



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA DOULA REGISTRY BOARD Meeting – Regular Meeting

March 12, 2025
11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Location:
Benson Tower, Room 2024
1450 Poydras Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70112

- I. Call to Order**
 - a. Chair, Dr. Victoria Williams called the meeting to order at 11:14 AM.
- II. Roll Call**

Nine members attended, and a quorum was present.

 - a. Members in attendance included Ms. Amanda Devereaux, Ms. Akeisha Cherry, Ms. Tiffany Wyatt, Ms. Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Ms. Jazzlyn Duplessis, Ms. Karelle Percy, Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff, Ms. Zana Washington, Ms. Victoria Williams. Members not in attendance included Ms. Nanette McCann, Ms. Meshawn Siddiq, Ms. Devin Bailey-Nichols, Ms. Gia Hamilton and Ms. Mallory Bryant. Guests in attendance included Mr. David McCay, Ms. Jasmine Thomas, Mr. Shane Bates, and Ms. Gabrielle Jones. Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman served as administrative staff for the meeting.
- III. Public Comment**
 - a. The chair asked for public comment. There was no public comment.
- IV. Approval of Minutes**
 - a. January 15, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed by board members.
 - b. Ms. Percy motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Jessie-Johnson.
 - c. The motion passed with all members voting unanimously to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes.
- V. Mandate Review**

The Chair reviewed the charge and the mandated tasks of the Louisiana DRB as set forth in Act 182 of the 2021 Regular Legislative session, which are to review applications for doulas to register to receive health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana, approve applications to designate registered doula status, to notify applicants of approval or denial of doula registrations status, and to maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana. The Chair also reviewed individual member expectations, emphasizing that in-person attendance is mandatory, as a quorum

is needed for the board to vote and make decisions.

VI. New Business

- a. Gabrielle Jones, Quality Initiatives Manager, Louisiana Perinatal Quality Collaborative (LaPQC), Bureau of Family Health (BFH)
Ms. Jones discussed the Community Birth Symposium that will be hosted by LaPQC in Baton Rouge from June 5-6. The Symposium will consist of two days of engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and meaningful networking opportunities focused on maternal and child health. Because the Symposium will offer doulas that attend continuing education units (CEUs), the LaPQC asked board members to approve the number and types of CEUs that will be offered to doulas that attend the symposium based on the number of contact hours during the symposium and types of information that will be presented. Board members and Ms. Jones reviewed the CEU section of the Doula Registry Board (DRB) mandate: [Doula Registry Published Rule](#) to ensure that it aligned with board-approved CEUs. The doula registry section can be found on pages 561-567. In addition, here is the citation: Louisiana Administrative Code Title 48, Part V, §§ 16701-17504. Board members proposed that the Community Birth Symposium could provide 11 CEUs for attending doulas and that upon completion that LaPQC would also provide the attendees with a certificate, certifying the number of hours and the dates of completion.
 - i. Ms. Wyatt motioned that the board approve 11 hours for doulas participating in the Community Birth Symposium. Ms. Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously to allot 11 CEU credits to participating doulas who attend the Symposium.
- b. The Chair announced that the doula registry began accepting applicants on February 11, 2025 through the REDCap Application. Applications were reviewed by BFH administrative support for completion and verification of documentation. Applications received prior to or within two weeks of the March 12 board meeting were considered for review at the March 12 meeting. The board will receive and consider applications two weeks prior to each meeting moving forward. The board expects that the notifications of acceptance or denial onto the Louisiana Doula Registry will be disseminated three to four weeks after every voting meeting. The board additionally discussed ongoing efforts to communicate with applicants and the doula population by creating a flow chart that answers questions related to navigating general insurance-related processes and next steps after applying and acceptance onto the Louisiana Doula Registry.
Suggestions were made regarding challenges to completing the application, which included allowing applicants the ability to return to incomplete applications without having to begin a new application, and making certification end dates an optional field on the application because not all certifications are associated with an end date. Mr. McCay from legal reviewed the rule and determined that as written, the rule states that applicants are only required to complete certificate of completion. Ms. Percy proposed adding "Birth Doula" to the application under the subset of specialty options. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman will consult with other administrative staff to ensure the addition will not skew data before implementing the change.
 - i. Ms. Cherry motioned to remove the certification end date requirement from the application, which will allow applicants to submit certifications without an end date without penalty of the application being deemed

incomplete. Ms. Wyatt seconded the motion and the motion to remove an end date requirement from the application passed unanimously.

- c. The Chair presented additional doula Training Organizations for review and consideration to be added to the approved list of doula training organizations to the BFH Doula Registry Webpage. 10 additional organizations were presented and reviewed. The board deemed that 9 doula training organizations were eligible based on the DRB Rule and guidelines set forth.
 - i. The nine doula training organizations considered were IAP Career College – International Association of Professions Career College, DFW Community Birth School, Birthmark Doula, Blooming Lotus, ToLabor, InTune Mother School of Perinatal Health, Tewa Women United’s Yiya Vi Kagingdi Doula Training, Tiny Love Doula Certification, and The Indie Birth Doula Academy. One training organization, American Academy of Husband Coached Childbirth – The Bradley Method, was not considered for voting because it did not meet the requirements set forth in the doula registry rule. Ms. Jessie-Johnson volunteered to review the organization further and provide more information at the May 14, 2025 DRB meeting.
 - ii. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff motioned to approve the above 9 doula training organizations because they met the requirements set forth in the promulgated doula registry rule. Ms. Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion passed to add the above 9 doula training organizations to the list of approved doula training organizations, bringing the total number to 40 DRB-approved doula training organizations.
- d. A blind list of de-identified applicants was provided to the DRB members. 91 total applicants were received in the time frame allotted prior to the meeting, and of those, 78 applications were deemed complete and ready for board review. The Chair reviewed applicants by number, skipping those deemed incomplete, duplicate, or needing more information, and asked for board members to vote on the completed applicants from the list.
 - i. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff motioned to approve applications numbered 1 – 8, and Ms. Duplessis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
 - ii. Ms. Wyatt motioned to approve applications numbered 10 – 16, and Ms. Percy seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
 - iii. Ms. Duplessis motioned to approve applications numbered 18 – 23, and Ms. Wyatt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
 - iv. Ms. Percy motioned to approve applications numbered 25 – 34, seconded by Ms. Devereux. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
 - v. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff motioned to approve applications numbered 36 – 43, seconded by Ms. Duplessis. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
 - vi. Ms. Devereux motioned to approve applications numbered 45 – 57, and Ms. Valcour-LeDuff seconded the motion. The motion passed

unanimously with no nays.

- vii. Ms. Percy motioned to approve applications numbered 60 - 80, seconded by Ms. Wyatt. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
- viii. Ms. Duplessis motioned to approve applications numbered 82 – 91, and Ms. Cherry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with no nays.
- ix. 78 total doulas were approved for placement on the Louisiana Doula Registry.

VII. Public Comment

The Chair asked for public comment. A question arose in the chat asking when the doula registry applicants should expect to receive the results of who would be placed on the Louisiana Doula Registry. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman responded that all applicants reviewed at the March 12, 2025 meeting should receive letters via email by April 18, 2025 stating that they are either accepted, denied, or pending/further request for information to be reviewed at the next public DRB meeting.

VIII. Other Business

- a. DRB Members did not attest to the DRB Attendance Policy, as the wording to the policy is still under review and revision. The Chair informed that the policy will be signed at the May DRB meeting.
- b. One DRB vacancy remains in Louisiana Department of Health Administrative Region 7. Ms. Bailey-Nichols, who has served as interim board member for the Community Birth Companion Representative, is vetting representatives from that organization and may provide a representative by May.

IX. Announcements

- a. Next Doula Registry Board Meeting: May 14, 2025.
- b. Board members discussed alternate meeting places in Baton Rouge for either the May 2025 meeting or the meeting in July 2025. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman asked for venue ideas and provided with the library in Baton Rouge or even the State Capitol building, but will investigate availability and present information to the board by April 2025.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:45

§1059.1. Legislative findings; Louisiana Doula Registry Board; purpose; composition; duties of the board; rulemaking authority

B.(1)(a) The legislature hereby creates within the Louisiana Department of Health the Louisiana Doula Registry Board, hereafter referred to in this Section as the "doula registry board", for the purpose of reviewing and approving doula registration to allow for health insurance reimbursement of doula services.

(b) The doula registry board shall create the criteria for the registration application, review submitted doula registration applications, and grant registration status to doulas seeking health insurance reimbursement to promote safe and equitable care for every mother and every birth in this state.

C. The doula registry board shall perform all of the following tasks:

- (1) Review applications for doulas to register to receive health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.
- (2) Approve applications to designate registered doula status.
- (3) Notify applicants of approval or denial of doula registration status.

- (4) Maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.

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.

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