

Michigan Doula Advisory Council

Meeting Notes

January 17, 2024

Meeting Notes

1. Attendance
 - a. Doula Advisory Council (DAC) Members- Alaina Bierma, Anesha Stanley, Bianca Nash-Miot, Erika Millender, Kaela Wabanimkee-Harris, Kiara Baskin, Kristen Schell, Lakeshia Grant, Laurie Vance, Lorenda Lewis, Margarita Valbuena, Melinda Britton, Meredith Shook Hoover, Montreise Giles, Nyasia Countee, Robena Hill, and Tamara Villavicencio
 - b. MDHHS- Deanna Charest, Heather Boyd, List Whitener, Kimberly Lorick, Krystina Trowbridge, and Kendorah Cruz
2. Welcome and Sharing Opportunity
 - a. Members introduced themselves and completed a icebreaker/sharing activity.
3. Presentation by Doula Liaison Community Partners: Black Mothers Breastfeeding Association, Focus: HOPE, and Miigwech
 - a. The Community Partners are working with MDHHS on a grant with the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to support doula navigation in the Medicaid program. The project provides numerous supports for doulas including a web-based toolkit for doulas which will include billing resources, frequently asked questions, training, and continuing education opportunities.
 - b. Complete presentation slides are attached.
 - c. Miigwech shared some additional outreach and support activities that are being done with Indigenous doulas throughout the state including the Upper Peninsula.
 - d. A draft version of the toolkit was shared with the Doula Advisory Council (DAC) for review and feedback. Any feedback can be shared with Isha Johnson at ishaj@bmbfa.org.
 - e. To stay up to date on the activities of the community partners, please sign up for the BMBFA newsletter at [BMBFA | Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association \(blackmothersbreastfeeding.org\)](https://blackmothersbreastfeeding.org). Please also follow the above organizations on social media to remain notified of upcoming events and activities.
4. DAC Workgroup Report Out
 - a. Legislative Action and Advocacy

- i. Workgroup met in December and connected with doulas in Oregon that successfully advocated to increase their Medicaid reimbursement rate to discuss strategies used in that state. The group will assess what can be used in Michigan.
- b. Community and Health Plan Relations
 - i. The workgroup met in December and met with MDHHS Doula Initiative staff to discuss what staff current efforts include so the workgroup can possibly gap fill and work complementary. The workgroup has been focused on how to strengthen relationships and collaboration between doulas and hospitals, health care providers and community organizations.
 - ii. The group met with Priority Health to discuss their current doula enrollment process and provide feedback/make recommendations for improvement.
- c. Bylaws & Structure
 - i. The workgroup met in January and is discussing the ongoing structure of the DAC including term limits, size, equitable representation, new members, etc. The workgroup plans to present final recommendations to the full DAC at the March meeting.
 - ii. The workgroup is also reaching out to current DAC members who have not been able to attend meetings regularly to see if they are still interested in being part of the council .
- d. Doula Mentorship
 - i. The workgroup is brainstorming ideas to mentor new doulas to be successful at becoming Medicaid enrolled and being a doula in general. Necessary supports include setting up a successful business, self-care, learning from other doulas, a “day in the life” of a doula education session, skill building, and other ideas. Support could be either 1:1 or group support.
 - ii. The “Day in the Life” of a doula presentation could be part of the MDHHS continuing education sessions and be available for all newly trained doulas or people considering a career as a doula.

5. MDHHS Doula Initiative Updates and Discussion

- a. MDHHS Doula Initiative presentation slides are attached and can be referenced for detailed information.
- b. Thank you to the DAC members that were able to participate in the CityMatCH Culture of Equity meeting with MDHHS. The ideas generated from the meeting were shared and will be used to inform future strategic plans of the Doula Initiative.
- c. Numerous additional continuing education ideas were discussed and suggested in the chat. The Doula Initiative team will use them in developing our 2024 continuing education offerings.

6. Closing Comments and Ideas for Upcoming Meetings

- a. Next Meeting: March 18, 2024, 2pm – 4pm

Doula Advisory Council Meeting

January 17, 2024



Agenda

** Please write your name in the chat for attendance tracking **

- Welcome and Sharing Opportunity
 - 2:00pm – 2:15pm
- Community Partner Presentation
- 2:15pm – 2:45pm
- DAC Workgroup Report Out
 - 2:45pm – 3:00pm
- MDHHS Doula Initiative Updates and Discussion
 - 3:00pm – 3:45pm
- Closing Comments and Ideas for Upcoming Meetings
 - 3:45pm – 4:00pm

Welcome and Introductions

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

- Please introduce yourself
- One thing you are looking forward to in 2024





Community Partner Presentation



Focus: HOPE



Doula Liaison Project

MDHHS

Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association

Focus: HOPE

Miigwech

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Background of Doula Initiative

MDHHS is collaborating with Black Mothers Breastfeeding Association, Focus: Hope, and Miigwech Inc., to support doula navigation in the Medicaid program, increase beneficiary access to doula services, and make progress in decreasing infant mortality. These community partners, represent Black and Indigenous communities, and will work alongside MDHHS to develop web-based toolkits that include step-by-step billing resources, frequently asked questions, training and continuing education opportunities, and state department contact information.



Supports & Activities

Develop Doula Medicaid Program Tool Kit

- In 2023 Partners started out Identified barriers with Doula registry application including:
 - the need for doula registry applicants to have access to Microsoft Word to complete the application
 - the burden of the doula's provider information being accessible to the public
 - the usage of unknown acronyms
 - drafted a doula survey to engage doulas to use their experiential knowledge to further identify barriers in the application process
 - created a document that will better help to support community of doulas through the application process
- In 2024 we are in the process of finalizing the toolkit that will include information for training, enrollment, information regarding the MDHHS Doula Initiative and various doula specific resources.

Engage Medicaid Health Plan and make Doula Connections

- Partners attended the Medicaid Health Plan meeting facilitated by the State of Michigan and shared our ongoing efforts with the project and barriers we've heard from doulas around the credentialing & billing process.
- In 2023 Partners had multiple meetings and/or correspondences with Molina, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Aetna, Mae and The Doula Network. A Molina & Aetna representative presented accreditation information at the Detroit Community-based Doula Taskforce meeting hosted by BMBFA.
- We are hosting an upcoming Lunch & Learn with Meridian for Doulas to learn about how to becoming credentialed and bill with Meridian.

Supports & Activities

Stakeholder Engagement

- Monthly meetings were held for the Detroit Community-based Doula Taskforce. In these meetings, BMBFA and Focus: HOPE have helped Doulas to better understand the doula registry, SIGMA, NPI, and Medicaid Health Plan Accreditation Packages.
- Partners are in ongoing communication with the community:
 - Miigwech has met with birth workers to provide tech support and tech supplies to community doulas with access barriers and established contacts for information and resources.
 - BMBFA & Focus: HOPE have presented on Medicaid Reimbursement at SEMPQIC's Q3 meeting in 2023.
 - Phone call support to troubleshoot various issues
- Partners have facilitated opportunities for Doulas to network at the '23 MIH Summit, and BMBFA's Motown Experience: Birth & Breastfeeding Conference.
- Focus Hope helped facilitate a watch party with BMBFA. The watch party was of the webinar the state of Michigan teaching doulas how they could bill and become credentialed through the state for Medicaid reimbursement.
- Miigwech shared resources at Indigenous Birth Equity Day in collaboration with Munson Health, Sacred Waters and Emmet & Charlevoix Great Start Collaborative



Present

**Focus:
HOPE**

DOULA 101 *Watch Party*

August 2nd 12:30 pm-2:30 pm

or

August 9th 9:30-11:30

19570 Burt Rd Ste 116 Detroit, MI 48227

Aja Burnett 313.688.4056 ajab@bmbfa.org

Contact Us

Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association:

- Kiddada Green kiddadag@bmbfa.org
- Isha Johnson ishaj@bmbfa.org

Focus: Hope:

- Waymond Hayes waymond.hayes@focushope.edu
- Lakeisha Grant lakeshia.grant@focushope.edu

Miigwech:

- Meredith Kennedy meredith@miigwechinc.org
- Kelsey Wabanimkee kelsey@miigwechinc.org

DAC Workgroup Report Out

DAC Workgroup Report

- Bylaws and Structure
- Community and Health Plan Relations
- Legislative Advocacy
- Mentorship

DAC Workgroup Meeting Report

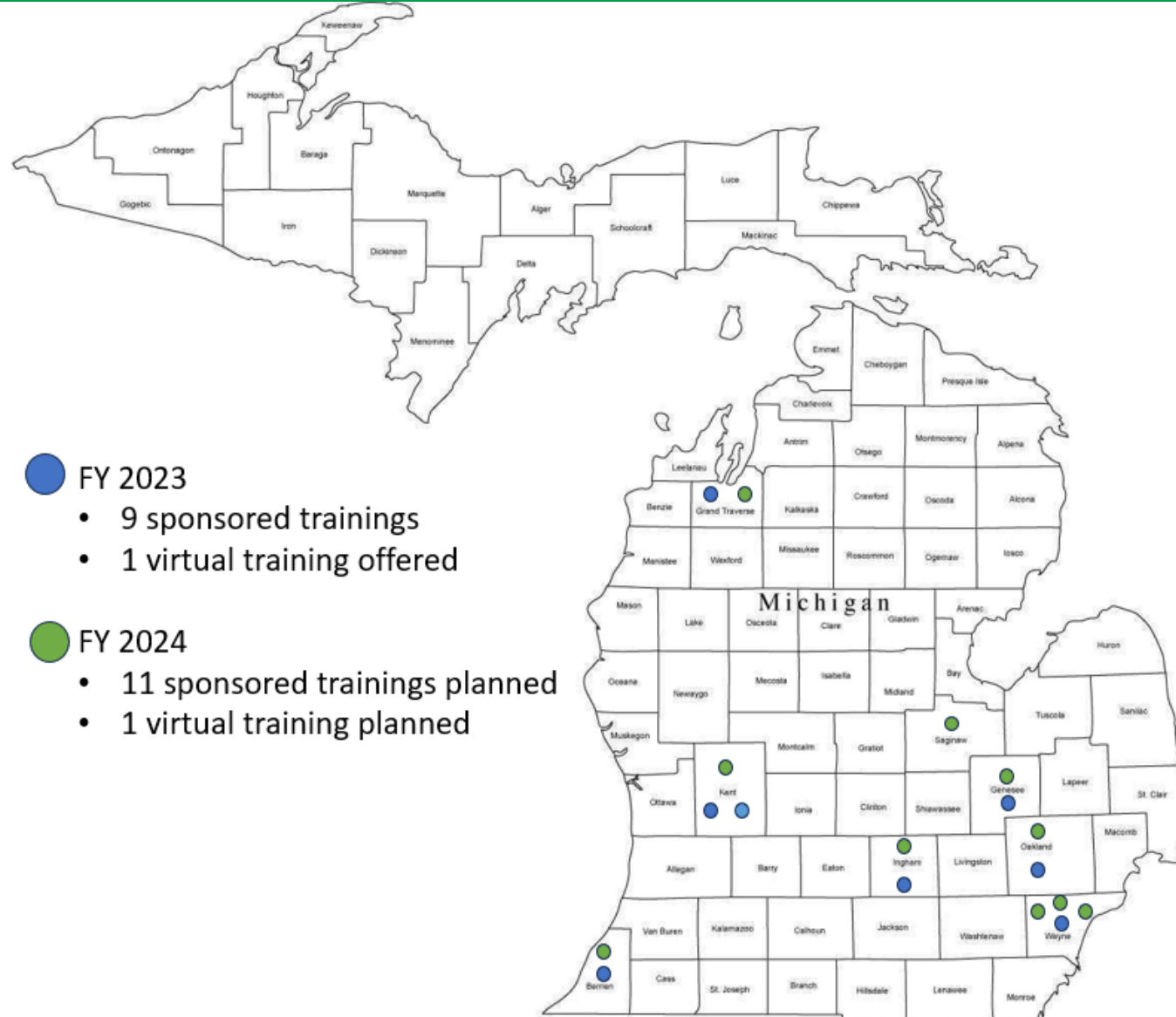
- Doula Initiative is requesting documentation from workgroup meeting/activities to support DAC invoice tracking.
 - Minimum Report Items:
 - Date
 - Time (duration of meeting)
 - Participants in meeting
 - 3 – 5 bullets describing topics of discussion
- Please submit report to Doula Inbox within a week of the meeting
 - MDHHS-MIDoula@michigan.gov

MDHHS Doula Initiative Update

Sponsored Trainings – 2024

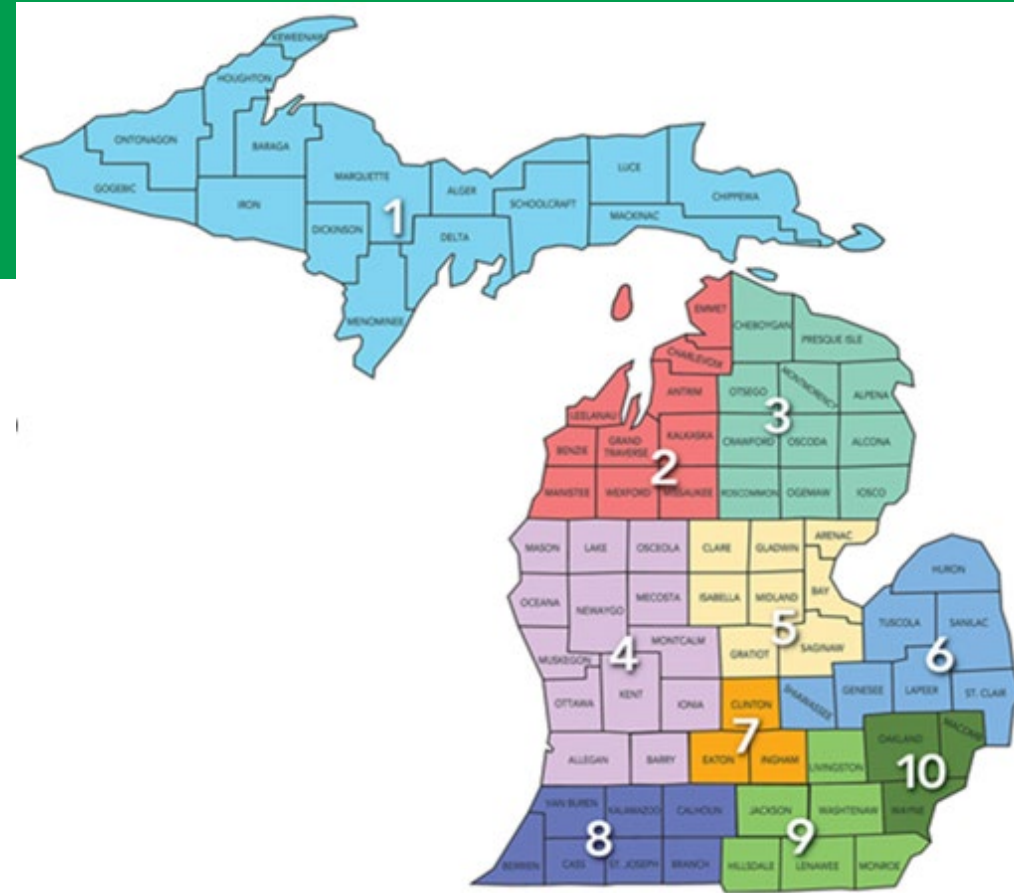


- Doula Training Models Funded:
 - Birthworkers of Color Collective
 - DONA International
 - Childbirth and Postpartum Professional Association (CAPPA)
 - Commonsense Childbirth Institute
 - Day One Doula Collective
 - Sisters in Loss
 - Lifespan Doulas
 - SMC Full Circle Doula Birth Companion Training, LLC
 - Zaagiidiwin
- 11 sponsored trainings will occur in FY2024
 - Approximately 250 new doulas will receive training and stipends



Doula Registry: Regional Data

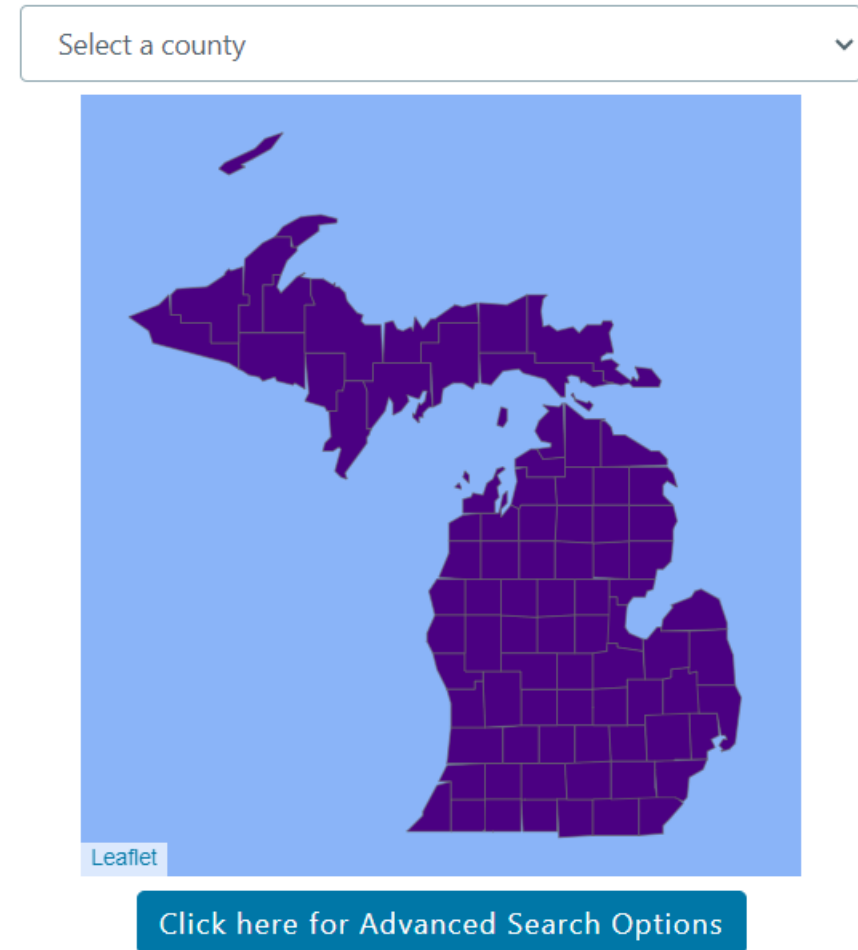
- Statewide:
 - 302 doulas / 183 Medicaid-enrolled doulas
- By Prosperity Region:



Region	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Doulas	8	26	23	64	23	34	23	43	90	155
Medicaid	6	16	13	40	14	25	10	27	53	94

Doula Registry – Status Update

- Doula Registry updates and quality assurance is complete
- User-friendly county map is developed – estimated “go live” in February



CityMatCH – Culture of Equity Meeting

- In November 2023, MDHHS staff and several members of the Michigan Doula Advisory Council met with HRSA and CityMatCH to elevate some challenges and successes that doulas are experiencing in Michigan.
- Doulas offered ideas to incorporate into the Doula Initiative strategic planning efforts for FY24 and beyond.
- Thank you to all that participated!



CityMatCH – Discussion Themes



- Relationships and Engagement
- Education and Professional Development
- Doula Service Enhancement
- Financial Support for Doulas

Strategic Planning Consideration – Doula Initiative



- Activities
 - Doula Advisory Council
 - Doula Registry
 - Increasing Doula Provider Network (Sponsored Doula Trainings)
 - Continuing Education for Doulas
 - Maternal Infant Health Summit
- Doula Specialist Positions
 - Technical Assistance
 - Doula Inbox
 - Doula Initiative Website
 - Doula Initiative Update
 - Outreach

CityMatCH – Strategic Planning



- Relationships and Engagement
 - Hospital/Health Systems
 - Michigan Hospital Association (MHA)
 - Maternal Infant Health Partners (e.g. WIC, Home Visiting, FQHCs)
 - Doula Care Outreach
- Education and Professional Development
 - Continuing Education Sessions
 - Maternal Infant Health Summit
 - Doula Service Enhancement
 - Direct communication with Medicaid Health Plans

CityMatCH – Future Ideas



- Research and data analysis
- Request for flexible funding to support doulas
 - Support for families for utilities, food, transportation assistance, care packages
 - Support doulas in developing a successful business model
 - Childcare services for practicing doulas
 - General continuing education
- Doula services to low-income non-Medicaid clients
- Offerings for doula self-care
- Scholarships to support doulas advancing in other health care careers
- Billing clearinghouse that specializes in doula claims – startup funds
- Doula mentorship programs

- Many of the above will require additional resources: Grant writing opportunities, State funds, Federal grants, etc.

FY 24 Priority – Continuing Education Sessions



- Topics recommended:
 - Breastfeeding education/breastfeeding basics
 - Doulas in the Operating Room
 - Culturally based doula training specifically targeted to the needs of the Black community
 - Support individuals with Substance Use Disorder/Peer Recovery
 - "Black Women Do VBACS"
 - Self-care
 - Secondary trauma
 - Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) Care for Babies and Families

Please enter any additional ideas or speaker suggestions in the chat or send thoughts to Doula Inbox

Doula Initiative Strategic Planning Process

- The team has been gathering all feedback from the first year of the Doula Initiative to incorporate into a strategic plan.
 - Currently drafting a five-year plan
 - Intend to share with DAC for feedback in May 2024 – hybrid meeting and survey for those not able to attend

Speakers Bureau Request

- Doula Initiative is seeking DAC members to volunteer for future speaking engagements and conference presentations
 - Application/survey will be sent along with the February Doula Initiative DAC Update
 - Speaking opportunities will be shared with the Speakers Bureau and will be selected for each presentation
- Reimbursement for speakers will depend on type of presentation

Speakers Bureau



- Upcoming Doula Initiative Requests:
 - WIC Conference: May 9 & 10, 2024
 - Doula Initiative Session on May 9th
 - Home Visiting Conference: July 30 – August 1, 2024

Maternal Infant Health Summit



- Doulas will receive a discounted rate to attend
- Host a doula post-conference event
 - Must follow State of Michigan requirements
- Proposal:
 - DAC Mentorship Workgroup offers a welcome and introduction at the beginning of the event.
- Discussion:
 - Any ideas or thoughts for the doula reception?
 - Would you prefer to have a structured activity or open networking time?
 - Have you been to a conference or meeting where you received a functional or exciting swag item, if yes what was it?

Future Topics – March 2024



- Workgroup Report Out
- MDHHS-approved Doula Training Application Process
- May Hybrid Meeting Planning

Thank you for
your
continued
participation!

Questions or feedback?

Next Meeting:
March 18, 2024
2pm – 4pm

Division of Maternal & Infant Health Contact:
MDHHS-MIDoula@michigan.gov