



State of Louisiana

Louisiana Department of Health Office of Public Health

Doula Registry Board

November 14, 2023
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
1450 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70112
18th Floor, Conference Room 1800

MINUTES

I. Roll Call and Introductions

- a. Meeting called to order by Shane Bates, appointed by Chair, Dawn Collins, at 1:17 pm.
- b. Eight members were in attendance; and a quorum was present.
 - a. **Members in attendance:** Amanda Devereux, Nanette McCann, Tiffany Wyatt, Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Karelle Percy, Zana Washington, Angelica Rideaux, Victoria Williams
 - b. **Members not in attendance:** Dawn Collins (chair, virtual), Shanika Valcour-LeDuff (virtual), Meshawn Siddiq (virtual), Gia Hamilton
- d. **Guests:** David McCay
- e. **Support staff:** Shane Bates, Ayesha Umrigar, Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman

II. Public Comment

1. Mr. Bates requested comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.

III. Approval of Minutes

- a. Ms. Rideaux noted that the attendance needs to be updated on the minutes to reflect her absence on August 30, 2023.
- b. Ms. Devereux motioned to accept the August 30, 2023 meeting minutes and Ms. Wyatt seconded the motion. All in favor. Minutes from August 30, 2023 were accepted.

IV. New Business – Ratification of Rule Notice of Intent (NOI) Language Change re: Hospital Credentials

- a. Mr. Bates provided an overview of the past meeting when rules were adopted and the question of hospital's credentialing doulas was presented. An edit was suggested to remove hospital credentialing language.
 1. The board discussed the credentialing of doulas from hospitals. Ms. Percy stated that she is credentialed through her hospital. Ms. Devereux noted that Women's Hospital also credentials doulas.

2. Mr. McCay noted that whether or not hospitals credential doulas individually, the concern from LHA was that inserting credentialing language could lead to hospitals being forced and or required to credential doulas. Additionally, the concern was if the credentialing language remained, that the legislature would call the rulemaking into oversight resulting in the rulemaking being vetoed.
 3. Ms. Rideaux had concerns about hospitals being selective in choosing who can be credentialed and serve as doulas. Ms. Devereux noted that credentialing language was not meant to serve as a mandate and expressed she doesn't think anyone wants hospitals to credential doulas. Mr. Bates noted that removing the language does not preclude a hospital from credentialing doulas individually.
- b. Ms. Williams motioned to ratify the change to remove hospital credentialing language. Ms. Devereux and Ms. Rideaux seconded the motion. Motion passed unopposed and has been removed.

V. Public Comment

1. Mr. Bates requested comments from the public. There were no comments from the public.
 - a. Mr. Bates noted that there have been concerns the board waiving continuing education for registered doulas.
 - b. Ms. Devereux questioned whether it would be better to have an extension of time rather than a waiver. Ms. Rideaux asked whether the waiver would be permanent, and the discussion was left at the waiver would be an extension until time to renew again, then reviewed and granted or not. The waiver is not perpetual.

VI. Other Business

a. Doula Registry Application Process

1. Mr. Bates informed that next steps will be to determine what the application will look like and noted that Dr. Gillispie-Bell is working on a formal draft for the application to be shared at the next meeting.
2. Ms. Rideaux questioned whether a doula would be approving/reviewing applications. Ms. Devereux clarified that the board (doulas) will be the reviewers.
3. Ms. McCann questioned the timeline for completion as January 2024. Mr. Bates noted that the application and application process must be finalized first. Ms. McCann noted that the process shouldn't be difficult once an application draft is made and discussed.

b. Discussion on Board Officer Election Process

1. Mr. Bates noted that elections, including that for Chair, should be held at January 2024 meeting. Members may nominate themselves or other members.

c. Discussion/Approval of Calendar Year 2024 Board Meeting Dates

1. Discussion of 2024 meeting dates. Board agreed to determine 2024 meeting dates at January meeting.

2. Ms. Devereux proposed January 25, 2024. Ms. Wyatt seconded. Discussion on meeting earlier. Amanda makes a substitute motion to meet Jan 11, 2024 at 11:00 am. Ms. Rideaux seconded the motion. All in favor and motion passed.

VII. Adjournment

1. Ms. Wyatt motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Ms. Percy and accepted. The meeting adjourned at 1:54 pm.

DRAFT