



**Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting  
Thursday, October 21, 2021  
10:00am-12:00pm  
In-Person Meeting**

**Henrico County Public Library  
Fairfield Area Public Library – Large Meeting Room  
1401 N. Laburnum Avenue  
Henrico, VA 23223  
(804) 501-1930**

<https://goo.gl/maps/RDWpFdf4ipK2>

**Meeting Minutes-FINAL**

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Members Present: Kenda Sutton-El, Stephanie Spencer, Lauren Barnes, Lisa Brown, Allison Hicks, and Cartier Smith (Designee-Cheryl Roberts, Ex Officio)

Not Present: Dr. Frances Casey, Tara Daystar, Dr. Donald Dudley, Lora Henderson, Kayley Mayhew, Tammi McKinley, Isabel Elijaiek, Del. Lashrecse Aird, Erica Schamale, Kathy Stewart, and Jen Macdonald (Ex Officio)

VDH Staff Present: Consuelo Staton, Emily Yeatts, Salease Logan

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**Call to order** – Kenda Sutton-El called the meeting to order at 10:25 am.

**Roll call** - Consuelo Staton issued the roll call

**No voting occurred because the required quorum of ten (10) voting members was not present.**

**Approval of minutes will be voted upon at the next face -to-face meeting.**

**Kenda responded to the miscommunication regarding the meeting format. Some members thought the meeting was a hybrid format, allowing for both virtual and in-person participation. The calendar event and agenda indicated that the meeting would only occur in-person, but at the previous meeting, the group expressed the intention to have a hybrid meeting.**

**1. Open issues- Topic for discussion- Kenda Sutton-El, Stephanie Spencer**

- Program promotion and public awareness

**Discussion:** Lauren B. of Motherhood Collective gave a brief presentation about the statewide communication plan. She provided an icon example, Virginia is for Doulas, which was similar to the Virginia is for Lovers' icon. Lauren explained that "Virginia is for

Doulas” is an easily recognizable phrase. She also included other ideas (ex. an image of Virginia with footprints and the “Virginia is for Doulas” phrase). The task force can propose an icon for VDH to approve, and then that icon can be used to share information with the public about future meetings, etc. The task force can also propose draft language to be used to promote future meetings, and VDH can review and approve this language. Members provided positive feedback. Lauren will continue to work on the communication plan and give another presentation to the group.

- Scope of practice for doulas

**Discussion:** The scope of practice has a medical connotation, and since doulas provide non-medical birth support, Kenda stated that “scope of care” is a more appropriate description of how doulas perform their duties. For example, no blood pressure checks can be performed by doulas unless they are also trained as a nurse. In addition, doulas are not lactation consultants unless they have specific training, but they can provide a brief overview of breastfeeding tips. Cartier S. stated that in the assessment categories, the scope of care is important.

Q. Is the scope of care needed for training of doulas? What is the difference?

Stephanie S. stated that each provider might have a different policy.

A suggestion for the task force is to request that the future state doula association develop standard of care guidelines and training topics.

- Potential role as mandatory reporter

**Discussion:** The definition of mandated reporter is in the Code of Virginia. The Code lists the occupations that are considered mandated reporters, and doulas are not on the list. An organization may require staff to make reports to DSS as well, but this is separate from the Code of Virginia.

If the task force wants to add doulas to the list of mandated reporters in the Code of Virginia, a legislative change would be necessary. Kenda proposed that doulas not be legally considered mandated reporters but that doulas need to be aware of the reporting process and when it would be appropriate. Training with CEUs about this topic was suggested. Managed Care Providers may be able to provider resources. Intimate partner violence/domestic violence awareness is important, and there needs to be a strong referral system in place. Another suggestion was made to provide advocacy training for doulas.

- Next steps- Forming committees and Scheduling quarterly Doula Task Force meetings

**Discussion:** The discussion group for the state doula association is still in the planning stages. Dr. Casey is willing to help with communication with physicians. Lisa B. and Consuelo S. added that Dr. Walker-Harris and Rachel B. of SHHR expressed an interest in

this work. The Administrative Coordinator of the Virginia Community Health Worker Association, C. Nye of IPHI, Allison Hicks, and Valerie McAllister (VDH) would also be interested.

- **Doula Outreach**

Discussion: It was suggested to share information about the task force with doulas working in the field. There is a lot of confusion regarding what information can be shared, who can share it and where to distribute it. There is a Facebook group that is currently being used by doulas in the field. A suggestion was made to share the Town Meeting link on Facebook so Facebook group members can be aware.

Lauren B. volunteered to design a flyer (pending icon agreement and VDH's approval) to distribute to doulas all over the state. The flyer can also be sent to the doula trainers. The flyer would share information about the task force.

An updated list of the recommended training providers was distributed at the meeting. The list will be distributed to the doula task force members.

2. **Public Comment Period- 2 minute maximum time per public commenter**  
**No public commenters.**

**Next steps: An email will be sent to doula task force members about the quorum policy and attendance. Next meeting will include small break out groups to discuss topics.**

**Adjournment** Kenda Sutton-El- 11:39 am.

Next meeting Tuesday, November 16, 2021, 10A-12:30P. This will be an in-person meeting at the Fairfield Area Public library- Henrico County Public Libraries.