



**Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes**

September 30, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Meeting Location:**

VDH – Division of Vital Records and Health Statistics  
2001 Maywill St, Richmond, VA 23230

**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	5/6/2024 Meeting Minutes	Bylaw Edits
<b>Voting Members</b>		
<b>Kenda Sutton El-(Chair)</b>	Y	Y
<i>Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)</i>		
<b>Maria Hayden</b>	Y	Y
<b>Adrienne Hill</b>	Y	Y
<b>Breonna Riddick</b>	Y	Y
<b>Nichole Wardlaw</b>	Y	Y
<b>Lydia English</b>	Y	Y
<b>Lisa Brown</b>	Y	Y
<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: Lauryn “Lo” Walker, Rebecca “Becca” Edelstein

<p><b>Task Force Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was called to order at 12:15pm.</li> <li>• Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.</li> <li>• Meeting minutes from May 2024 were adopted by task force members. (7-Y, 0-N)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discussion: Task Force Nomination Process – Consuelo Staton</b></p>

- Consuelo Staton opened discussion on current open seats/vacancies within the task force. The nomination process was reviewed with a few recommendations:
  - Consuelo Staton considered moving forward with nominations of new members after 30+ days.
  - Kenda Sutton-EL suggested incentivizing task force members who must travel to participate in the task force.
  - Jen Macdonald clarified virtual participation rules: home location must be greater than 60 miles to participate virtually. Task member will need to give a documented reason each meeting to be excused.
  - Nichole Wardlaw inquired about the plan to advertise vacancies; Kenda Sutton-EL stated plans to disseminate a flyer via email and social media.
  - Nichole Wardlaw asked for clarification on member involvement in choosing from the task force nominations. Jen MacDonald suggested bylaws changes to allow member review.
  - Lisa suggested forming a nomination committee.
- Bylaws Revisions:
  - Modified language to specify “One midwife” among clinical provider representatives, removing the specific midwife types.
    - Motion approved unanimously (7-Y, 0-N)
  - Section V revised: “All nominations will be added to the agenda for the following meeting and voted upon by the full Task Force nominations receiving the at least 50% of votes will be forwarded to the Commissioner.”
    - Motion approved unanimously (7-Y, 0-N)
- Kenda Sutton-EL proposed making changes to the budget language governing the Task Force and will pursue this.

**Discussion: DMAS Updates – Natasha Turner**

- Natasha Turner provided updates on the Virginia Medicaid Community Doula Benefit Program, including milestones – 182 doulas have received state certification, 142 are Medicaid approved to provide services for Medicaid members.
  - Regions with the highest numbers of doulas: Central VA and Tidewater.
  - Lowest: Roanoke.
  - Focused areas for growth: Southwest VA and Northern VA due to gaps in doula availability.
- First official reports for the internal doula data dashboards included information from Medicaid claims that were captured:
  - As of June 2024, 437 Medicaid members have received doula services, 226 assisted births.
- If doulas have billing challenges with Medicaid, there is assistance available:
  - Work directly with Medicaid. (helpful for members not connected to a health care plan)
  - MCOs can assist with billing, training, and onboarding.
  - Billing organizations that enrolled into Medicaid serve as billing hubs.
  - Natasha Turner offers informational sessions as requested.
- There is an ongoing need for educating medical and clinical providers about doulas.
- Kenda Sutton-EL mentioned slow MCO reimbursement and the doula network rapidly growing.
- Nichole Wardlaw asked about responsibility of informing doulas of the next steps after training and certification. Kenda Sutton-EL clarified that her organization gives doulas the proper information, but not all organizations have to, as it is not a requirement. Kenda suggests that the Task Force should focus on educating existing providers/doulas rather than focusing on growing the network.

**Discussion: Doula Training Administration Updates – Consuelo Staton**

- Consuelo Staton proposed adding clarification on required hours for recertification (ex. breastfeeding and infant maternal health).
- Kenda Sutton-EL suggested adding the requirement that a doula must attend at least two births to the doula regulations.
  - Consuelo Staton recommends adding birth hours to the recertification application to fill gaps where training hours are need in the meantime
- Consuelo Staton considered engaging with hospitals to educate about doulas. Kenda Sutton-EL suggested that one cannot candidly communicate with hospitals. She suggested community conversations and a panel discussion to level understanding.
- First Doula Certification expiration is April 7, 2025.
- Virginia Certification board recommends:
  - Reviewing the recertification application plus hosting an informational session for new doulas and interested doula training organization.
  - Updating regulations to be clearer around doula certification/recertification.
  - Knowledge areas in lactation and infant maternal health possibly be expanded and enhanced.
- This topic will be continued and added to next doula meeting agenda.

**Discussion: Committee Updates-Kenda Sutton – EL and Stephanie Spencer**

- Stephanie Spencer is still seeking feedback on survey questions.

**Public Comment Period:**

- No public comments received.

**New Business: Consuelo Staton**

- Next meeting on November 4, 2024 – Virtual – 12PM to 2PM

**Adjournment- Kenda Sutton-EL**

- Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm by Kenda Sutton-EL