



Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2024
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Location:
IN-PERSON, VDH Office of Vital Records

Meeting Minutes

Council Member Attendance	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain
Bold = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent	11/4/2024 Meeting Minutes	Block vote on 7 suggested organizations	These 7 orgs should submit contact info and copy of certificate to VCB to be added to the list	Require others to submit recertification application to VCB to be added to the list
Voting Members				
Kenda Sutton El-(Chair)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)	Y	Y	Y	Y
Maria Hayden	Y	Y	Y	Y
Adrienne Hill	Y	Y	Y	Y
Breonna Riddick	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nichole Wardlaw	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lydia English	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lisa Brown	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ex Officio Members				
Jennifer Macdonald, MPH, BSN, RN				
Natasha Turner as Cheryl Robert's DMAS designee				
Vacant Seats				
Clinician x1				
Doula x2				
Consumer x3				
Legislative Representative Member				

Virginia Department of Health Staff Support: Consuelo Staton, Emily Yeatts, Art Thomas, Rebecca Edelstein, Cindy deSa (Jennifer Macdonald's designee)

Task Force Business

- The meeting was called to order at 12:06PM
- Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.
- Meeting minutes from November 2024 were approved by task force members. (8-Y, 0-N)

Discussion: Upcoming Nomination Process for Chair, Co-Chair and Members

- Stephanie Spencer presented the findings of a survey aimed at identifying the training needs of state-certified doulas in Virginia, which garnered 9 responses, mainly from independent doulas. The survey highlighted significant concerns regarding mental health, postpartum care, and the necessity for more training opportunities. Kenda Sutton-EL discussed the challenges in increasing survey participation, suggesting a more creative way to get people to take survey.
- Kenda Sutton-EL also outlined the appointment process for task force members, emphasizing term limits, stakeholder representation, and the procedure for filling vacancies, as well as the annual election of a chair and co-chair to guide meetings.

Discussion: Recertification

- Kenda Sutton-EL stressed the need for approved training organizations to offer relevant courses. Nichole Wardlaw raised the question of whether related training, such as lactation counseling, could count towards continuing education units (CEUs), indicating a need for an approval process for non-approved entities.
- The group discussed the limited number of state-certified doulas and the task force's goal to expand the list of approved organizations to aid in recertification.
- Kenda Sutton-EL led discussions on establishing a submission process for training proposals, ensuring that training is specifically tailored for doulas, while the group suggested potential collaborations with organizations. The importance of adhering to Virginia Certification Board rules for recertification was also emphasized, with concerns raised about the inclusion of certain training organizations on the approved list.
 - Task Force conducted a block vote on 7 suggested organizations to be added to the list of approved recertification training entities. These organizations include 1) state and government entities, including VDH; 2) Lactation Education Resource; 3) Healthy Children Project; 4) Postpartum Support of Virginia; 5) Institute for the Advancement of Family Support Professionals, including Early Impact VA; 6) Postpartum International; 7) Region 10 Community Services Board
 - Motion passed with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes
 - These organizations need to submit contact information and a copy of their certificate to VCB to officially be added to the list.
 - Motion passed with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes
 - Task force voted to require any other training organizations to submit recertification application to VCB to be added to the list.
 - Motion passed with 8 yes votes, 0 no votes

- *Note: Additional discussion needed at next meeting as VCB does not currently have a recertification application for training entities*

Public Comment Period:

- No public comments received.

New Business: Consuelo Staton

- Next meeting on January 6, 2024 – Virtual – 12PM to 2PM
 - 2025 quarterly meeting dates:
 - Monday, April 7, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 pm In-Person
 - Monday, August 4, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 pm Virtual
- Monday, December 1, 2025, 12:00 – 2:00 pm In-Person

Adjournment- Kenda Sutton-El

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