



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**January 15, 2025**  
**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

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

**Meeting Minutes: LOUISIANA DOULA REGISTRY BOARD – Regular Meeting**

**I. Call to Order**

- a. Chair, Victoria Williams appointed board member Shanika Valcour-LeDuff to act as meeting facilitator in her absence. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff called the meeting to order at 11:21 am.

**II. Roll Call**

Ten members attended, and a quorum was present.

- a. Members in attendance included Ms. Amanda Devereux, Ms. Nanette McCann, Ms. Akeisha Cherry, Ms. Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Ms. Jazzlyn Duplessis, Ms. Mallory Bryant, Ms. Karelle Percy, Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff, Ms. Zana Washington and Ms. Meshawn Siddiq. Members not in attendance included Ms. Tiffany Wyatt, Ms. Gia Hamilton, Ms. Victoria Williams and Ms. Devin Bailey-Nichols. Guests in attendance included Mr. David McCay. Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman served as administrative staff for the meeting.

**III. Public Comment**

- a. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

- a. The November 13, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed.
- b. Ms. Devereux motioned to approve the meeting minutes, seconded by Ms. Valcour-LeDuff.
- c. The motion passed with all members voting unanimously to approve the November 13, 2024 meeting minutes.

**V. New Business**

- a. The Doula Registry Board (DRB) deferred reviewing the REDCap Timeline application updates and process as well as the Calendar Year 2025 Review of expectations/activities to the March 12, 2025 meeting because the information has not yet been authorized by Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) for public release.
- b. The DRB members briefly reviewed copies of the mandate. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff read the charge and tasks of the Board as a reminder of the Board's functions and described board member individual expectations.
- c. The DRB members reviewed the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that are proposed for posting on the Bureau of Family Health (BFH) DRB Webpage. The board voted to approve making the following edits to the FAQ page.

- i. Ms. Devereux proposed adding a hyperlink to the FAQ page that details the 2025 meeting schedule so that interested members can attend the meetings throughout the year and ask questions. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff proposed adding “and/or” to item #3, sub-part 1 on the FAQ page to read, “Providing evidence of comprehensive doula training and/or certification.”

Ms. Johnson proposed to remove the word “state-regulated,” from sub-item 2 under question #4 to read, “Ensure your program aligns with standards, increasing trust from doulas and employers.” Ms. Devereux proposed to remove the word “annual” from question four, sub-item 1 to read, “Gain recognition as a credible Board-approved provider of doula education.” Ms. Siddiq proposed to add a cut off time to the submitted applications and that it be two weeks before public board designating applications received later than that for review at the next public meeting. Ms. McCann proposed that the FAQs state up front or provide a disclaimer that Board approval and registry does not guarantee reimbursement from insurance companies or a guaranteed amount of reimbursement because each insurance stipulates different requirements. Ms. Washington proposed adding the question, “How do approved doulas seek reimbursement?” to the FAQs document.

Ms. Johnson motioned to revise the FAQs to reflect the above changes. Ms. Duplessis seconded the motion. The board members present voted to approve each proposed item unanimously, with no nays. All of the above proposals will be made to the FAQs document.

- d. Board members discussed the list of Training Organizations, determining which of the organizations met the qualifications set forth by the promulgated Doula Registry Board Rule. Following board review, the Board members voted to approve the following organizations for listing on the BFH Doula Registry Webpage: Bebo Mia, BEST Doula Training, BirthWorks International, Birthing Advocacy Doula Trainings, BirthWell Partners Doula Training, Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPP), Childbirth International, Community Aware Birthworker: Birth Doula Training, Community Birth Companion, Cornerstone Birthwork Training, DONA (Doula of North America formerly), DONA International Certified Trainings by Nickia Lawson, Doula Trainings International, EnCircle Doula Workshops, Goodwill Technical College, ICEA (International Childbirth Education Association), Indigenous Midwifery, International Doula Institute, Madiella, MAMA Glow, Mary's Hands Network - Louisiana volunteer org, National Black Doula Association, ProDoula, Simkin Center for Allied Birth Vocations, Sista Midwife Productions, LLC, SMC (Shafia Monroe Consulting) Full Circle Doula Birth Companion Trainings, Sumi's Touch, The Birthworker Academy, and The Matrona.
  - i. Ms. Devereux motioned to approve the above training organizations as DRB-approved Training Organizations on the BFH Doula Registry Board Webpage. Ms. Jessie-Johnson seconded the motion. All of the above organizations will be recognized as DRB-Approved Training Organizations for the Webpage.

#### VI. Public Comment

Expanding on the earlier vote to add a question to FAQs about doula reimbursements, Ms. Bryant (virtual) asked for clarification on how doulas navigate seeking reimbursements. Board members Ms. Cherry and Ms. Devereux offered to formulate a list and informational links that will provide answers and clarity for navigating the insurance reimbursement process by the March 12, 2025 meeting. The list will be sent to Ms. Baltrip-Coleman.

#### VII. Other Business

- a. DRB members did not attest to the DRB Attendance Policy, instead, deferred the attestation to the March 12, 2025 meeting so that Dr. Gillispie-Bell could make minor changes to the policy, following a meeting with LDH Legal representative Mr. McCay.
- b. The following seats on the DRB are vacant: The Department of Health Administrative Region 7 Vacancy; and the Community Birth Companion Representative seat is being filled in the interim by Ms. Devin-Bailey Nichols until a replacement is appointed.

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VIII. The next Doula Registry Board meeting will be held on March 12, 2025 at 11 AM in Benson Tower Suite 2024.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM.

§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](mailto: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](mailto: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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