



Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes

November 4, 2024
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Location:
VIRTUAL

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	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain
Bold = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent	9/30/2024 Meeting Minutes	Bylaw Edits	Allow doulas to obtain CE recertification hours from approved training entities	Allow doulas to choose CE recertification hours from list of curriculum requirements	Allow doulas choose CE recertification hours from list of curriculum requirements but require that doulas select topics from at least two categories	Send recommendations to VCB to specify that VCB must require training certificates for recertification
Voting Members						
Kenda Sutton EL-(Chair)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Maria Hayden	Y	Y				
<i>Adrienne Hill</i>						
Breonna Riddick	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nichole Wardlaw	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lydia English	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lisa Brown	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ex Officio Members						
Jennifer Macdonald, MPH, BSN, RN						
Natasha Turner as Cheryl Robert's						

DMAS designee	
Vacant Seats	
Clinician x2	
Doula x2	
Consumer x2	
Legislative Representative Member	

Virginia Department of Health Staff Support: Consuelo Staton, Emily Yeatts, Art Thomas, Rebecca Edelstein

Virginia Certification Board Staff Support: Mary Jo Mather

Task Force Business

- The meeting was called to order at 12:05.
- Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.
- Meeting minutes from September 2024 were adopted by task force members. 7 yes votes, 0 no votes
- Bylaw revisions from September 2024 were adopted by task force members. 7 yes votes, 0 no votes

Recertification Requirements Discussion:

- The group reviewed regulatory language regarding recertification and continuing education requirements. Stephanie Spencer suggested identifying the categories/topics for the 15 hours of recertification. Kenda Sutton-EL suggested looking at other states' requirements (NJ/NY use 28 CE credits). Emily Yeatts clarified that regulatory language changes would require Board of Health approval. The current requirement outlined in the regulations is 15 hours of continuing education every two years.
- Discussion point: Can doulas earn 15 hours of CE from any approved training organization, or do they need to receive 15 hours of CE from the same training organization where they received their initial training?
 - Task Force voted to allow doulas to obtain CE hours from any approved training organization
 - Motion passed with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes
 - Task Force voted to allow doulas to choose CE topics from the list of curriculum requirements
 - Motion passed with 4 yes votes, 2 no votes
- Discussion Point: Nichole Wardlaw questioned the capacity to review the CE certification paperwork. Kenda Sutton-EL confirmed that the Virginia Certification Board (VCB) handles this process. Mary Jo Mather detailed the existing auditing system for recertification, where individuals must list their training with dates and hours. Applications are randomly selected for audits. Natasha Turner stated that when the state certification expires, doulas risk being terminated as Medicaid providers, starting with the first doulas in April 2025. Any regulatory changes from the current discussions that

prolong the state certification would impact doulas maintaining their Medicaid provider status. She also stated that the VDH/VCB doula recertification process will have a Medicaid impact therefore if the Virginia Doula Task Force proposes or recommends an extension or grace period to the recertification process timeline this impact on Medicaid must be considered.

- In addition to the state recertification process with VCB, doulas who are currently enrolled with Virginia Medicaid as Medicaid doula providers must update their state certification in order to maintain their doula provider status by submitting a copy of the VCB state recertification certificate to Virginia Medicaid prior to the state certification expiration date. Doulas who fail submit their recertification certificate to Virginia Medicaid by the expiration date will be terminated as Medicaid doula providers.
- Recertification Period & Timeline
 - The regulations say recertification is required every two years. The group recognized the inconsistency between the state’s two-year recertification requirement for doulas and the three-year recertification requirement for doula training organizations. Doulas recertify every 2 years and training entities recertify every 3 years. VCB requires three years for all other recertification processes that they administer. Regulatory changes are needed to update the recertification period to three years.
 - Group clarified that recertification through the state is separate and distinct from recertification through a training entity.
 - First state-certified doula recertifications will begin April 2025.
 - Task force voted to allow doulas to choose CEs from any VCB approved training entity and require that doulas select at least two categories from the approved curriculum topics.
 - Motion passed with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes
- Task force voted to send recommendations to VCB to specify that VCB must require training certificates for recertification
 - Motion passed with 6 yes votes, 0 no votes

Public Comment Period:

- No public comments received.

New Business: Consuelo Staton

- Next meeting on December 9, 2024 – In-Person – 12PM to 2PM
 - *Note: The group wanted to hold a virtual meeting on 12/9, but the bylaws require that the next meeting be held in person.*

Adjournment- Kenda Sutton-EL

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