



Commonwealth Midwives Alliance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Tammi McKinley

Secretary

Phone: (877) 833-6656

Email: info@commonwealthmidwives.org

First Licensed Certified Professional Midwives in Virginia

Sperryville, VA (February 13, 2006) - The Commonwealth Midwives Alliance (CMA) announced today the licensing of the first Certified Professional Midwives (CPMs) in Virginia. CPMs gained licensure status in the 2005 General Assembly. The Virginia Board of Medicine oversees their regulation and began issuing licenses to applicants at the beginning of the year.

“I am overjoyed to be a licensed midwife in the Commonwealth of Virginia. I look forward to establishing working relations within the community, and sharing in the maternity care of families who choose to birth at home,” says Emily Friar, a newly Licensed Midwife. “CMA is delighted that more Virginia women will now have improved access to a variety of options, including home based maternity care provided by licensed Certified Professional Midwives,” said Tammi McKinley of CMA, an organization that supports midwives throughout Virginia.

Licensing is based on the attainment of the Certified Professional Midwife (CPM) credential. CPMs have met the standards for certification set by the North American Registry of Midwives and are qualified to provide the Midwives Model of Care. The CPM is the only international credential that requires knowledge about and experience in out-of-hospital settings. A research study published by the British Medical Journal in June, 2005 concluded that “Planned home birth for low risk women in North America using certified professional midwives was associated with lower rates of medical intervention but similar intrapartum and neonatal mortality to that of low risk hospital births in the United States.” (“Outcomes of planned home births with certified professional midwives: large prospective study in North America,” Kenneth C Johnson, Betty-Anne Daviss. BMJ 2005;330:1416 (18 June))

The Commonwealth Midwives Alliance is an organization that supports midwives throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. For more information, contact Tammi McKinley, CMA Secretary, at (877) 833-6656 or visit CMA at www.commonwealthmidwives.org.

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