

## Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes

Location: Fairfield Area Public Library – Large Meeting Room

Date: November 1, 2022

Time: 10AM-12PM

Attendees: Kenda Sutton El - Birth in Color RVA, Consuelo Staton - VDH Task Force Administrator, Jennifer Macdonald – VDH ex officio, Cheryl Smith - DMAS ex officio designee, Maria Hayden - Motherhood Collective, Lisa Brown - Birth Sisters of Charlottesville, Dr. Frances Casey – VCU

Not Present: State Senator Jennifer McClellan, Lauren Barnes, Lora Henderson, Rachel Becker and Stephanie Spencer

VDH/DMAS Attendees: Consuelo Staton, Jennifer Macdonald, Emily Yeatts, Lauren Kozlowski, Art Thomas, Cheryl Smith

**1. Call to order: 10:10AM Kenda Sutton-El, Doula Task Force Chair**

**2. Roll call – Consuelo Staton, VDH Liaison to Doula Task Force**

**3. Discussion: Items Requiring a Vote at Next Meeting:**

- No quorum was reached for voting. Nominations for the Task Force’s Chair and Co-Chair positions: Chair and Co-Chair terms are for one year. Voting will happen during the next meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Members should come prepared with a nomination in mind. The current Chair and Co-Chair can be nominated again. Members are allowed to nominate themselves.

Bylaws must be updated to allow for virtual meeting options. As of September 1, 2022, task forces may have two virtual meetings, but the virtual meetings cannot be consecutive. The members propose to adopt approved language from the bylaws of the Rare Disease Council. The task force will vote in the next meeting about the new language and when the first virtual meeting will be held. Even with these changes, members of task forces cannot vote virtually. Meetings are public and virtual links must be posted to Town Hall. The Secretary of Health and Human Resources needs to vet the meeting presentation at least 48 hours before the meeting.

**4. State Doula Certification and DMAS Medicaid Benefit Implementation Update- Consuelo Staton, VDH Liaison to Doula Task Force**

- Consuelo reviewed key facts noted in the slide deck. Key points include:
  - VDH developed a landing page for the State Certified Doula Program. The page talks about the Doula State Certification process. Links are provided to the Virginia Certification Board where the public can access the State Doula Application and Training Application. The VDH landing page also links to DMAS for community doula resources.

- DMAS Training opportunities will be available. Members should reach out to Natasha Turner or Cheryl Smith with DMAS for more information.
- Community Doula Implementation Meeting will be hosted by DMAS on Thursday, November 3, 2022. If members are interested in attending, please send an email to Consuelo Staton requesting to be added to the meeting. When discussing DMAS reimbursement with doulas, it will be important to emphasize the importance of being proactive about all that is needed to get to this step.
- To date, the Medicaid benefit has paid for seven doula-supported births.

**5. Communication Plan/FAQS recommendations to the State Health Commissioner Update-Kenda Sutton-El, Doula Task Force Chair.**

- The task force’s recommendation letter to the State Health Commissioner is now being reviewed. The recommendation letter included suggestions about a communication plan that includes posters, a web page, & more.
  - In the case that the recommendations are not approved, the Chair has proposed to move forward with these strategies outside of the Doula Task Force.
- The communication team approved a survey which asks providers about their thoughts on doulas. The committee will discuss data points & how they can be used for training opportunities during the next meeting on January 10, 2023.

**6. Workforce and Professional Development Committee (State Doula Association, training/continuing education) Update-Kenda Sutton-El, Doula Task Force Chair. Link to where to sign up Kenda and Consuelo Staton, VDH Liaison to Doula Task Force.**

- The committee discussed creating a doula training to offer as a resource for providers. Task force recommends putting together a list of providers to distribute this training.
- The Chair is planning to meet with other states in the upcoming weeks to discuss how they have implemented training and development plans for aspiring doulas.
- If members would like to be a part of the Professional Development committee, please contact Kenda or Consuelo.

**7. Public Comment Period- 2-minute maximum time per public commenter**

- No public comments

**8. Adjourn: 11:00AM Kenda Sutton-El, Doula Task Force Chair**

## Unfinished Business

1. Updates to the bylaws are in progress. Revisions were made to Sections II and VII. Please review and bring suggestions and/or questions to the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Action items	Owner(s)	Deadline
[Review presentation and agenda for January 10th meeting]	[Kenda Sutton-El]	[January 3, 2022]
[Submit presentation to SHHR]	[Consuelo Staton]	[January 4, 2022]
[Update bylaws and send to group]	[Consuelo Staton and Emily Yeatts]	[January 6, 2022]