



Improving Birth Outcomes: Strengthening Awareness of and Support for State and Community Doula Networks

Webinar Summary Chart

Presenters	Nan Strauss Every Mother Counts	Alexis Robles-Fradet National Health Law Program	Jessica Roach Restoring Our Own Through Transformation (ROOTT)	Melissa Franklin & Michelle Sanders Los Angeles African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative/LA Department of Health
Learning Objective(s)	<p>(1) Provide a general overview of doulas and different models of doula support.</p> <p>(2) Understand the evidence on the benefits of doula care and how doula care can help address birth equity.</p>	<p>(1) Provide a review of the national landscape on current policies (proposed and enacted) with a focus on Medicaid coverage.</p> <p>(2) Provide a review of policy opportunities that have proven to be the most beneficial for advancing doula care.</p>	<p>(1) Provide a general overview of ROOTT’s organization model, inclusive of Perinatal Support Doulas for Black families.</p> <p>(2) Understand the context of Social Determinants of Health as a consequence of the Structural Determinants of Health.</p>	<p>(1) High level understanding of the Los Angeles County African American Infant and Maternal Mortality Prevention Initiative Community Doula Program.</p> <p>(2) Key considerations in operationalizing a high-quality community doula program focused on addressing birth disparity, including hiring, training, funding, and program design.</p> <p>(3) Awareness of important system shifts that must take place in order to undergird and ensure the success of a community doula program designed to address birth disparities.</p>

<p>Points to Remember</p>	<p>(1) Doula support improves health outcomes, increases the experience of care, reduces health care costs, and addresses birth equity.</p> <p>(2) Not all doulas are the same in terms of training, education, services provided, and fees. Community-based doulas provide services tailored to the needs of the community they serve at no or very low cost.</p> <p>(3) Community-based doula programs have been piloted and implemented across the country, each with critical success factors and opportunities for improvement that need to be considered when designing and implementing state-level doula programs.</p>	<p>Be conscious of legislative language on certification, billing and reimbursement, workforce, and sustainability for doulas.</p>	<p>(1) ROOTT’s model of care is full spectrum perinatal support.</p> <p>(2) ROOTT addresses the Structural Determinants and their impact upon the Social Determinants, public health, policy, and advocacy.</p> <p>(3) We cannot take a siloed approach to addressing the Black Maternal and Infant Health crisis. It must be addressed holistically through community needs and voiced concerns in Black families.</p> <p>(4) Safety, not just Safe Sleep.</p>	<p>LESSONS LEARNED:</p> <p>(1) Community engagement is an accelerator.</p> <p>(2) Representation matters in design and implementation.</p> <p>(3) Pay and train, train and pay.</p> <p>(4) Build awareness of the intervention and the program—with every collaborator possible.</p> <p>(5) Ongoing funding conversations are a must.</p> <p>(6) Center birth equity authentically.</p> <p>(7) ACDE – Always Collect Data for Equity.</p>
<p>Suggested Next Steps</p>	<p>(1) Identify and connect with community-based doula organizations in your state/community.</p> <p>(2) Research the benefits of doula care.</p>	<p>Doulas: Check if your state is considering covering doula care and join with other doula groups to provide input.</p> <p>Policy Advocates: Connect with doula groups in your state to support their voices in drafting policy changes. Connect with others in states that have implemented Medicaid doula coverage to work with them and</p>	<p>(1) Re-define how funding is allocated directly to CBOs.</p> <p>(2) Require public health departments; academic institutions; and local, state, and national entities to engage CBOs as subject matter experts.</p>	<p>(1) Learn more! Reach out.</p> <p>(2) Engage experienced doulas from the group experiencing the disparity.</p> <p>(3) Build collaboration and openness within your maternal and child health system.</p> <p>(4) Take steps to support an equity and anti-racism frame among collaborators.</p> <p>(5) Understand and communicate with collaborators about the benefits of doulas.</p>

		gather lessons learned during their process.		
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing Birth Justice: https://everymothercounts.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Advancing-Birth-Justice-CBD-Models-as-Std-of-Care-3-25-19.pdf • Overdue: https://www.nationalpartnership.org/our-work/resources/health-care/maternity/overdue-medicaid-and-private-insurance-coverage-of-doula-care-to-strengthen-maternal-and-infant-health-issue-brief.pdf 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doula Medicaid Project: https://healthlaw.org/doulamedicaidproject/ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Families and Infants LA > Resources and Support: www.blackinfantsandfamilies.org/doulas • The Tammi Mac Late Show: Maternal Mortality: https://foxsoul.tv/the-tammi-mac-late-show-maternal-mortality/ • <i>What Every Black Woman Should Know to Have a Healthy and Joyous Birth</i> Presented by Los Angeles African American Infant Mortality and Maternal Prevention Initiative: https://kjlhradio.com/the-kjlh-womens-health-expo/what-every-black-woman-should-know-to-have-a-healthy-and-joyous-birth/ • <i>Program Provides Free Doulas to Black Women, Who Are Far More Likely to Die From Childbirth Complications:</i> https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/los-angeles-doulas-

				<p>free-county-black-women/2378319/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Giving Birth In A Pandemic Can Be Isolating. It Doesn't Have To Be:</i> https://laist.com/2020/05/28/coronavirus-pregnancy-support-doulas-hospitals.php
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