



**Virginia Doula Task Force
October 5, 2021
10:00am-12:00pm**

Meeting Minutes- FINAL

1. Call to order – Kenda Sutton-El

2. Roll call Consuelo Staton

- a. Kenda Sutton-El
- b. Stephanie Spencer
- c. Lauren Barnes
- d. Lisa Brown
- e. Dr. Frances Casey
- f. Tara Daystar
- g. Dr. Donald Dudley
- h. Laura Henderson
- i. Kayley Mayhew
- j. Tammi McKinley
- k. Allison Hicks (Roepke)
- l. Cheryl Roberts
- m. Robin Buskey
- n. Paula Starnes, Aetna

Not present: Isabel Elijaiek, Lashrecse Aird, Erica Schamale, and Kathy Stewart

3. Note: Approval of minutes will be conducted at the first face -to-face meeting

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

- Creating a statewide association
 - i. Envisioning a central safe space for doulas to talk about different topics and concerns that come up, and a central space to address challenges.
 - ii. Use Community Health Workers as a model- stakeholders, partners, those who use them in hospitals/orgs etc. as well as an association that focuses on workforce development, receiving centralized information, changes in legislation and having a unified voice,
 1. Have a president
 2. Facebook page to share resources

- iii. All doulas in general, or only state certified doulas?
- iv. Growing a workforce across the state so that doula voices are heard and can be influential- power in numbers
- v. Need guidelines on what a doula is seen as being in the space of birthing. Standards of care need to be created... could get messy when it comes to unassisted births etc.
- vi. Logistical questions:
 1. Fees associated?
 2. Buy-in for individuals active in association?
- vii. Would be great to have a state known association for providers to refer to if doulas are practicing outside of scope, and also for doulas to refer to, to ensure doulas are being treated as a care team member
- viii. An association can strengthen the support of rural community doulas
- ix. Interested in becoming the committee: Kayley Mayhew, Lisa Brown, Dr. Casey
 1. Consuelo will be the point person & will need to be a public meeting
- Program promotion and public awareness (re-engage Communications Team, guest speaker, select a lead and co-lead for subcommittee)
 - i. Ideas on how to promote and raise awareness of the doula reimbursement model
 - ii. Speakers from other states to come and talk about the processes?
 1. Slides from California are available
 2. Stakeholder from New Jersey, Jill Wodnick
 3. Prepare a flyer and attach to website so folks can tune in when guest speakers attend meetings
 - iii. Reaching out to providers members of the task force have an existing relationship with to share information
 - iv. Streamlining this through VHHA and ACOG dissemination
 - v. Need a multi-tiered approach
 1. Social media, video blasts of doula orgs and can talk about the benefits of the services and even provide statistical information
 2. Attending residency meetings and having information to share there
 3. Working through social services and financial screening services at institutions to let patients know that this is a service now provided for them

- vi. A process of continuous education
 - 1. VNPC- could educate on role of doula and what is offered via the benefit and how it adds to patient's care, and how it works so that all staff is aware (oss, nursing, clinicians); consistent message
 - vii. The need for a consistent point person, like a specific email address that can be referred back to
 - viii. Maybe the statewide association can be broken down into subcommittees to accommodate for the different types of doulas
 - 1. State certified doula subcommittee for example
 - ix. VDH and DMAS and other larger agencies may be of assistance as communications are prepared
- Reciprocity Clarification

Reciprocity clarification

Reciprocity - A mutual agreement between two U.S. states whereby each agrees to grant a certification to practice as a state-certified doula to any person certified by the other state.

Questions to consider:

- Do the other states also have a state-certified doula process in place?
- What is being reciprocated?
- The regulation defines a state-certified doula as a community-based doula, which is also defined.
- Does opening reciprocity up to doulas in other states remove the qualification of being community-based?
- Is the question of reciprocity intended to guarantee reimbursement of Virginia state-certified doulas who practice outside of Virginia? If so, DMAS MCO issue.

i. 

ii. Grandfathering/grandmothering

1. Have obtained an initial level of certification within three years prior to the regulation... may have the education but have not been fully certified
2. Can forgo becoming fully certified and use the education and such obtained to become a state certified doula, but ultimately still required to meet all of the criteria (complete any unmet training and education requirements within one year of application)

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

6. **Adjournment** Kenda Sutton-El

- a. Next meeting October 21st, 2021, 10A-12P,
- b. Plans to schedule this as an in-person meeting at either the Fairfield Area or Tuckahoe Public libraries.