



Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting

March 2, 2026
12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Location: Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association, VHHA

Meeting Minutes

Council Member Attendance
Bold = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent
Voting Members
Adrienne Hill
Dr. Nichole Wardlaw
<i>Lashrecse Aird</i>
Basmah Karriem
Lydia English
Taja Iglesias
<i>Shanteny Jackson</i>
Ex Officio Members
Lauren Kozlowski as VDH designee
Maryssa Sadler as DMAS designee
Vacant Seats
Clinician x 2
Doula x 1
Consumer x 2

Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Staff Support: Consuelo Staton, Art Thomas, Jennifer MacDonald, Rebecca Edelstein

Task Force Business – Consuelo Staton

- The meeting was called to order at 12:16pm by Consuelo Staton.
- Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.
- Meeting minutes from 08/04/25 and 12/1/2025 were shared with task force members prior to meeting. Meeting minutes from 8/4/2025 were approved (5Y 0N). Meeting minutes from 12/1/2025 were approved. (5Y 0N)

VDH Admin Update– Consuelo Staton

- Recruitment continues for vacant seats on the task force. Vacant seats include doula consumer, doula/organization, clinical provider, hospital representative, legislative

member; organizational vacancies at Urban Baby Beginnings, Birth in Color RVA Motherhood Collective.

- Election of Chair and Co-Chair:
 - There was a motion and a second to nominate Basmah Karriem, Mother of Civilization/Doula as Chair. -Motion passed (5Y 0N)
 - There was a motion and a second to nominate Taja Iglesias, The Momager Collective/Doula as Co-Chair. Motion passed (5Y 0N).

DMAS Update – Maryssa Sadler

- Introduction of new DMAS Staff: Sonya Kibler, Maternal and Child Health Program Analyst and Heath Kirby, Maternal and Child Health Program Manager.
- A request was made to update task force on tracked legislation at the next meeting. DMAS and VDH will partner to present information on legislation, implications and next steps.
- Task Force members suggested that DMAS provide an updated community list and reimbursement information and provide follow-up resources on reimbursement pathways.

Discussion: Doula Task Force Work Plan January 2026-December – Consuelo Staton

- Work plan review proceeded via small-group breakouts; paper copies provided; Idea notes and next steps suggestions to be collected and integrated into the comprehensive work plan; slides to be sent after the meeting.
- There is a need to solidify the process for handling positive and negative feedback about doulas and training entities. VDH's authority to act against external doula entities is limited by existing law/regulations.
- Group discussed sending documentation that outlines the proposed 15 hours of training and what the pathway entails so Doulas and those interested in becoming Doulas, can assess curriculum alignment.
 - Define how external trainings can count toward dual certification/recertification and clarify who awards credits.
 - VDH currently does not offer CEUs for workforce development;
- Group should start drafting regulatory language now (don't wait until July) and prepare recommendations from the task force to the Health Commissioner. VDH admin will work with subcommittee members to establish timeline and recommendation language.
- Group discusses whether Doulas should not provide health education on clinical topics including (e.g., birth control, blood pressure, family planning); provider responsibility for clinical explanations. In addition, the group discussed whether Doulas should provide education and advocate for clients when they do not understand provider information and request for provider clarification.

Discussion: What's Next? – Consuelo Staton

- No suggestions.

2026 Meeting Dates:

- Quarterly meetings on the first Monday of the month, 12pm-2pm:
 - Monday, 06/01/2026, 12pm-2pm, Virtual

- Monday, 09/14/2026, 12pm-2pm, In-Person
- Monday, 12/07/2026, 12pm-2pm, Virtual

Public Comment Period:

1. Sara Zoa, expresses incarcerated clients have a Medicaid exemption during incarceration. Medicaid coverage for incarcerated clients is limited to hospital care, and doulas are not reimbursed. Sara requested expanding coverage to include doulas and all services provided for incarcerated clients.
2. Emily (last name not fully recorded), recommended higher reimbursement for doulas serving incarcerated people based on work complexity and hours.
3. Danielle Lucas, Planner/Head Start Compliance Specialist, Tri-County Community Action Agency, Inc. sent an email update highlighting plans for the Doula Panel at the Maternal and Child Health Summits. This year, the group expanded their reach into two additional counties. Halifax County - April 18th, Mecklenburg County - June 6th, Brunswick County - August 1st, and (Potentially Surry or Sussex County in early October). A panel of Community Health Workers, Doulas, Midwives, Practitioners, and Mothers to discuss the circle of support is planned. If the Doula Task Force suggests any particular important topics or questions that we should be asking during these sessions, let her know and any members are welcome to help with planning or implementation as well as hosting a resource table at the events.

Adjournment- Consuelo Staton

- Meeting adjourned at 2:02pm by Consuelo Staton