

**Virginia Doula Task Force Meeting Minutes**  
 Monday, November 20, 2023, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Meeting Location:**

All-virtual

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_mdHPSdazT8KyQ2u6DqCYlg](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_mdHPSdazT8KyQ2u6DqCYlg)

**Meeting Minutes**

<b>Council Member Attendance</b>	<b>Voting Record</b>
<b>Bold</b> = Present <i>Italicized</i> = Absent	Y=Yes, N=No, A=Abstain 11/20/2023 Meeting Minutes
<b>Voting Members</b>	
<b>Kenda Sutton-EL (Chair)</b>	Y
<b>Stephanie Spencer (Vice Chair)</b>	Y
<b>Lisa Brown</b>	Y
<b>Dr. Frances Casey</b>	Y
<b>Maria Hayden</b>	Y
<i>Lauren Elise Barnes</i>	
<b>Ex Officio Members</b>	
<b>Jennifer Macdonald, MPH, BSN, RN</b>	
<b>Natasha Turner as Cheryl Robert's DMAS designee</b>	
<b>Vacant Seats</b>	
Clinician x2	
Doula x3	
Consumer x2	
Legislative Representative Member	
Hospital Organization (VHHA)	

Virginia Department of Health Staff Attending: Consuelo Staton, Emily Yeatts, Lauren Kozlowski, Art Thomas

<p><b>Task Force Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The meeting was called to order at 12:05p.</li> <li>• Roll call by Consuelo Staton. A quorum was achieved.</li> <li>• Meeting minutes were adopted by task force members.</li> <li>• Kenda Sutton EL reviewed meeting agenda. No additions made to the agenda.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discussion: Virginia Doula Task Force Membership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The term for all Doula Task Force members expires on December 31, 2023, except for Stephanie Spencer and Kenda Sutton-EL. A vote for reappointments will take place at the next meeting.</li> <li>• Members interested in reappointment should inform the Chair.</li> </ul>

- Kenda Sutton-EL plans to nominate Senator Lashresce Aird to fill the Legislative Representative Member vacancy.
- Maria Hayden and Lisa Brown expressed interest in reappointment. Dr. Frances Casey, relocating to New York, recommended two physicians for her position.

**Discussion By-Law revisions (Code of Ethics review) -- Kenda Sutton-EL**

- Kenda Sutton-EL reviewed the final draft of the Code of Ethics. No questions or concerns were raised. The draft will be sent to all members for review. The task force will vote on adoption at next meeting.

**Discussion “Virginia is for Doulas” website review and request of edits -- Kenda Sutton-EL**

- The VA is For Doulas website is under development and review. Task force members will have the opportunity to edit language and add resources. A vote to adopt the website content will occur at the next meeting.
- A FAQ template is in progress and will be added to website once completed.
- A monthly or quarterly newsletter was also discussed.
- A shared mailbox was suggested for the Contact Us page. Currently Kenda Sutton-EL is paying out of pocket costs for the webpage. There was discussion about whether VDH could use money received for the task force to pay for the website. VDH clarified that it does receive funds for the task force. There was no group consensus on this topic and the discussion ended.

**Discussion: Committee Recommendations – Kenda Sutton-EL and Stephanie Spencer**

- Workforce development and training will be needed to address continuing education requirements related to doulas as they will need to be recertified in 2025.
- A motion was made by Stephanie Spencer to establish a Workforce Development and Training Committee Kenda Sutton-EL seconded the motion. The task force adopted the establishment of the Workforce Development and Training Committee.
- A motion was made by Kenda Sutton-EL to establish the Outreach Committee. Stephanie Spencer seconded the motion. The task force adopted the establishment of the Outreach Committee. All voting members agreed by voice vote.
- Workforce Development and Training committee will make recommendations needed for the recertification topics. Lisa Brown volunteered to serve on the committee with Stephanie Spencer.
- Outreach committee will work on engagement and communication with community members and providers to make recommendations on how to continue to increase reach and awareness around certification/recertification. It was noted to reach out all types of providers. Dr. Casey volunteered to serve on the committee with Stephanie Spencer.
- The question of committee size will be addressed in the next meeting.

**Discussion: Recertification/ Auditing Requirements- Kenda Sutton EL**

- Auditing discussion tabled to next meeting.

**Discussion: Workforce Development and Training- Stephanie Spencer**

- Feedback on workforce and education included considering the scope of the doula-provider relationship.
- Feedback on workforce and education included establishing a baseline on how to become a Medicaid provider as a certified doula

- Feedback on workforce and education included gathering statements on how doulas drive outcomes that are complimentary to state-focused areas that need improving

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

- Question: Is there an opportunity for mentorship for doulas who are less experienced/have less than 10 births? Yes, there are opportunities. It is noted that the doula task force does not control the trainings that a doula can receive/certify but can educate communities around the doula space and recommend trainings to expand on.
- Question: What representation for education do you have for Latinx + indigenous birth and postpartum traditions on the task force? The task force feels it is essential to promote an inclusive space. The task force would like to incorporate more inclusivity through the Outreach committee.
- Question: Do we have a committee or are there efforts planned to seek higher reimbursement rates? There is no specific committee designed for this.
- Question: Are Medicaid-Approved doulas able to practice across state borders? At this time the determination has been made that state-certified doulas have to reside and provide services in VA to be reimbursed by VA Medicaid. It is up to other states to determine if they will honor VA Medicaid requirements.

**Task Force Business**

- Task Force promotional document is in development. Will review draft at next meeting.
- A description of the Workforce Development and Training the committee goals and agenda is in development. Will review draft at next meeting.
- The next meeting's time and place are to be determined.
- Meeting adjourned at 1:28pm.