



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA DOULA REGISTRY BOARD

July 17, 2024
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location:
Benson Tower, Room 1800
1450 Poydras Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

Meeting link for members of the public:
<https://zoom.us/j/96681688720?pwd=aDIJZWlyTkFNROdFRzlQTDBXVVBOU09>
Phone: 312.626.6799 Conference code: 858363

Minutes

- I. Roll Call**
The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Victoria Williams at 10:13 a.m.
- II. Introductions**
Seven members attended, and a quorum was not present. Members in attendance included Ms. Amanda Devereux, Ms. Nanette McCann, Ms. Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Ms. Karelle Pearcy, Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff, Dr. Victoria Williams, and Ms. Meshawn Siddiq. Members not present included Ms. Tiffany Wyatt, Ms. Mallory Bryant, Ms. Gia Hamilton, Ms. Zana Washington, and Ms. Angelica Rideaux. Guests in attendance included Mr. David McCay, Jazzlyn Duplessis, and Dr. Veronica Gillispie-Bell. Virtual guests included Ms. Jasmine Thomas and Tyler Technologies representatives Steven Patorno, John Rogilio, and Jason Stelzer. Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman and Sharonda Smith served as administrative staff for the meeting.
- III. Public Comment**
Chair Williams requested comments from the public. Ms. Bryant, Region 8 board member (virtual), questioned the rigidity of the in-person meeting requirement and whether she would be prohibited from serving on the Doula Registry Board (DRB). Ms. Thomas, Strategy and Operations Lead, (virtual) responded that current Louisiana Open Meetings Law prohibits members from participating virtually at meetings, but that Act 393 of the 2023 Legislative Session, may help the policy team implement guidelines on having meetings via electronic means by Spring 2025. Ms. Bryant proposed to send recommendations to the board to fill her position as Region 8 representative. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman informed the members of current vacancies in Regions 3, 6, 7 and potentially in 8 and asked for new member recommendations to be sent to the DRB email address.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
The May 8, 2024 meeting minutes were not approved because a quorum was not present.

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- V. The four voting items on the agenda were not voted on because a quorum was not present. There was limited discussion about the agenda items.
- a. Chair Williams questioned whether Medicaid and Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) participating in reimbursing doulas will require doulas to have a National Provider Identifier (NPI) for reimbursement. Board members discussed and determined that if Medicaid MCOs do require doulas to have an NPI number then the board should consider adding NPI number as an optional field to the doula application but stressed that an NPI number would not be a requirement to register with the Doula Registry Board because it is not a requirement in the rule. Mr. Patorno from Tyler Technologies (virtual) suggested that the board consider adding a reminder to the website page that registering with the DRB is not a requirement or a reflection of doula ability, but a means of insurance reimbursement. The Dr. Gillispie-Bell emphasized the need to meet with Louisiana Department of Health (LDH)-Medicaid representatives in order to further understand the reimbursement process for doulas.
 - b. Chair Williams informed the board members that an attendance policy and dismissal process/procedure would need to be established to ensure board productivity and movement. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman presented examples of wording and policy considerations and the board agreed to propose ideas at a future meeting in order to create an attendance policy along with consequential procedures and processes for dismissal and replacement.
 - c. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman walked the DRB through the contract process, outlining the steps needed in order to execute a contract with an outside company at Bureau of Family Health (BFH). The DRB remains in the early negotiations phase of the process. Next steps beyond negotiations include receiving an updated contract bid, submitting a work order with the Office of Technology Services (OTS), Tyler Technologies' signing off on the contract, 3-4 months for contract execution, and finally implementation and operationalization. A projected timeline if the DRB can vote on final website details and submit them to Tyler Technologies project the launch of the DRB website in late June of 2025. Ms. Siddiq asked the seven board members present whether they would be willing to attend a special meeting in order to vote to finalize website information in order to receive an updated contract from Tyler Technologies by August or September. Chair Williams called for a special meeting in order to vote on remaining website topics on August 7, 2024 at 10 am.

VI. Public Comment

Ms. Bryant (virtual) suggested that the DRB examine the state of Maryland's doula registry website and guidelines as an example for the Louisiana Doula Registry to consider and board members agreed.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 A.M.

Note: The order of the agenda may not be followed exactly, to accommodate presenter schedules.

Presenters, members, and guests may submit requests for accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to DoulaRegistryBoard@LA.Gov at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting with details of the required accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to DoulaRegistryBoard@LA.Gov and must be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.