



**Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes**

May 6, 2024  
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Meeting Location:**  
VIRTUAL

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Council Member Attendance</b>	<b>Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain</b>	<b>Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain</b>
<b>Bold</b> = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent	2/20/2024 Meeting Minutes	Application Edits
<b>Voting Members</b>		
<b>Kenda Sutton El-(Chair)</b>	Y	Y
<b>Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)</b>	Y	Y
<b>Dr. Frances Casey</b>	Y	Y
<b>Maria Hayden</b>	Y	Y
<b>Adrienne Hill</b>	Y	Y
<b>Breonna Riddick</b>	Y	Y
<b>Nichole Wardlaw</b>	Y	Y
<i>Lisa Brown</i>		
<b>Ex Officio Members</b>		
<b>Jennifer Macdonald, MPH, BSN, RN</b>		
<b>Natasha Turner as Cheryl Robert's DMAS designee</b>		
<b>Vacant Seats</b>		
Clinician x1		
Doula x2		
Consumer x3		
Legislative Representative Member		

Virginia Department of Health Staff Support: Consuelo Staton, Emily Yeatts, Art Thomas  
Other Attendee: Vanessa Walker Harris, MD, Mary Hall

<p><b>Task Force Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was called to order at 12:04pm.</li> <li>• Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.</li> <li>• Meeting minutes from February 2024 were adopted by task force members. (7-Y, 0-N)</li> <li>• The Virginia Doula Task Force welcomes new members Dr. Breonna Riddick, Adrienne Hill, and Nichole Wardlaw.</li> </ul>
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- The Doula Task Force also expresses their sincere gratitude to Dr. Frances Casey for her dedication to doula task force initiatives and for her expertise and passion. Dr. Casey is relocating to another state.

**Discussion: DMAS Updates – Natasha Turner**

- Natasha Turner from DMAS provided updates on the Virginia Medicaid Community Doula Benefit Program, including milestones – 153 doulas have received state certification, 121 are Medicaid approved to provide services for Medicaid members, 372 Medicaid members to receive doula support services, and there have been 168 doula assisted births.
- A doula dashboard where claims data and self-reported data can be viewed.
- Medicaid Doula Care Form (allows community Doula providers to initiate care for Medicaid members and it enables Medicaid members to access the non-community doula services), has been official updated and is available on the DMAS website. Changes include a coversheet. Any licensed provider can complete the form. Once completed it should be faxed to DMAS, returned to Medicaid member or Doula, and if the member is connected with one of our five healthcare plans, then it also needs to be sent to the Members MCO.
- Expanding the network of doula providers to support families during the childbirth process is the primary focus by:
  1. Increase providers and services to members that are in maternity deserts where there's been facility closures and in areas where we have higher concentration of pregnant members such as like Northern Virginia and in the Tidewater
  2. Infrastructure sustainability in integrating doulas into the care team.
  3. Using qualitative data such as surveys, interviews, testimonials, and other types of data that help tell the story of success and outcomes in Virginia and demonstrate how care impacts positive birth outcomes with doula care

**Discussion: Committee Updates and Doula Survey - Kenda Sutton-El and Stephanie Spencer**

- Stephanie Spencer discussed a survey for doulas to understand their educational needs and prepare for recertification. The committee is seeking feedback from the group on the survey that identifies the clients in these focus areas:
  - Demographic, where individuals were located, age, what areas they served, race and ethnicity.
  - Year of experience as a community doula.
  - Common topics of concerns for client such as lactation, high risk pregnancy, and cultural congruence.
  - The survey also addresses client needs, professional development, challenges and opportunities, community engagement, and feedback and suggestions.
- To communicate the types of questions you'd like to add or ask, send feedback directly to Stephanie Spencer.
- Stephanie Spencer and Consuelo Staton will create a dissemination plan to share the survey to members and then email it out to everyone by the May 20.
- Kenda Sutton-EL discussed different approaches on engaging providers and addressing their misconceptions about doulas, proposing community conversations and a panel discussion to facilitate understanding.
- Dr. Frances Casey suggested creating a video featuring patient and provider testimonials to promote the benefits of doulas in OB-GYN settings. The group expressed support for the idea.

- Dr. Walker Harris clarifies a point of order: Since the Taskforce is a public body, if 3 or more members are working in the doc at one time, that counts as a meeting, and must be public. So, it's likely best for members to review the survey and route feedback to Consuelo so she can share with Stephanie. That way we'll stay in the requirements of a public body.

**Discussion: Doula Recertification update – Consuelo Staton**

- Consuelo Staton will add the statements about residential and jurisdiction requirements to the Virginia State Doula Certification application:
  1. Doula must be enrolled in in Virginia Medicaid to be Medicaid approved.
  2. Doula must live within 50 miles of the Virginia border to be a Medicaid provider.
  3. Doula of must live or work in Virginia 51% of the time to become a state certified doula.
- A vote was motioned to approve edits to application ( 7-Yes, 0-No)
- Task Force Members will review and define the 15 required hours for recertification. The VDH will submit recommendations to the Virginia Certification Board
- To apply to the application, an online PDF is available. The Virginia Board of Certification sends three reminders via email to remind doulas of recertification.

**Discussion: Public Comments Period**

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**New Business: Consuelo Staton**

- Discussion on establishing a doula task force member recruitment guidance (ex. bylaws revision, special guidance document).
- Next meeting 8/19/2024

**Adjournment- Kenda Sutton-El**

- Meeting adjourned at 1:19pm.