

# NFoM NEWS

Special points of interest:

- 2009 Legislative session
- Postcard campaign
- Statistics and information for your Senators
- How to contact your Senators

## Legislation History and 2009 Plans


In 2003, at the request of Lori Hack and her husband, Senator Landis sponsored and introduced legislation that would have removed the existing restriction on nurse-midwifery practice. With little time to prepare for the session, the bill did not get beyond the Health and Human Services committee.

In 2005, Laura Leggott requested midwifery and nurse-midwifery legislation be drafted again. These bills, drafted by then Senator Adrian Smith and co-sponsored with Senator Philip Erdman, had the same fate as the 2003 legislation.

Highlights:

- Sen. Fulton (district 23) is drafting legislation!
- Sen. Fulton wants support from 20 Senators before he will introduce the bills. Ask friends to meet with or write a letter to their Senator or set up a meeting with him or her.
- Meet your senator and visit regarding the legislation (NFoM board members will go with you if you want help!)

Like many of you, these NFoM members remained hopeful and persevered through a repetitive 407 Review in 2006, which drew many conclusions contradicting the 1993-1994 review, despite even more supportive research from the US and world-

wide on the Midwifery Model of **Care**  including autonomous practice, out-of-hospital and hospital-based care.

Since then, NFoM members have been preparing for 2009. Senator Fulton has

*See 2009—page 2*

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## A Note From NFoM Chair Autumn Cook

Two years ago NFoM decided to work on networking and organization before pushing for midwifery legislation. After yielding much in both areas, 2009 will see a renewed and more focused effort to get needed changes to **Nebraska's midwifery laws.**

Dozens have contributed their time and efforts to bring us to this point. Recently, Holly Fix helped spread the word with her remarkable effort to direct and **produce "Birth" and Heather Swanson** has been the brilliant


organizer of M&M days at the Capitol, which have allowed us to get familiar with the building and the people who work in it.

Please study pages 5 and 6 of this issue to learn the history of Nebraska midwifery legislation in the past 25 years, to find out what the 2009 bills are about, and what we need to do to get them passed. No one person or small group of people can accomplish this task - **it's going to** take contributions from everyone who cares about this issue!

Please take the time to find your senator and schedule a meeting.

**We'd love to see all of you at the** Yearly Meeting in Lincoln on January 9, the third day of the legislative session.

Then get ready to come to committee hearings and other important days at the Capitol.

It will be an exciting time as we work to make the Midwifery **Model of Care**  **more available** to the women and families of Nebraska.

## Legislation around the Nation

Over the summer Missouri's Supreme Court ruled in favor of families who have been working for 25 years to gain legal access to professional midwives.

The ruling legalizes Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs), removes the threat of prosecution to CPMs who assist families in out-of-hospital births, increases access to maternity care in the state, allows women and families more birth options and affirms their ability to exercise their rights to

choose how their babies are born.

In a 5 to 2 ruling, the Court upheld a law that legalizes CPMs who practice in the state. The Court determined that the physician groups that brought the suit to overturn the law lacked standing because their only interest in the case was economic.

**"The Missouri Supreme Court made the right decision today, and after 25 years of legislative struggles to ensure more birth options**

**for families, we are very excited,"** said Mary Ueland, Grassroots Coordinator for Friends of Missouri Midwives (FOMM). \*

*Correction: In the Volume 1, Issue 4, we stated that DEM practice is legal in neighboring Colorado, Missouri, Kansas, Wyoming and South Dakota. The practice is actually legal in neighboring Colorado, Missouri and Kansas. Certified Nurse-Midwives attend the homebirths of those in Wyoming and South Dakota.*



[\\*http://www.thebigpushformidwives.org/pdf-bin/news.062408.pdf](http://www.thebigpushformidwives.org/pdf-bin/news.062408.pdf)

### 2009—continued from page 1

offered a compassionate ear to constituents of his who desire greater access to midwifery care in all settings and in particular in out-of-hospital settings.

At the request of NFoM members, including his constituent Jessica Freeman, a homebirth mother and midwifery advocate, Senator Fulton has drafted legislation that would open doors for Nurse-Midwives and consumers of their care.

Passage of these bills seem like monumental feats, but keep in mind they are not unlike statutes in most of Nebraska's neighboring states. What we are asking of our Senators are not new ideas, but it will take immense effort of behalf of NFoM members and other

Nebraskans who feel like women and their families in Nebraska are due these changes.

NFoM members and other Nebraskans deserve greater access to care that is so widely touted in places like the Cochrane Database and by organizations like the Pew Health Commission and the Milbank Memorial Fund. Despite how convincing these sources are if one takes the time to read them, we all know that **most don't care about this as passionately as we do.** It takes remembering that they (your Senators) represent you.

We need all of you to help us and be persistent from now until our bills pass. If you have yet to get involved now is the time! If

**we don't get enough support the bills you really want won't get** introduced this coming session (starts Jan 7<sup>th</sup>).

We need each of you to visit face-to-face with your Senator and

send written communication urging their support of these **bills....and then find four other** constituents who are willing to do the same. We need lots of Doulas to advocate for these bills!

### B a b y G o o s e C o. Infant & Toddler Leg Warmers

Lenetta Kuehn  
PO Box 85, Heartwell, NE 68945

(308) 563-2024 or [kuehn@catholicweb.com](mailto:kuehn@catholicweb.com)

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## Do you enjoy reading birth stories?

### Count It All Joy

Birth Stories With Lessons for Life  
by Judy Kay Jones

Contact Judy at 605-263-3043  
29525 442nd Ave., Irene, SD 57037 or [judycpm@iw.net](mailto:judycpm@iw.net)

Cost is \$12.50 plus \$2.00 for postage and handling.



Oprah Winfrey, born January 29, 1954. Photo from [jennifer-oprah.tripod.com](http://jennifer-oprah.tripod.com)

## NFoM Welcomes babies born at home (a few years ago)

### Politicians

Arnie Stuthman, John Harms, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Gerald Ford, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Teddy Roosevelt

### More Politicians

George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson. (Note: Jimmy Carter was actually the first US president to be born in a Hospital)

### Famous People

Bob Hope, Frank Sinatra, Oprah Winfrey, Elton John, Elvis Presley, Walt Disney, Lawrence Welk, Keifer Sutherland, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Have an announcement or birth story for us to share? Send them to: [nfom.pr@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.pr@gmail.com)

We'll print as many as possible.



## Bodies, Babies and Birth Facts—Some famous home-birthers

Meryl Streep, Cindy Crawford, Lisa Bonet (Cosby Show) & Lenny Kravitz, Ricki Lake, Pamela Anderson (waterbirths), Jade Jagger (Mick's Daughter), Kelly Preston & John Travolta, Felicity Huffman & William H Macy, Charlotte Church, Laura Dern, Demi Moore & Bruce Willis, Kenny Loggins' wife, Kenny Rogers' Wife, Erykah Badu, Julianne Moore, Richard Thomas's wife (The Waltons), Woody Harrelson's wife, Michael Landon's

wife, Mihai Bagiu Tania ( US Olympic gymnast), Dave Matthews' wife Ashley, Carole King, Stella Tennant (model), Nellie Furtado (singer), Enrico Colan-toni's wife (Just Shoot Me), Tyne Daley's daughter, Tania Joy Gibson (Miss Illinois 1996), Val and Joann Kilmer, Liberty Phoenix (River's sister), Kenny Roger's second wife, John Schnieder's wife Ellie, Lindsey Wagner (The Bionic Woman),

Noah Wylie and wife, Carrie Ann Moss (The Matrix), Lucy Lawless (Xena), Joely Fisher (actress), Melora Hardin (The Office), Morgan Spurlock & wife Alexandra Jamison (Super Size Me), Stephen Nichols' wife Lisa (Days of our Lives), Patricia Arquette, every Queen of England, (including current one), Kathleen Kennedy Townsend (Bobby Kennedy's daughter).

## Movie Review—Orgasmic Birth: The best kept secret (2008)

Orgasmic Birth has been receiving a lot of attention in NFoM Yahoo groups and some members plan to host showings in the near future.

Here's what some of our members have said.

"Viewed at an Omaha area screening, this movie was well worth the ticket fee. The title, though not entirely misleading, does not represent the entire movie nor should it deter more reserved viewers from watching it.

This movie is best described as a birth documentary that appropriately addresses the current health-care crisis in the United States and urges viewers to seek out mother centered care and to reclaim 'normal birth'.

If you can get your hands on a

copy or have the chance to attend a screening, don't pass it up."

-Heather Swanson

"I have not had the pleasure of seeing *Business of Being Born* yet as many of you have so I cannot compare them but I thought *Orgasmic Birth* was a very good look at birth in America.

The expert commentaries were informative and . . . well, they seemed weighty, like they would carry weight with someone who wasn't already on board with us, but that was just my sense :) . . . I thought there were some fabulous birth stories. it brought me to tears, but maybe that is not as monumental as it would have been a few years ago!

I have to agree that the *orgasmic* title wasn't necessarily reflected in the movie. Ecstatic birth would have been more accurate I think. If you haven't had a chance to see it, I would recommend borrowing it from Heather's movie library.

-- Host that girls' night at your place with a good chick flick!"

-Chanin Monestero

### Editor's Note:

Although the filmmaker originally titled it 'An Ordinary Miracle' and then 'Ecstatic Birth', she found no takers at the pitch session with television executives until she bit the bullet and tried, 'Orgasmic Birth'. This clinched the funding, and this new film was born.



## Pregnant?

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Chandra Stewart, 402-362-0218

January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 ✂	6	7 ✂	8	9 ✂	10
11	12	13 ✂	14 ✂	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 ✂	22 ✂	23	24
25	26	27	28 ✂	29	30	31

February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 ✂	5	6	7
8	9	10 ✂	11 ✂	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 ✂	19 ✂	20	21
22	23	24	25 ✂	26	27	28

January

- ✂ 5th—M&Ms at the Capitol—Canceled!
- ✂ 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th—Omaha Pot Lucks\*\*
- ✂ 9th—Annual Meeting and M&Ms at the Capitol\*
- ✂ 13th—Lincoln Pot Luck\*\*\*
- ✂ 13th and 22nd—M&Ms at the Capitol\*

February

- ✂ 4th, 19th—M&Ms at the Capitol\*
- ✂ 10th—Lincoln Pot Luck\*\*\*
- ✂ 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th—Omaha Pot Lucks\*\*

\* For details and times check our Yahoo Group closer to the date.  
 \*\*Omaha Pot lucks meet on Wednesdays but usually twice a month.  
 \*\*\*Lincoln Pot lucks usually meet on the second Tuesday of the month.

We are always adding new events and sometimes changing times. For the latest on what's happening, check our forum ([www.nemidwives.org](http://www.nemidwives.org)) or join our free Yahoo Group (<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/nebraskafriendsofmidwives/>) for updates.

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For Sale: Baby and toddler leg warmers. \$8 a pair (\$7 for paying members of NFoM) + shipping.  
[lkuehn@catholicweb.com](mailto:lkuehn@catholicweb.com)

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 20% of every sale supports NFoM!

**NFoM Annual Meeting!**

in Lincoln January 9th  
 check our Yahoo group for details  
[www.tinyurl.com/LAOW8](http://www.tinyurl.com/LAOW8)

Join Nebraska Friends of Midwives  
[www.nemidwives.org](http://www.nemidwives.org)

**NFoM Postcard Campaign!!!**  
 1st: Send the enclosed postcard to your Senator.  
 2nd: Print additional cards for your friends and family.  
 Card files are located on the yahoo group:  
<http://tinyurl.com/6mjw79>

**Support Midwives and NFoM!**  
 Get the NFoM logo on t-shirts, magnets, mugs and more at  
<https://www.cafepress.com/nfom>





## *Nebraska Friends of Midwives Needs Your Help*

### *Nebraska Friends of Midwives Mission*

Nebraska Friends of Midwives is a consumer-based organization seeking to raise public awareness of the benefits and advantages of employing midwives, both independent Midwives and Certified Nurse-Midwives, through public education efforts. We are working to help facilitate a change in the laws of Nebraska to allow midwives to practice more openly and with greater independence. It is our goal to see the laws of Nebraska changed to specifically recognize and license the practice of independent Midwives—who practice primarily in homes and receive their training in a variety of ways—and to change the law which currently prohibits Certified Nurse-Midwives from attending home births. We support the right of women to make an educated decision about where and with whom she will give birth.

For several of us, our visits to bring you M&Ms have been the first time we have interacted with legislative staff and Senators. For a few of us this has been our first time to the Capitol! We come because we want you to get to know us and to hear why access to the Midwifery Model of Care<sup>®</sup> and why legislative changes are so important to us. We want to be heard. So we bake or put stickers on bags of M&Ms to get your attention, load up our kids for the day, join with available midwives, and come to see you—staff, aides, Senators, and any other office till our snacks run out!

### ***There are two types of midwives....***

Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs) are trained and educated in the areas of nursing and midwifery. Most states, including Nebraska, require that CNMs have a master's degree. CNMs are Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) and primarily practice in clinics and attend births in hospitals, though they also attend births in birth centers and homes. The American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is their professional organization.

CNMs were originally licensed in Nebraska in 1984. Their current practice act is not consistent with CNM education, national board certification, statutes from neighboring states, or standards established by the ACNM. The most notable restrictions are that CNMs are prohibited from attending home births and they must have a practice agreement with a physician, by whom their practice is directed. Without this agreement they are restricted from using their nationally earned title of CNM and cannot be licensed. ACNM feels such requirements restrain the practice of nurse-midwifery and limits consumer access. As other APRN professions increase in numbers, for over 10 years the number of practicing CNMs in Nebraska has hovered around 20, with some CNMs not practicing their profession at all, several leaving the state to practice, and Nebraska natives not returning home after graduate school.

*NFoM supports legislative efforts to make the CNM Practice Act consistent with CNM education, national board certification, and established ACNM scope-of-practice*

Direct Entry Midwives (DEMs) are trained and educated in the area of midwifery and most commonly attend births that occur in homes and in birth centers. They are the specialists in out-of-hospital births. The North American Registry of Midwives (NARM) administers an exam that a midwife may take if they meet requirements necessary to sit for the exam. This exam accommodates the various paths of becoming a midwife, and if passed the certification of Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) is extended. [www.narm.org](http://www.narm.org) [www.mana.org](http://www.mana.org)

Currently the practice of the Direct Entry Midwifery profession in Nebraska is not recognized in statutes. Home births do occur in Nebraska and may be attended by unlicensed midwives or are not attended by a health care provider at all—a safer option would be to allow them access to a licensed midwife. The Technical Committee of the 407 Review on midwifery and homebirth in 1993-1994 recommended that midwives be licensed and regulated in Nebraska. A further recommendation from that 407 Review was to wait until the credentialing exam was accredited -it now is.

*NFoM supports legislative efforts to license the DEM profession in Nebraska*

### ***Some History.....***

*A "407 Review" conducted by The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, is a process used to review health professions, this may include scope of practice changes or licensing of new professions. A review may be a "directed review" requested by the Legislature or it may be requested by another group or person(s).*

The first 407 Review on midwifery was conducted in 1993-1994, by a HHS Committee directed review which the final report recommended allowing nurse-midwives to attend home births. No change in legislation has yet to be seen in response to that recommendation.

After failed legislative efforts again in 2005, the 407 Review process was recommended to NFoM and the midwives involved. Though time consuming and of great cost to the applicant/requestor it appeared to be a reasonable means to confirm to committee members the safety and positive research findings. In 2006 a 407 Review was conducted for both CNM and DEM professions. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> time certified nurse-midwifery, midwifery, and home birth were reviewed and the first time a consumer and midwife requested it. Contrary to the 1<sup>st</sup> review and despite more supportive research for the proposals, the final recommendations were to make no changes. This was a great disappointment to supporters, NFoM, and other consumers who poured over the available research and attended the meetings.

## **What is happening now...**

### Drafting of Bills:

There are three bills being drafted via the assistance of Senator Fulton that pertain to Certified Nurse-Midwives (CNMs). NFoM members are working to gain support for these bills to ensure their introduction. If you are willing help us or would like more information please let us know when you see us or feel free to contact us (legislative contact: Heather at [nfom.legislative@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.legislative@gmail.com) or 308.830.1435).

1st: Add CNMs to the list of providers that cannot be denied hospital privileges solely based on their credential type.

Hospitals can refuse CNMs the ability to apply for privileges just because they are nurse-midwives. NFoM and NE CNMs (especially those who would like to practice in these communities) feel this is unjust and that they should have the same opportunity to apply for privileges like any other provider that commonly practices in hospitals. This is a timely matter because Faith Regional Hospital in Norfolk closed the CNM category in 2002. A practicing CNM left Norfolk in 2003 due to this and a 2008 nurse-midwifery graduate and local to the area desires to **attend births in Norfolk.....but cannot even be considered for privileges because she is denied the opportunity to simply apply!**

2nd: Autonomous Practice - removal of the written practice agreement requirement.

**Though likely too late to allow Gail Consoli's birthcenter in Norfolk to open (financial hardship due to the inability to open** has led to the building being listed for sale) this would allow greater feasibility for CNMs wanting to open birthcenters. It also removes any risk of vicarious liability to MD working with CNMs. Removing this barrier to licensure and practice would increase opportunities for CNMs to practice in a variety of settings and locations across the state. This is consistent with a majority of our bordering states and is on the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) list of needed state legislative changes.

Practice agreements have not shown to lead to increased patient care outcomes, rather have been linked to be related to restriction of nurse-midwifery practice and decreased consumer access to nurse-midwifery care.

3rd: Remove the home birth restriction.

Nebraska is one of two states (Alabama is the other) that restricts CNMs from attending homebirths in statute. This restriction was added as a compromise to allow further bill passage when CNMs were initially licensed in 1984. NFoM does not want to this to distract from the importance of the other bills, but feels this is worth supporting as it is due time that NE join the other 48 states and remove this restriction. Home-birth has always occurred in Nebraska and several of the children you have seen with NFoM members were born out-of-hospital. These families simply desire access to a trained and licensed midwifery provider to attend them. This bill is consistent with the recommendations of the 407 Review conducted in 1993-1994.

Yet to be drafted:

Add CNMs to the list of providers that insurance providers must reimburse for services legally provided. *Nebraska CNMs would like to have this drafted and gain support.* This does not change scope of practice, but is a consumer access and CNM financial sustainability consideration. Medicaid and Medicare must reimburse CNMs, but other insurers are not required and some have elected to no longer reimburse CNMs for various services they provide. The recommendation to add CNMs to this list is consistent with suggestions made by the Nebraska Board of Health (1991) in a review of mid-level practitioners which included CNMs --17 years and this matter has yet to be addressed.

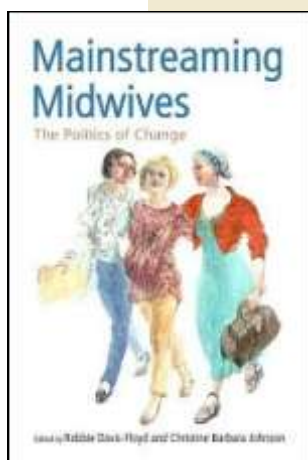
In the weeks to come we will be focusing on each of these topics by providing the evidence to support them, the cost effectiveness and care outcomes of midwifery care, and responding to questions that arise. Please let us know if there is anything you would like to hear more about. We leave you today with a summary from a recent (Oct 2008) publication from the Cochrane Collaboration (the pinnacle of Evidence Based Healthcare Practice worldwide).

Summary: Midwife-led care confers benefits for pregnant women and their babies and is recommended.

In many parts of the world, midwives are the primary providers of care for childbearing women. The underpinning philosophy of midwife-led care is normality and being cared for by a known and trusted midwife during labour. There is an emphasis on the natural ability of women to experience birth with minimum intervention.

The review of midwife-led care covered midwives providing care antenatally, during labour and postnatally. This was compared with models of medical-led care and shared care, and identified 11 trials, involving 12,276 women. Midwife-led care was associated with several benefits for mothers and babies, and had no identified adverse effects. The main benefits were a reduced risk of losing a baby before 24 weeks. Also during labour, there was a reduced use of regional analgesia, with fewer episiotomies or instrumental births. Midwife-led care also increased the woman's chance of being cared for in labour by a midwife she had got to know. It also increased the chance of a spontaneous vaginal birth and initiation of breastfeeding. In addition, midwife-led care led to more women feeling they were in control during labour. There was no difference in risk of a mother losing her baby after 24 weeks. The review concluded that all women should be offered midwife-led models of care.

Hatem M, Sandall J, Devane D, Soltani H, & Gates S. (2008). Midwife-led versus other models of care for childbearing women. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews*, Issue 4. Art. No.: CD004667. DOI: 10.1002/14651858.CD004667.pub2.



Now Reading: *Baby Catcher* by Peggy Vincent. We invite you to read with us and join our discussion on the forum: <http://tinyurl.com/6jqp9r>

## Mainstreaming Midwives : *The politics of change*

In *Mainstreaming Midwives*, a team of reputable contributors provide great insights into midwifery. They describe the development of nurse- and direct-entry midwifery in the United States, including the creation of two new direct-entry certifications, the Certified Midwife and the Certified Professional Midwife, and examine the history, purposes, complexities, and the political strife that has characterized the evolution of midwifery in America.

Including detailed case studies, the book looks at the efforts of direct-entry midwives to achieve legalization and licensure in seven states—New York, Florida, Minnesota, Iowa, Virginia, Colorado, and Massachusetts. It studies core issues that produce problems in

mainstreaming midwives, including the tensions between the social activist midwifery movement and midwives' professionalization projects, "renegade" midwives who practice outside of state protocols, and home — to - hospital transport. The conclusion describes barriers to the growth and prospering of American midwifery and efforts to overcome them, focusing deeply on why midwives matter to American birthing women and arguing that midwives should be the primary caregivers in this country for pregnancy and birth.\*

\*Reprinted from Routledge Taylor & Francis Group (<http://www.davis-floyd.com/userfiles/mainstreaming%20midwives%20order.pdf>)

"This fascinating book provides unique information and insight that should be of great interest to every midwife and midwifery supporter, as well as social scientists seeking to understand how marginalized professionals work to move into the mainstream."

—Judith Rooks, author of *Midwifery & Childbirth in America*

**Editor's Note:** Every two months the NFoM Book club reads and discusses a new book. Check out the Education thread in our forum to join us.

## Introducing the 2009 NFoM Board

### *Chair: Autumn Cook*

Autumn is married to Joe. She has two girls, one boy and is expecting her fourth baby in March.

18757 Ohern St.

Omaha, NE 68135

[nfom.chair@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.chair@gmail.com)

### *Vice-Chair: Lenetta Kuehn*

Lenetta is wife to James and mama to Jalen, who was born in a hospital, and attended by a CNM.

PO Box 85

Heartwell, NE 68945

[nfom.vicechair@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.vicechair@gmail.com)

### *Secretary: Jessica Freeman*

Jessica is married to Chris Marks. She is mother to Dorothy (born in a hospital in New York), Gabriel (born at home with two midwives in New York) and Patrick (born at home in Nebraska).

3022 Browning St.

Lincoln, NE 68516

[nfom.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.secretary@gmail.com)

### *Treasurer: Chandra Stewart*

Chandra is a DONA-trained doula, wife to Kyle and mom to Daniel and Laela, ages 3 and 2.

1325 Kiplinger Ave.

York, NE 68467

[nfom.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.treasurer@gmail.com)

### *Fundraising Chair: April Segura*

April was born at home. She is now wife to Juan and mama to Ailani and Jaylen. Both were born at home underwater.

2035 N. 57th

Lincoln, NE 68505

[nfom.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.fundraising@gmail.com)

### *Public Relations: Camilla Whitman*

Camilla is wife to Matt and mama to two girls, both born at home. Helaina was born in Nevada and Monica was born in Nebraska.

1522 N. Eddy St.

Grand Island, NE 68801

[nfom.pr@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.pr@gmail.com)

### *Education Chair: Holly Fix*

Holly is married to Dan and mom to one son, born at home.

1412 South 48th St.

Omaha, NE 68106

[nfom.education@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.education@gmail.com)

### *Legislative Chair: Heather Swanson, MSN, APRN-CNM, IBCLC*

Heather has a MSN Nurse-Midwifery specialty from UNM College of Nursing; and her BSN and post masters certificate are a Family Nurse Practitioner specialty from UNMC College of Nursing. She is a nursing instructor at UNMC-CON Kearney.

257 22 Road

Wilcox, NE 68982

[nfom.legislative@gmail.com](mailto:nfom.legislative@gmail.com)

## Nebraska Friends of Midwives

PO Box 34  
Melbeta, NE 69355  
[www.nemidwives.org](http://www.nemidwives.org)



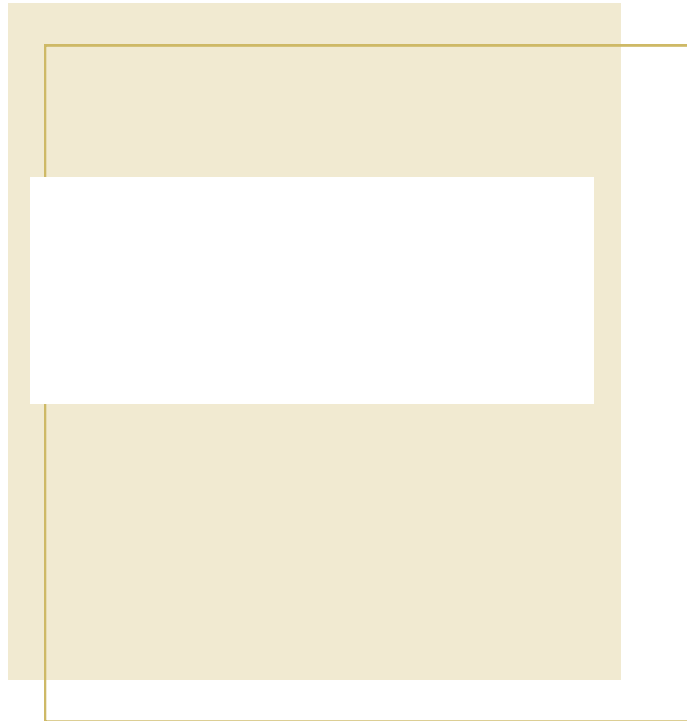
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## NFoM: BOLD 2008 raises eleven hundred dollars

By Holly Fix

This fall, we undertook the biggest education and fund-raising event to date for NFoM: BOLD 2008. We performed *Birth*, a play by Karen Brody, in four Nebraska cities, for over 200 audience members.

Though it was quite a stressful process at times, it was truly a resounding success, bringing in about \$1100 in profit for NFoM!

Many thanks are owed to all our members and supporters who helped make it a success, contributing their time, talents, and resources to secure performance spaces, getting the advertising out, helping on show days, participating in the

talkback panels, and even performing in the show.

We got some nice press coverage, especially in Norfolk and Grand Island. The show was really powerful for those of us in it, and we felt that energy coming back from our audiences as well, sharing the strong message about **women's experiences of birth** today. Just like in the play, the experience of the production had the lowest low moments of grief, and also the highest high moments of triumph!

Of course, there are many things we will be able to do better if we choose to be **"BOLD" again in the future**, but one thing is certain, we are more than capable of playing



Members of NFoM and cast perform *Birth* in Grand Island as part of BOLD 2008

with the big kids when it comes to our work to improve maternity care. I hope our success with BOLD 2008 can give us a bit of an emotional boost (as well as the financial one) as we go into the Legislative Session in 2009 knowing what we can accomplish when we all work together.

*"{B}irth helped open up conversations and ideas about birth that many women wouldn't have had otherwise."*

*—Chandra Stewart,  
York, NE*