

Virginia Doula Task Force Subcommittee Meeting

July 31, 2026
10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Meeting Location

Microsoft Teams

Virtual Access Link:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/275133633483537?p=efnBnv5GR79PDcAF2>

Meeting Minutes

Member Attendance
Bold = Present, in person <i>Italicized</i> = Absent
Voting Members
Lisa Brown (Non-Member)
Nataki Hill (Non-Member)
Taja Iglesias
Basmah Karriem
Nichole Wardlaw

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Staff Attending: Jayla Dickens, Consuelo Staton

Task Force Business

- Dr. Wardlaw and Staton called the meeting to order at approximately 10:11 AM. Roll call was conducted by Staton.

Regulatory Update

- Members discussed the upcoming periodic regulatory review needed under the Virginia Code. It was clarified that regulations are reviewed every 4 years (instead of 5 years), making 2026 the review year.
- Regulatory review process will include a Notice of Periodic Review and a public comment period following the Town Hall posting.
- Members noted that beginning proposed revisions now could allow these changes to be incorporated during the current regulatory review cycle.

Discussion: VA Doula Training Provider Rubric

- The subcommittee continued discussion from 7/21/26, meeting regarding revisions to the VA Doula Certification Training Provider Rubric.
- Members reviewed the previous draft training rubric and redefined the training session content descriptions to better reflect an effective educational approach for trainees.
- Members revised terminology by changing “Comfort Strategies” to “Comfort Measures/Strategies.”
- Group discussed replacing “Active Listening” with “Effective Communication” to better reflect the communication skills that are expected of doulas. Members emphasized that a doula’s approach, demeanor, and cultural awareness are essential components of effective communication.
- Further discussion followed that was focused on professionalism, including the importance of appearance, presentation, and mindfulness in how doulas represent themselves while working with clients.

Recommendation Summary – Subcommittee Members

- The subcommittee completed its review of the draft training rubric and finalized revisions to the recommended minimum instructional hours while keeping a total of 60 instructional hours.
- Recommended competency area instructional hours:
 - Topic 1: Maternal and Infant Health Concepts and Approaches from 20 hours to 4 hours
 - Topic 2: Lactation Anticipatory Guidance and Support from 10 hours to 5 hours
 - Topic 3: Service Coordination and System Navigation from 20 hours to 22 hours
 - Topic 4: Health Promotion and Prevention from 8 hours to 4 hours
 - Topic 5: Advocacy Outreach and Engagement remained 5 hours
 - Topic 6: Communication from 2 hours to 4 hours
 - Topic 7: Cultural Humility and Responsiveness from 8 hours to 9 hours
 - Topic 8: Ethical Responsibilities and Professionalism remained 5 hours
- Staton will compile a draft summary of the recommendations of the training rubric. Brown and Staton will compile a draft summary of the recertification process. Both document drafts will be presented to the subcommittee for review and upon approval, the documents will be presented to the full doula task force for a vote. After the doula task force member vote, the documents will be sent to VCB for review.

Public Comment Period

No public comment.

Adjournment

- The subcommittee meeting adjourned at 11:47 AM.