



Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Meeting Location:

VDH Division of Vital Records Building
 2001 Maywill Street, Suite 101, Richmond, VA 23230
 In-Person Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Council Member Attendance	Voting Record Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain	
Bold = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent	11/20/23 Meeting Minutes	Bylaws language
Voting Members		
Kenda Sutton El-(Chair)	Y	Y
Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)	Y	Y
Lisa Brown	Y	Y
Dr. Frances Casey	Y	Y
Maria Hayden	Y	Y
Ex Officio Members		
Jennifer Macdonald, MPH, BSN, RN		
Natasha Turner as Cheryl Robert's DMAS designee		
Vacant Seats		
Clinician x2		
Doula x3		
Consumer x3		
Legislative Representative Member		
Hospital Organization (VHHA)		

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

<p>Task Force Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was called to order at 12:22pm. • Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved. • Meeting minutes from November 2023 were adopted by task force members. (5-Y, 0-N) • Consuelo Staton reviewed meeting agenda. No additions made to the agenda.
<p>Discussion: Review of the scheduled Doula Task Force meeting dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of future dates Task Force meeting dates were given, and Kenda Sutton asked if anyone opposed. No questions or concerns were raised around future Task Force meeting dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monday, May 6, 2024, 12:00-2:00 pm, (Virtual meeting) ○ Monday, August 19, 2024, 12:00 - 2:00pm, (In person- Location TBA)

- Monday, November 4, 2024, 12:00 - 2:00pm, (Virtual meeting)

Discussion: Doula Residency requirements in Virginia- Kenda Sutton-El

- Natasha Turner shared information regarding the DMAS Residency requirements.
 - Doula must be enrolled in Virginia Medicaid to be a Medicaid approved.
 - Doula must live within 50 miles of the Virginia border to be a Medicaid provider.
- Consuelo Staton clarified that a doula must live or work in Virginia 51% of the time to become a state-certified doula.
- Natasha Turner brought up individuals who don't have a doula organization to assist them. These doulas can submit their billing claims to the MCO. Each MCO has its own billing process.
- Stephanie Spencer asked clarifying questions about merging state requirements with Medicaid requirements on the state certification application. Consuelo Staton stated plans to add clarifying language to the state certification application.

Discussion: DMAS Updates – Natasha Turner

- Currently, there are 132 State-Certified Doulas and 101 of the State-Certified Doulas are Medicaid enrolled.
- Natasha requested that doula organizations submit claims in a timely manner to allow DMAS to maintain an accurate count of families served.
- Priorities for DMAS include the conversion to Cardinal Care which encompasses health care programs that include Medicaid Medallion 4.0, CCC Plus, and FAMIS.
- Medicaid members will receive updated Medicaid cards to include the new Cardinal Care members. Medicaid numbers will stay the same.
- Procurement of managed care organizations will be announced at the end of March.
- Doula care recommendation forms have been translated to Spanish and will now include a cover sheet.
- Stephanie Spencer asked if the old recommendation forms will get denied during the transition. Natasha Turner stated communication will go out to call centers, MCOs, information will be updated online, emails will go out to doula organizations and Medicaid members, and updates will be shared via informational meetings to prevent members from being denied.
- Dr. Frances Casey asked about an electronic version of the recommendation form such as a fillable PDF. Natasha Turner stated she would take feedback to DMAS regarding having a DocuSign option for the form.
- Next Community Doula Meeting will take place in at the end of February. An informational link will be sent with additional details.

Discussion: Review “Virginia is for Doulas” website and Bylaws -- Kenda Sutton-El

- Kenda Sutton reviewed the Code of Ethics to include in the bylaws. Members suggested adding language regarding integrity and professionalism into the Code of Ethics. Kenda Sutton motioned to approve new language added to by-laws (5-Y, 0-N)
- Members suggested edits to the VA is For Doulas website that included:
 - The DMAS Community Doula Initiative video was added.
 - Doula Care Recommendation button was updated to include the Doula Care Form
 - Kenda Sutton-El motioned to approve edits to the website (5-Y, 0-N)
 - Revised bylaws will be sent to the Virginia Doula Task Force members.

Discussion: Committee Updates – Kenda Sutton-El and Stephanie Spencer

- Current recertification topics include maternal infant health concepts and approaches, lactation, service coordination and navigation, health promotion, advocacy, outreach, engagement, communication, cultural humility and responsiveness, ethical responsibilities, and professionalism.
- Stephanie Spencer suggested topics for recertification should also include care coordination, high risk pregnancies, post-partum care, and domestic violence based on feedback she received. Dr. Casey suggested contraception.
- Stephanie Spencer recommended conducting a survey. A survey can identify challenge areas and inform the landscape of doula training. An example survey and letter were disseminated to task force members for review and feedback to finalize the plan. State-certified doulas will receive the survey and have until March 31, 2024, to respond. The committee will get the survey results and will share with the Doula Task Force members.
- It was suggested that 15 hours will be required for recertification. The task force will need to recommend recertification requirements to the Health Commissioner. Consuelo Staton suggested that once the recertification requirements are approved by the Health Commissioner/Board of Health that the task force include Virginia Certification Board (VCB) in the process to ensure the requirements align with the application.
- Lisa Brown suggested that the recertification requirements specify the number of hours of training required for each topic.

Discussion: Recertification- Kenda Sutton-El

- No updates on recertification.
- Consuelo Staton asked a series of questions: What does this group advise that the state do when it receives the occasional complaint about doulas or trainings that otherwise meet the requirements that we are authorized to enforce? The regulations state that state-certified doulas must be trained in certain topics by an approved trainer, and this is what the state must adhere to. That said, the state wants to acknowledge folks when they reach out for assistance with conflicts they have had with doulas or trainers. In the absence of a doula association, how does the task force recommend the state triage these inquiries? Stephanie Spencer suggested that FAQs could help with educating patients and that the task force should define a process for accountability. VCB could assist with this. This issue will be discussed further at future meetings.

Adjournment- Kenda Sutton-El

- Meeting adjourned at 2:25pm.