



Virginia Doula Task Force
July 30, 2021
10:00am-12:00pm

Meeting Minutes-FINAL

I. Welcome and Introductions (5 minutes)

- Consuelo Staton- State Resource Mothers Program Coordinator, Doula Regs. team & Dr. Oliver's ex officio for Doula Task Force
- Emily Yeatts- Reproductive Health Unit Supervisor
- Kimani Burney- Scribe, Family Planning Training & Education Coordinator
- Robin Buskey- Policy Analyst
- Jennifer Macdonald- Division Director of Child & Family Services

II. Roll Call/Ground Rules (15 minutes)

In attendance:

- Lisa Brown- Birth Sisters of Charlottesville
- Kathy Stewart- ABP Doula Training Center
- Kayley Mayhew- Virginia Family Doulas
- Kenda Sutton-El- Birth in Color RVA
- Allison Roepke- Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association
- Dr. Frances Casey- OB/GYN in RVA area
- Stephanie Spencer- Urban Baby Beginnings
- Tammi McKinley- Virginia Midwives Alliance
- Tara Daystar- Roanoke Doula Collection, Ancient Roots Midwifery and Doula Care LLC
- Lora Henderson- Doula Consumer
- Isabel Eljaiek- Doula Consumer
- Erika Schmale- Doula Consumer
- Cheryl Roberts- DMAS ex officio

Not in attendance:

- Lashrecse Aird, Delegate
- Dr. Donald Dudley, OB/GYN
- Lauren Elise Barnes, Motherhood Collective

III. Agenda Overview and Review of the Budget Language (10 minutes)

Budget Language- Bill HB1800 (Chapter 552), Item 307

- Task force role is to assist with the promulgation of regulations and the certification process of doulas, make recommendations to the health commissioner. For clarifications regarding Medicaid doula reimbursement should be addressed to DMAS. Next DMAS meeting August 19, 2021 3-4 pm

IV. Review Task Force Bylaws (30 minutes)

Task Force Composition

- 3 using doulas
- 7 who are doulas apart of a collective or community based org, no more than 1 from each
- 3 clinical providers, at least one OB/GYN
- 1 rep of professional orgs for hospitals
- One legislative member with interest in maternal and child health

Task Force Chair and Vice Chair

- Chair attends all meetings, vice fills in absence
- Chair provides feedback and oversight to ensure smooth operations and activities of the task force

Duties of members

- Assist with promulgation of regulations and certification process, and serve as an informational resource for policy related matters for VDH
- Review and revise state regulations
- Provide feedback to certifying body
- Conduct outreach to practicing doulas and doulas in training, and to the general public and potential consumers through the certification registry
- Membership appointments, terms, vacancies and compensation

Task force meetings:

- Question: *When will we set our regular meetings? Answer: We will discuss today. Proposing regular meetings for the first two months, and after we'll vote on a quarterly timeframe.*
- Quorum- 2/3 of voting members for the transaction of any official business of the task force
- Members expected to be in attendance of all meetings
- Question: *Would it be appropriate for a consumer member to send an alternate? Answer: Yes, if you have someone who has the same experience in working with a doula it would be appropriate. We will need to check with the chair.*

Electronic meetings:

- Member participation:
 1. All members must be given opportunity to contribute their input.
- Voting:
 1. Quorum of 10 members, or 2/3, must be present to take a vote.
 2. Passage of motion requires simple majority, one more than half.
- Conduct of meetings:
 1. Chair or Vice preside over all meetings. Robert's Rules of Order governs the conduct of all meetings
- Order of business:
 1. As done today.

Amendments

- Is anyone opposed to these bylaws? *None opposed. Amendments adopted as written!*

V. Election of Chair and Co-Chair (15 minutes)

- Suggestion by doula consumer: *Make the chair and co-chair a medical provider and doula service provider?*
- *Motion to nominate chair: Stephanie Spencer of Urban Baby Beginnings. No second to this motion.*
- *Next motion to nominate chair: Kenda Sutton-El. Motion seconded.*
- Voting on this motion: discussion/debate
 1. Question: *since both were nominated, can nominees be chair and vice chair?*
 2. Question- *do either of these members want to be chair?*
 3. *Kenda accepts nomination of chair, and nominates Stephanie as Vice Chair. Motion seconded.*
- VOTE: All in favor of voting Kenda Sutton El as the chair of the Doula Task Force say "I". → 13 Y
- VOTE: All in favor of voting Stephanie Spencer as the co-chair of the Doula Task Force say "I". → 10 Y

VI. Doula Certification Process Overview (10 minutes)

- 4 steps
- Currently in Step 1: finalizing certification regulations, application information, and beginning process

VII. Review Public Comments (20 minutes)

- Do not typically directly address the questions, but put them in writing. Written response provided when final regulation is published.
- Public comment period for regulations has ended.
- Birth Sister of Charlottesville presented comments and Robin Buskey responded:
 1. Who are the training entities? *They have not been chosen as of yet. This task force will make recommendations to be approved by the certifying body. Per the legislation, the board of health approves the certifying body. The certifying body will approve the training entities.*
 2. When will the training entities be announced? *Once the regulation is approved, the board of health will approve the certifying body. The certifying body will provide a registry of approved training entities and state certified doulas.*
 3. What criteria is used by the certifying body to approve a training entity? *This task force will make recommendations on criteria to be used by the certifying body.*
 4. Are there any restrictions on whether the training entity is in or outside of the state? *We support training entities both inside and outside of the state. The legislation does not impose any restrictions. The Doula Task Force will make recommendations.*
 5. Who is responsible for submitting approval consideration for a given training entity? *This task force will make recommendations. The certifying body that VDH is proposing to the Board has a process in place for approving training entities.*
 6. Grandmothering for seasoned doulas- *legislation and regulation establish requirements who wish to become state certified doulas. Legislation and regulation does not determine what's in place to ensure Medicaid reimbursement; DMAS requires state certification as a requirement for Medicaid reimbursement*
- Recommendation to Discuss: Section 12VAC40405-50 Curriculum requirements, B.5.b *states "Intentional reflection of the community served." Can it be modified to states "intention reflection {and needs assessment} of the community served", to ensure the needs of the community are understood and served as opposed to making decisions that do not include the community.*
- VOTE: All in favor to amend the regulatory language to include "needs assessment" as stated in the public comment, say "I". 2Y 8N

VIII. Review Doula Certification Application and Code of Ethics (45 minutes)

- Those applying must live and practice in Virginia at the time of application, but there are doulas whom are certified practitioners in other states. *What is the reciprocity between states? May need to add a reciprocity clause.*

Recertification:

- *Add links to training entities when available and remove DONA because DONA is not training community doulas.*
- *\$75 recertification fee- if hospitals decide they want state certified doulas to be vendors at hospitals, is there a way to avoid the fee required to be credentialed at said hospital?*

Lapsed Certification:

- *Application states "there is no grace period". Suggestion to include a grace period of 30 days that can undue hardship on anyone. Additionally, if someone is not able to comply, they must contact VCB to request an exception.*
- *Are reinstatement fees negotiable? Maybe it should be \$25 to make the total \$100, the matching amount of the initial application, as opposed to paying \$175 which is more than the initial certification cost.*

Actual Application

- *Application is fillable.*
- *Education and training- include links to trainers when available and remove DONA*

- *Same application for applying and recertifying. Differentiate between 60 hours of education/training for initial certification, and for 15 hours of education/training for recertification*
- *Does the certifying body need to include some requirement for hands on experience- 1/2/3 etc births? Group agreed on no, as long as education and training requirements are fulfilled.*

Code of Ethics

- *Language concern- state certified doula is defined as a community-based doula.*
- *Legal Obligations- are state certified doulas going to be mandated reporters? This will be determined by legislation but it has not been revised thus far, so it cannot be added to the application or code of ethics.*
- *VOTE: Is the application and code of ethics approved with added comments? Updates can always be made in the future as the task force requests. All in favor, say "I". 9Y*

IX. Prioritize Topics for Future Meetings (20 minutes)

High Priority

- Recommend the proposed training entities
- Clarifying role of certifying body (guest speaker?)
- Strategies for collection of input for doulas/stakeholders not part of the task force
- Program promotion and public awareness
- Provider Referrals
- Creating a statewide association
- Practice of hospitals implementing their own credentialing fees
- Potential of certification reciprocity between states

Low Priority

- Scope of practice for doulas
- Potential role as a mandatory reporter

*Proposal on Meeting timelines: every two weeks, two hours each. Then move to quarterly meetings.

X. Public comment (10 minutes)

- N/A

Contact Consuelo Staton, State Resource Mothers Program Coordinator
 Consuelo.staton@vdh.virginia.gov