

Home Birth and Hospital Collaboration for Best Care

Ingrid Andersson, CNM, *Community Midwives*, Madison WI

Mary Moore, CNM, *Strong Work Home Birth*, Madison WI

Home birth is a controversial topic among maternity and perinatal care providers. Sadly, much of the discussion it generates is locked in debates about good or bad, right or wrong, safe or dangerous, with advocates and detractors, clinicians and patients lining up on either side and marshaling their evidence.

What gets lost in these debates is the critical opportunity to improve outcomes for home birthing families by working to eliminate structural and systemic obstacles to interprofessional collaboration between providers of home- and hospital-based maternity care. No one disagrees that fractured, fragmented health care is poor care. *All* clinical care providers in *all* areas and settings need access to seamless consultation, collaboration and referral in order to achieve the best outcomes. Home birth midwives are no exception to this rule, but they are frequently excluded from the formal channels that enable such collaboration.

In this break-out session, we will review and discuss the consensus guidelines for best practices in home birth transfer devised by the multi-disciplinary national Home Birth Summit in 2014. We will discuss our experience with implementation of a formal home-to-hospital transfer protocol in Madison, and invite session participants to share their own experiences from across the state.

Participants who are interested in inquiring further are invited to explore these online resources:

Home Birth Summit Transfer Guidelines

<https://www.homebirthsummit.org/best-practice-transfer-guidelines/>

The Wisconsin Guild of Midwives <https://wisconsinguildofmidwives.org/>

National Association of Certified Professional Midwives <http://nacpm.org/>

American College of Nurse-Midwives <http://www.midwife.org/>

ACOG Statement on Home Birth <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Obstetric-Practice/Planned-Home-Birth?IsMobileSet=false>