureau of Vital Statistics and encouraged changes in the process to address the need for midwives to be able to provide written verification of pregnancy and birth.

As a result of consumer influence, in March, 2006 updates to the out-of-institution birth certificate filing process occurred which (1) accepted the Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) verification of pregnancy/birth and (2) created

Birth Certificates

a temporary process by which non-CPMs could register to provide the necessary

verifications of pregnancy and birth through March, 2008. After 3/2008, an unlicensed midwife in Ohio able to offer pregnancy/birth verification for birth certificate purposes, must be a CPM.

Current requirements for filing an out-of-institution (home birth) birth certificate are:

- (1) Facility Worksheet For The Live Birth Certificate
- (2) Mother's Worksheet for Child's Birth
- (3) Pregnancy Verification and Infant Verification for Out-of Institution Births
- (4) Proof of Mother's residency in the State of Ohio on the date of the birth
- (5) Delayed birth Registration Affidavit if the filing of the birth certificate will extend beyond 10 days after the birth

Information on where birth certificates are filed in each county is available at the Ohio Department of Health website www.odh.state.oh.us. There is no cost to file the birth certificate with an appropriate registrar. Cost to obtain a certified copy of a birth certificate is a minimum of \$16.50

OFOM Membership Form

Yes! I would like to show my support for midwifery by becoming a member of OFOM

(Please use this form for new membership, membership renewals, address updates, and donations)

OFOM annual membership entitles you to receive a copy of our newsletter (as produced) and notices of events. You may also occasionally be called upon to take timely action on behalf of midwifery on legislative issues. Providing your email address will help us get information to you quickly and economically.

Please indicate whether this is: a new membership, membership renewal, or other donation (circle one)

- **Matron..... \$100**
- **Supporter..... \$ 50**
- **Organization.....\$ 35**
- **Basic..... \$ 20**
- **Unable to Pay[‡]..... \$ 0**
- **Other donation.....\$ ____**

[‡] OFOM welcomes those unable to pay dues at this time. We hope you will consider a physical contribution in lieu. Details provided upon request.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City/State/Zip:** _____

Home phone: _____ **E-mail:** _____

Providing your email allows us to send you urgent updates via the www and to reduce cost of distribution through postal services. Donations are tax deductible to the extent of the law.

Please make your check or money order payable to Ohio Friends of Midwives, and send with this form to:

OFOM, 19006 Stony Point Drive, Strongsville, Ohio 44136.

THANK YOU! Your contribution will be used wisely in support of midwifery and public education on the Midwives Model of Care.

Ohio Legislative Changes in 2006....Ohio Legislative Changes in 2006....

Ohio consumers have a voice in the State House! We will need to maintain our strength when it is time to introduce legislation regarding non-nurse midwives. Stay tuned for more information regarding legislative issues.

Free Standing Birth Centers

Ohio Establishes Unlicensed Birth Centers

HB 287 was passed to exempt certain freestanding birthing centers from the requirement that a center obtain a health care facility license from the Director of Health. This act was signed into law by former Governor Taft on May 16, 2006 and rules/regulations under that act are now in place. This act gives a process for certain religious groups to own/operate a birth center in their communities outside of the restrictive constraints of licensure. As well, this act upholds an unlicensed birth center's ability to utilize the care/services of a CPM and/or traditional midwife in their birth centers.

A birthing center would be exempt from licensure if all of the following apply:

- A religious denomination, sect, or group owns and operates the center;

- Requiring that the center be licensed significantly abridges or infringes on the religious practices or beliefs of that religious denomination, sect, or group;
- The center provides care only during low-risk pregnancy, delivery, and the immediate postpartum period exclusively to women who are members of that religious denomination, sect, or group;
- The center monitors and evaluates the care provided to its patients with at least the minimum patient safety monitoring and evaluation requirements established; and
- The center meets the quality assessment and improvement standards established.

To read all the details of the bill online, visit the 127th Ohio General Assembly website at:

http://www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=126_HB_287

Midwives Care, Inc. in Cincinnati Closes its Doors

On April 2nd, 2006, Midwives Care, one of the few freestanding birth center in Ohio, located in Cincinnati, announced that it would be closing its doors after 20 years of providing midwifery services to women in the Greater Cincinnati Area. The challenges which prevail the current health care environment and difficulties in obtaining mal-practice insurance both played a part in forcing the center to close. On May 5th, International Midwives Day, friends of the midwives gathered to celebrate their successes and grieve their loss. Midwives Care has now joined forces with the former CincyBirth.com to become Birth and Beyond: Advocates for Woman Centered Health Care. The general purpose of the corporation is to advocate for woman centered health care that supports and provides options for women of all socioeconomic means and their families, through education, resource and referral, community relations and public policy. Their new website has swung into action at www.BirthnBeyond.org. The website is intended to be a resource for families seeking information about a wide range of birth options as well as prenatal and postpartum care, parenting support, and well-woman care.

Birth is not only about making babies. Birth is about making mothers ~ strong, competent, capable mothers who trust themselves and know their inner strength.

- Barbara Katz Rothman

THE OHIO FRIENDS OF MIDWIVES

OFOM
19006 Stony Point Drive
Strongsville, OH 44136
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"There's No Place Like Home...to Give Birth!"

Return Service Requested

International Midwives Day 2006

International Midwives Day 2006 was celebrated at a bitter-sweet gathering in Cincinnati last year. Friends and colleagues of the midwives at Midwives Care, Inc. gathered to remember 20 years of quality midwifery services. The event included a wonderful slide show with historical pictures of the unique free-standing birth center, its founders, and midwives. All the midwives present were honored with roses and applause. State Coordinator, Linda Keller, attended the event in support of the midwives and was surprised to be bestowed with a donation for OFOM in the amount of \$327. OFOM sends a heartfelt thanks to all those who made a donation to the fish bowl. Your generous donations will be used in support of midwives and midwifery in the State of Ohio. OFOM's current goals include improving our website and building our membership and volunteer community. We dream of billboards promoting homebirth and midwifery services! Another important focus during the year to come may well be researching and advocating for legislation which removes the current hardships bore by midwifery consumers and midwives across the state in their pursuit to birth at home. Again, we thank you for your generous contribution.



Subscribe to our new Yahoo! egroup and stay connected to other midwifery supporters in Ohio.

<mailto:OFOMfamilies-subscribe@yahoo.com>

It's not too early to start planning for International Midwives Day 2008! Visit the MANA (Midwives Alliance of North America) website (<http://www.mana.org/IntMidDay.html>) to find out about ways that communities have celebrated this important day in the past.

Be an ambassador of the truth about the Midwives Model of Care!