



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

**LOUISIANA DOULA REGISTRY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**January 14, 2026**  
**11:00 am to 1:00 pm**

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

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order**
- a. Dr. Victoria Williams, Chair granted meeting facilitator/ chair privileges to Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff in her absence. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff called the meeting to order at 11:20 A.M.
- II. Roll Call**
- a. Eight members attended, and a quorum was present.
  - b. Members in attendance included Ms. Devereux, Ms. Akeisha Cherry, Ms. Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Ms. Jazzlyn Duplessis, Ms. Karelle Percy, Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff, Ms. Zana Washington, and Ms. Meshawn Siddiq.
  - c. Members not in attendance included Ms. Nanette McCann, Ms. Tiffany Wyatt, Ms. Alicia Mingo, Ms. Mallory Bryant, Ms. Gia Hamilton and Ms. Victoria Williams.
  - d. Guests in attendance included Ms. Gabrielle Jones, Mr. David McCay, and Ms. S. Ariel Richard. Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman served as administrative staff for the meeting.
- III. Approval of Minutes**
- a. Doula Registry Board (DRB) members reviewed the November 6, 2025 meeting minutes.
  - b. Ms. Siddiq motioned for the board to approve the meeting minutes with one change to page 2, section VIII., letter (b) where Ms. Tarver was stricken and Ms. Siddiq was added. The meeting minutes were seconded by Ms. Duplessis to include the change. The November 6, 2025 meeting minutes were approved unanimously, and the change from Ms. Tarver to Ms. Siddiq was noted.
- IV. Public Comment**
- a. The Chair asked for public comment. There was no public comment.
- V. Legislative Mandate Review**
- a. The Chair reviewed the charge and the mandated tasks of the Louisiana Doula

Registry Board (DRB) as set forth in Act 182 of the 2021 Regular Legislative Session. The mandated tasks 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 registration status, and to maintain a statewide registry of doulas approve for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana. The Chair also reviewed individual board member expectations, emphasizing that in-person attendance is mandatory, as a quorum is needed for the board to vote and make decisions.

**VI. Update On Current Louisiana Doula Registry Applicants**

- a. As of this meeting date there were 125 doulas registered to the Louisiana Doula Registry. 10 applicants were reviewed on November 6, 2025 in the fifth cohort of doulas. 11 applicants were reviewed on September 10, 2025 in the fourth cohort of doulas. 12 doula applicants were reviewed on July 23, 2025 in the third cohort of doulas. 14 doula applications were reviewed and approved on May 14, 2025 in the second cohort of doula applicants, (adjusted from 15 due to discovering a duplicate applicant). 78 applications were reviewed and approved on March 12, 2025 in the first cohort of doula applicants.

**VII. Discussion of Current DRB- Approved Training Organization Applications**

- a. There were five doula training organizations for review and discussion. Paradigm Doulas, Awakened Doula Health Network, Newmom.me Academy, DNT Network, and Innerbloom Doula Institute were reviewed and determined to meet criteria and requirements stipulated by the DRB as approved training organizations.
- b. Paradigm Doulas, Awakened Doula Health Network, Newmom.me Academy, DNT Network, and Innerbloom Doula Institute met the criteria for voting and approval. Ms. Siddiq motioned to approve the above five doula training organizations as DRB-approved training organizations, seconded by Ms. Percy. The motion passed unanimously to approve the above named training organizations.
- c. With the addition of Paradigm Doulas, Awakened Doula Health Network, Newmom.me Academy, DNT Network, and Innerbloom Doula Institute, there are 53 DRB-approved doula training organizations.

**VIII. Discussion and Vote on Current List of Doula Registry Applicants**

- a. 20 new doula applicant records labeled 171 – 190 were submitted. Of those, 9 were incomplete and not reviewed or discussed. 11 records were deemed complete and were reviewed and voted on. The complete record numbers for the 6<sup>th</sup> cohort of doulas were 171, 175-177, 180-181, 183-184, and 188-190.
- b. Ms. Duplessis motioned to approve all 11 of the complete records in doula applicant cohort 6. Ms. Jessie-Johnson seconded the motion and the motion passed to approve all 11 new doula applicants to the Louisiana Doula Registry.
- c. With the addition of doula applicant cohort 6, the total number of doulas registered with the Louisiana Doula Registry is now 136.

**IX. Public Comment**

- a. The Chair asked for public comment. There was no public comment.

**X. 2026 Strategic Plan and Discussion**

- a. The DRB discussed possible topics and focused activities for the 2026 calendar year at the November 6, 2025 meeting and came up with five activities: creating a doula registry renewal application, and a process to accept and collect the continuing education credits (CEUs) from an approved training organization. The board will also focus on defining the training organizations that the board will accept the CEUs from. Additionally, the board proposed creating an up-loadable worksheet to submit CEUs, adding a statement to those training organizations stating that they are “board approved training and CEU organizations, and finally, linking the doula registry renewal application to the original registry application. The board verified that they would focus on defining and delineating Training Organization CEUs so that it is clear which are acceptable for CEUs, for general accredited doula training, or both. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman will provide a registry renewal application draft to members by the next board meeting in April.

**XI. 2026 Meeting Dates Revisit Discussion and Vote**

- a. The board discussed whether to change the frequency of meeting from every other month, (6 meetings per year) to quarterly meetings (4 meetings per year). The rule mandates quarterly meetings. The board decided to move to meeting quarterly as stipulated by the Act 287 of the 2021 Legislative Session and to hold emergency meetings if the Chair called for an additional meeting. Additionally, two Friday meeting dates were discussed.
- b. Ms. Siddiq motioned to meet quarterly, with the new and remaining 2026 meeting dates being April 17, July 15 and October 2. Ms. Duplessis seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to meet quarterly on the above dates.

**XII. Announcements**

- a. **Media & Marketing Update** - Ms. Baltrip-Coleman reminded board members to continue to send out the Louisiana Doula Registry media & marketing materials to advertise the registry to potential doulas.
- b. **Travel Reimbursement Process Update** - Ms. Baltrip-Coleman explained that in order to receive travel reimbursement, the Board, Council and Commission (BCC) members must have a personnel number. To obtain a personnel number, the BFH facilitator will send an email (with the HR-9 personal data form attached) to the members stating that to receive a personnel number, the members must send 3 required documents to BFH Human Resources. The documents are: HR-9 personal data form (completed), a copy of driver’s license or stat ID, and a copy of their social security card. The members will send all documents via email to BFH Human Resources at [BFHHumanResources@la.gov](mailto:BFHHumanResources@la.gov). Once received, BFH Human Resources will send the member an email confirming receipt. The personnel number will be sent to the member and the BFH facilitator will be included on the correspondence.
- c. **Vacancies - 7 nonvoting vacancies** remain on the Louisiana Doula Registry Board, including: (1) Representative from New Orleans Breastfeeding Center; (1) Certified Professional Midwife; (1) Certified Nurse Midwife; (1) Community Nurse Practitioner; (1) Representative from Louisiana HealthCare Connections; (1) Representative from Louisiana Humana Healthy Horizons; and (1) Representative from Louisiana Healthy Blue.
- d. The next Doula Registry Board Meeting will be held on April 17, 2026, in keeping with the quarterly meeting schedule discussed and voted on earlier in the meeting.

**XIII. Adjournment**

- a. Ms. Percy motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Duplessis. The motion passed unanimously and the Doula Registry Board meeting adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

§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.