



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

LOUISIANA DOULA REGISTRY BOARD

November 13, 2024
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

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

Meeting link for members of the public:
<https://zoom.us/j/96681688720?pwd=aDIJZWlyTkFNROdFRzlQTDBXVVBOUT09>
Phone: 312.626.6799 Conference code: 858363

Minutes

I. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Dr. Victoria Williams, at 10:26 A.M.

II. Roll Call

Eight members attended, and a quorum was present.

- a. Members in attendance included Ms. Amanda Devereux, Ms. Akeisha Cherry, Ms. Cassandra Jessie-Johnson, Ms. Mallory Bryant, Ms. Shanika Valcour-LeDuff, Ms. Zana Washington, Dr. Victoria Williams, and Ms. Nanette McCann. Members not present included Ms. Gia Hamilton, Ms. Devin Bailey-Nichols, Ms. Meshawn Siddiq and Ms. Tiffany Wyatt. Guests in attendance included Mr. David McCay. Virtual guests included Tyler Technologies representatives, Steven Patorno, John Rogillio, and Jason Stelzer. Ms. Yoruba Baltrip-Coleman served as administrative staff for the meeting.

III. Public Comment

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

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. The October 16, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed.
- b. Ms. Valcour LeDuff motioned to approve the meeting minutes,
- c. Seconded by Ms. Washington
- d. The motion passed with all members voting unanimously to approve the October 16, 2024 meeting minutes.

V. New Business

- a. The Doula Registry Board (DRB) members discussed the calendar year (CY) 2025 meeting dates and decided to continue to meet bi-monthly on the second Wednesday, with the exceptions of January and July, when they will meet on the third Wednesday of those two months. Ms. Bailey-Nichols (virtual) asked about meeting in Baton Rouge or at an alternate location. Chair Williams responded that the DRB

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would consider meeting at an alternate location if a quorum could be established at those meetings. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman will send a poll to members to determine board member availability to attend meetings in Baton Rouge and New Orleans during the CY2025 meeting dates. Ms. Valcour-LeDuff motioned to accept the agreed upon meeting dates bimonthly on the second Wednesday, with the exception of January and July meeting on the third Wednesday, from 11 AM to 1 PM, with locations to be determined after the poll is completed. Ms. Cherry seconded the motion and the meeting dates passed. The DRB CY2025 meeting dates are: January 15; March 12; May 14; July 16; September 10; and November 12, 2025.

- b. The DRB discussed the wording and procedures for their attendance policy and the process/procedure for notifying members at risk for dismissal. The board debated whether to enforce a specific number of missed meetings or to use a generalized ratio of half the total number of yearly meetings missed during a calendar year. Mr. McCay suggested using half the number meeting days but Ms. Bryant pointed out that a general number would prolong the dismissal and could halt progress by not having a quorum. Ms. Devereux questioned whether the board expected to have more than six meetings next year and Ms. Baltrip-Coleman responded that the DRB is charged to approve doulas to the registry on a rolling basis throughout next year so there could be a need for more meetings. Ms. Valcour LeDuff motioned to accept the criteria for the dismissal process to begin at three total absences, seconded by Ms. Jessie-Johnson. The motion passed unanimously and members will be dismissed after three missed meetings. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman and Mr. McCay will work together to create the attendance and dismissal document for board members to review and sign at the January 15, 2025 board meeting.
- c. Chair Williams reviewed the charge of the board, DRB member expectations, and reiterated the four tasks of the board, which are to review applications for doulas to register to receive health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana, approve application to designate registered doula status, notify applicants of approval or denial of doula registration status, and maintain a statewide registry of doulas approved for health insurance reimbursement in Louisiana.

VI. Public Comment

- a. Ms. Rebecca Honeycutt (virtual) in the chat asked about virtual or in-person member attendance and whether the board could legislatively change the in-person attendance requirement. Mr. McCay affirmed that the in-person attendance requirement could be changed legislatively by making language changes to the rule during a legislative session if a legislator takes on the task of proposing the changes to the rule. Chair Williams stated that she is exploring possible legislators interested in addressing DRB rule changes. Ms. Baltrip-Coleman will add rule change ideas to the January 15, 2025 meeting agenda for further discussion of what language changes and alterations would be appropriate and helpful for board progress.

VII. Other Business

- a. Chair Williams tasked members with writing out frequently asked questions so that the board can create an FAQ fact sheet that will be added to the DRB website and to the Bureau of Family Health DRB webpage. The next meeting will be held on January 15, 2025 at 11:00 AM, the location to be determined.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM

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Next Meeting Details

Date: January 15, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: TBD

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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