



Virginia Doula Task Force

April 26, 2022

11:00am-1:00pm

(In-Person Meeting)

Fairfield Area Public Library

Henrico County Public Libraries

Fairfield Area Public Library – Large Meeting Room

1401 N. Laburnum Avenue

Henrico, VA 23223

(804) 501-1930

I. Call to order – Kenda Sutton-El

11:06a

II. Roll call – Consuelo Staton

Present: Kenda Sutton-El- Birth In Color RVA, Stephanie Spencer- Urban Baby Beginnings

Lisa Brown- Birth Sisters of Charlottesville, Kayley Mayhew- VA Family Doulas

Alison Hicks- VHHA, Cheryl Roberts- DMAS, Cartier Smith-DMAS, Dr. Frances Casey- VCU, Maria

Hayden- Motherhood Collective

Not Present: Lora Henderson-Doula Consumer, Lauren Barnes-Doula Consumer, Dr. Donald

Dudley-OB/GYN, Erika Schmale-Doula Consumer, Jennifer McClellan-State Senator, Tammy

McKinley- Virginia Midwives Alliance, Tara Daystar- Roanoke Doula Collective,

VDH/DMAS Staff present:

Consuelo Staton- VDH, Jennifer MacDonald- VDH, Robin Buskey- VDH, Emily Yeatts- VDH

Kimani Burney- VDH, scribe; Natasha Turner- DMAS

III. Vote on Minutes- upon achieving quorum: November 16, 2021

- i. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving meeting minutes

IV. State Doula Certification and Doula Training Entity Applications -Stephanie Spencer

- i. Overview of the process to date:
 - i. Applications are live and available at the Virginia Certification Board webpage, <http://www.vacertboard.org/>
 - ii. As of 4/26/2022, six people have applied for the State Doula Certification, and have officially been approved as State Certified Community Doulas
 - iii. Two groups that have been working over the past year, one from DMAS and one from VDH- the taskforce was created as a result.
 - iv. Spoke of certification process, encouraging people to become state certified and, while not required, applying for Medicaid reimbursement

- v. During the latter part of September, the tentative training entities were established and what DMAS' role would be in the doula certification process to ensure accessibility for all.
- vi. Need for statewide doula association; communications between taskforce, doulas, clients, providers
 - 1. Communications rep for managed care orgs, doulas, clients
- vii. Scope of practice: one for state of Virginia that made sense for everyone. Will continue to talk about this and through this to build a robust doula workforce over the next two years

V. Discussion – Communication Plan/FAQS, Doula Task Force recommendations to the State Health Commissioner

- i. Point of the plan is to provide the same messaging; standard for prenatal visits, postpartum visits, and the birth
- ii. Website for stakeholders and consumers: general FAQs for clients (i.e. what type of provider can sign my referral form), a do/don't document for doula, FAQs for stakeholders, FAQs for MCOs. VDH will launch a website that will link to VCB. DMAS is developing a doula benefit webpage that VDH will link to.
- iii. All documents embellished with "Virginia is for Doulas" icon; red/black/white theme
- iv. Submit recommendations to VDH and DMAS for approval, and the website will be VirginialsForDoulas when/if approved

VI. Vote to approve Communication Plan/FAQs, Doula Task Force recommendations to the State Health Commissioner

- i. All members in attendance voted in favor of approving communication plan

VII. Open issues-Topic for discussion- Kenda Sutton-El, Stephanie Spencer

- i. **Workforce and professional development committee (State Doula Association, Training/continuing education)**
 - i. Summary/Discussion of need
 - 1. To be a state certified doula in Virginia, completing continuing education credits is a requirement.
 - 2. This committee will make recommendations for what the workforce development should look like and to ensure continuing education is equitable and accessible.
 - 3. The committee will bring the recommendations back to the Taskforce, who will then bring it to the Commissioner.
 - 4. First meeting date to be determined
 - 5. State Doula Association- what would this look like? There's no concentrated way for doulas to come together to network/discuss, but it is necessary.
- ii. **Vote for a workforce and professional development committee (State Doula Association, Training/continuing education)**

- i. All members in attendance voted in favor of forming a workforce and professional development committee

VIII. DMAS Medicaid Benefit Implementation update- Cartier Smith

- i. Introduction to Natasha Turner, DMAS Doula Analyst
- ii. Community Doula Implementation updates:
 - i. Received 1st State Certified Community Doula application with Virginia Medicaid; application is under review
 - ii. same doula has begun discussing MCO contracting
 - iii. Email DMAS at babystepsva@dmas.virginia.gov for most up-to-date information on the state certified community doula certification process
 - iv. Roadmap for Community Doulas
 - 1. State Certification-requirement to enroll with Virginia Medicaid
 - 2. Obtain an NPI- requirement for all VA Medicaid providers
 - 3. Medicaid Enrollment- fingerprinting, background check
 - 4. MCO Contracting- there are 6 managed care organizations & support of health plans are important; MCOs help Medicaid to deliver service to 95% of 2 million members to date
 - 5. Training- doulas will have access to upcoming implementation workgroups; best practices, working through challenges/barriers. Comprised of VDH, DMAS, taskforce, community members, healthcare systems, provider community
 - 6. Member Engagement- doulas must think of own member engagement and marketing strategy; what materials and resources are you providing clients?
 - 7. Reimbursement- doulas need to know about billing, record keeping, and MCO contracting as a Medicaid provider

IX. Public Comment Period – 2 minute maximum time per public commenter

- i. Question: *For organizations on the approved training entity list- does every approved organization have continuing education requirements? There are 3 training entities that have reached out about barriers to applying and being approved.* Yes. Training entities that are not on the approved training entity list can still train doulas and have doulas apply for the state certification, but must provide continuing education opportunities. Doulas must be properly trained to meet state certification requirements.
- ii. Question: *If someone has one of the skills required, like CPR for example, and it is through the AHA or Red Cross and done within the last three years, would they still need it through a training entity or would their original certificate be accepted?* Their original certificate will be accepted, though CPR and BLS are not currently requirements for the state certification.
- iii. Question: *Would it be possible to hold a Q&A session for doulas who are current doulas working and serving the community?* It is planned, but still needs approval. May 16th Virginia Neonatal Perinatal Quality Collaborative (VPNC) Summit will have a high level review of VDH and DMAS work. June 21st webinar/info session with a representative

from the Virginia Certification Board (VCB) for doulas to attend and receive general information.

- iv.* Question: *How long are the MCO contracts good for?* This would need to be discussed with the MCO themselves.

X. Adjournment – Kenda Sutton-El, Stephanie Spencer

12:00p