Clinical Reflection Fall 2020

This semester was a challenge for clinicals. I began placement with a friend that has a new homebirth practice and for the first half of the semester there were no hours to be had. We finally found our rhythm with our first birth at the beginning of December. This was the first time I was challenged with stepping into the midwife role and out of the assistant. I found this position to be really nerve wrecking. I have never been given such responsibility before and even though there wasn’t much going on, I felt the weight of it on my shoulders. I am excited for this discomfort though, I know this is exactly the push I have needed and it will allow me to engage in a very different way. I am also very grateful that my preceptor has that much confidence in me that she knows the clients are safe. This birth in particular was one of the most challenging I have ever assisted. We ended up with a 1200cc postpartum hemorrhage that required multiple doses of Pitocin that I had to administer and had never done before. We also used Cytotec and I had the privilege of learning and administering Tranexamic Acid (TXA) as well as antibiotics. It was a high stress environment as my preceptor dealt with bi-manual compression and I was left to administer all the drugs IM and intravenously. I feel like I did really well in this moment. I did not panic, I just asked for needs from my preceptor and moved as fast and efficient as possible. In the end we had a stable client who was grateful for the team and have been able to work with them on recovering from this event, emotionally and physically. I feel a lot more secure in my ability to perform emergent, life-saving medical attention and hope that when I am primary, I can continue to be calm and efficient. My challenges this semester have been getting my hours and with that I have reached out to another approved midwife to assist for a few births so I can meet my target. I think next time I will make sure my clinical setting has more than enough demand and get on track earlier in the semester. I will be relocating to a new town with my next clinical class coming up in another semester, my plan is to network early so I can have an easier time getting into the new community and secure a placement as soon as possible. Before this move, I had many placements at my hands because I had made a name for myself working at the local birth center. This new town and new community will require I build a new name for myself which many be a challenge in such a short time. I have noticed that I tend to be very quiet in my practice and hope to be able to step out of my comfort more to develop my midwifery skills. I also want to develop my skills more and take more classes to build my knowledge to not only be a better midwife but to be a better doula.