

Michigan Doula Advisory Council  
Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2025

1. Attendance.
  - i. Doula Advisory Council (DAC) Members.
    - a. Kiara Baskin, Charisse Blanks, Melinda Britton, Nyasia Countee, Christie Donn, Jessica English, Robena Hill, Rodnesia Jackson, Lorenda Lewis, Angelene Love, Rachele Macera, Kristen Schell, Anesha Stanley, Alisha Spencer, Laurie Vance, Kaela Wabanimkee-Harris, Kelsey Wabanimkee, Karissa White, Rachel Whittington.
  - ii. Medicaid.
    - a. Lisa Dileria.
  - iii. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Doula Initiative.
    - a. Chelsea Low Darling, Deanna Charest, Lisa Whitener, Joelle Zamboroski.
2. Welcome.
  - i. Kelsey Wabanimkee opened with an Indigenous meditation exercise: “How is Your Spirit?”
3. Doula Registry Indigenous Doula Self-Identification.
  - i. A proposal was presented on adding self-identification of indigenous doulas on the Doula Registry. Support and rationale were offered by DAC member, Kelsey Wabanimkee.
  - ii. Group discussion regarding potential pros and cons related to self-identification, including suggestions for registry application framing and language.
4. Workgroup Discussion.
  - i. Membership and Priorities.
  - ii. Meeting Reports.
    - a. Bylaws and Structure Group has not met yet.
    - b. Community and Health Plan Relations met to discuss goals, with priority being doulas in the operating room.
      1. Plan to meet with local hospitals and anesthesiologists to develop a toolkit and training.
    - c. Legislative Advocacy met to discuss ways to advocate.
      1. Next meeting is to narrow down the list and create priorities that don’t overlap with other groups.
    - d. Mentorship has not met yet.
5. Doula Initiative Updates.
  - i. MDHHS Doula Training Organization Approval Process.
    - a. Nine DAC members volunteered to review applications.
  - ii. Doula Registry.
    - a. As of April 14, 2025, 68% of the doulas on the registry are Medicaid-enrolled.
  - iii. Michigan Doula's Do! Pre-Conference.
    - a. DAC members provided suggestions via Mentimeter.
6. Discussion and Feedback.

- i. Opportunity for DAC members to share feedback with the Doula Initiative team.
  - ii. Members discussed the following:
    - a. Future sponsored training locations based on community need.
    - b. Streamlining continuing education contact hour process.
    - c. Potential impact of Federal Medicaid cuts.
7. Next Meeting.
- i. June 10, 2025, 1-3 p.m.

# Doula Advisory Council

April 15, 2025



# Welcome and Opening



# Doula Registry Self-Identification as an Indigenous Doula

# Doula Registry Background

## Doula Registry Application

- Original form (January 2023).
  - Information gathered:
    - Specialties.
    - Languages offered other than English.
    - Special populations served.
- Revised form (January 2024).
  - Removed:
    - Specialties and special populations served.
  - Continue to collect:
    - Languages offered other than English.

## Doula Registry Map

- Published January 2024.
- Rationale for not publicly sharing:
  - Specialties.
    - No mechanism to verify licensing, certification, expertise, etc.
    - Information would be shared with families via doula interview or website.
  - Special populations served:
    - Question was misleading and open to broad interpretation.

# Self-Identification as Indigenous Doula



## Addition to Doula Registry Application

- “I, [enter name], identify as an Indigenous doula.”

## Application Revision

- June 2025.

## Annual Registry Update

- All doulas on the MDHHS Doula Registry will be offered the opportunity to add this identity to their registry information during annual update in December 2025.
- Full implementation will be complete by February 2026.

# DAC Workgroups

Bylaws and Structure	Community and Health Plan Relations	Legislative Advocacy	Mentorship
Christie Donn	Charisse Blanks	Melinda Britton	Kiara Baskin
Erika Millender	Christie Donn	Christie Donn	Melinda Britton
Laurie Vance	Jessica English	Tori Ferrier	Christie Donn
Karissa White	Tori Ferrier	Elizabeth Montez	Tori Ferrier
Rachel Whittington-Cole	Lorenda Lewis	Kristen Schell	Arnetta Ford
	Angelene Love	Kaela Wabanimkee-Harris	Robena Hill
	Rachele Macera		Lorenda Lewis
	Kristen Schell		Angelene Love
	Alisha Spencer		Rachele Macera
	Kelsey Wabanimkee		Erika Millender
	Karissa White		Elizabeth Montez
			Anesha Stanley
			Laurie Vance
			Kelsey Wabanimkee
			Karissa White

# Workgroup Priority Considerations



## Hospital Integration

- Hospital education on doula scope of practice.
- Barriers to serving clients – OR, triage, etc.

## Public Awareness

- Collaboration with providers, hospitals and community organizations (WIC).

## Business and Health Plan Logistics

- Credentialing and billing support.
- Business start-up support.

## A Doula for Everyone

- Private insurance coverage for doula services.

## Mentorship

- Community building amongst doulas.
- Office hours offered by DAC to support doulas regionally.

# MDHHS Doula Training Organization Approval Process



## Medicaid Doula Policy

- MDHHS, with community input, will continue to review doula training programs, including those created for specific populations such as community-based doula programs, to support cultural and community needs.

# Doula Training Expansion (2023)

- Nine organizations written in original policy.
- Need for additional training options was voiced by doula community – prioritized in 2023 expansion.
  - Michigan recognizes the broadest range of doula training organizations nationally.
- Intentional focus on equity and inclusion.
  - Doulas across Michigan and the MDHHS Doula Initiative greatly appreciate the effort of the DAC in this expansion.
- 17 additional organizations approved.
  - Process was paused in October 2023.

# Application Window 2025

- MDHHS Doula Initiative shared the application process with all organizations that requested review between 2023 and 2024 (approximately 50 organizations).
- 14 doula training organizations completed the enhanced application and are eligible for review.

# Organization Application/Review

## Enhanced Application

- Demonstrate meeting or exceeding Medicaid requirements and non-discrimination statement/policies (requirement implemented, July 2023).
- Organizations that offer in-person trainings, are Michigan-based, multilingual and community-focused will be prioritized.

## DAC Review/Approval

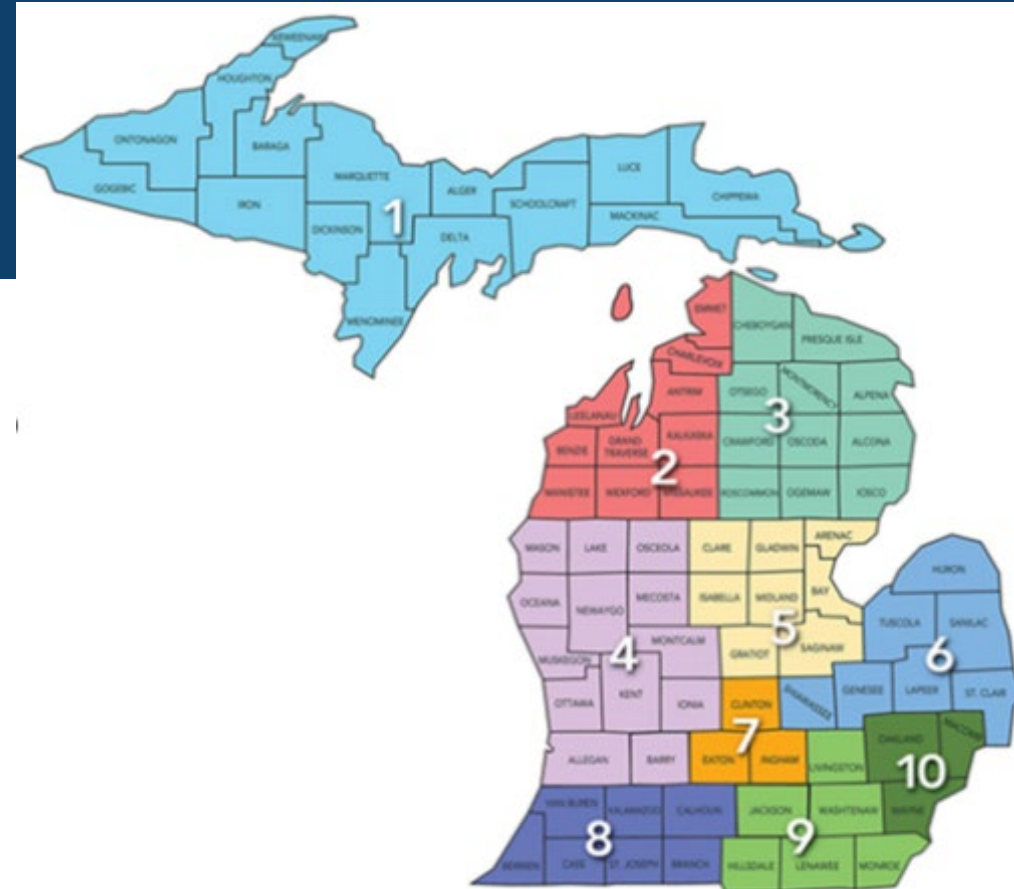
- Maximum of three training organizations will be approved each application window.
  - May 2024 DAC Vote.
- Next application window determined in December 2025.

# Request for Application Reviewers

- Reviewer responsibilities:
  - Review all 14 applications and complete Reviewer Report.
    - Applications will be measured based on prioritized criteria.
      - Applications and Reviewer Report will be shared via email with all reviewers (Excel format) by April 18.
  - Attend Reviewer Discussion.
    - May 13 (Microsoft Teams) from 1-3 p.m.
      - Intention of meeting will be to determine which three trainings will be presented to full DAC for vote in June 2025.

# Doula Registry

- Statewide:
  - 712 doulas.
  - 484 Medicaid-enrolled doulas.
- By Prosperity Region:



Region	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	R10
Doulas	34	41	26	165	65	94	67	90	170	325
Medicaid	19	31	20	108	51	74	47	65	122	232

# Michigan Doulas Do! Learn—Share—Create

June 16, 2025

Pre-Conference to the Maternal Infant Health Summit



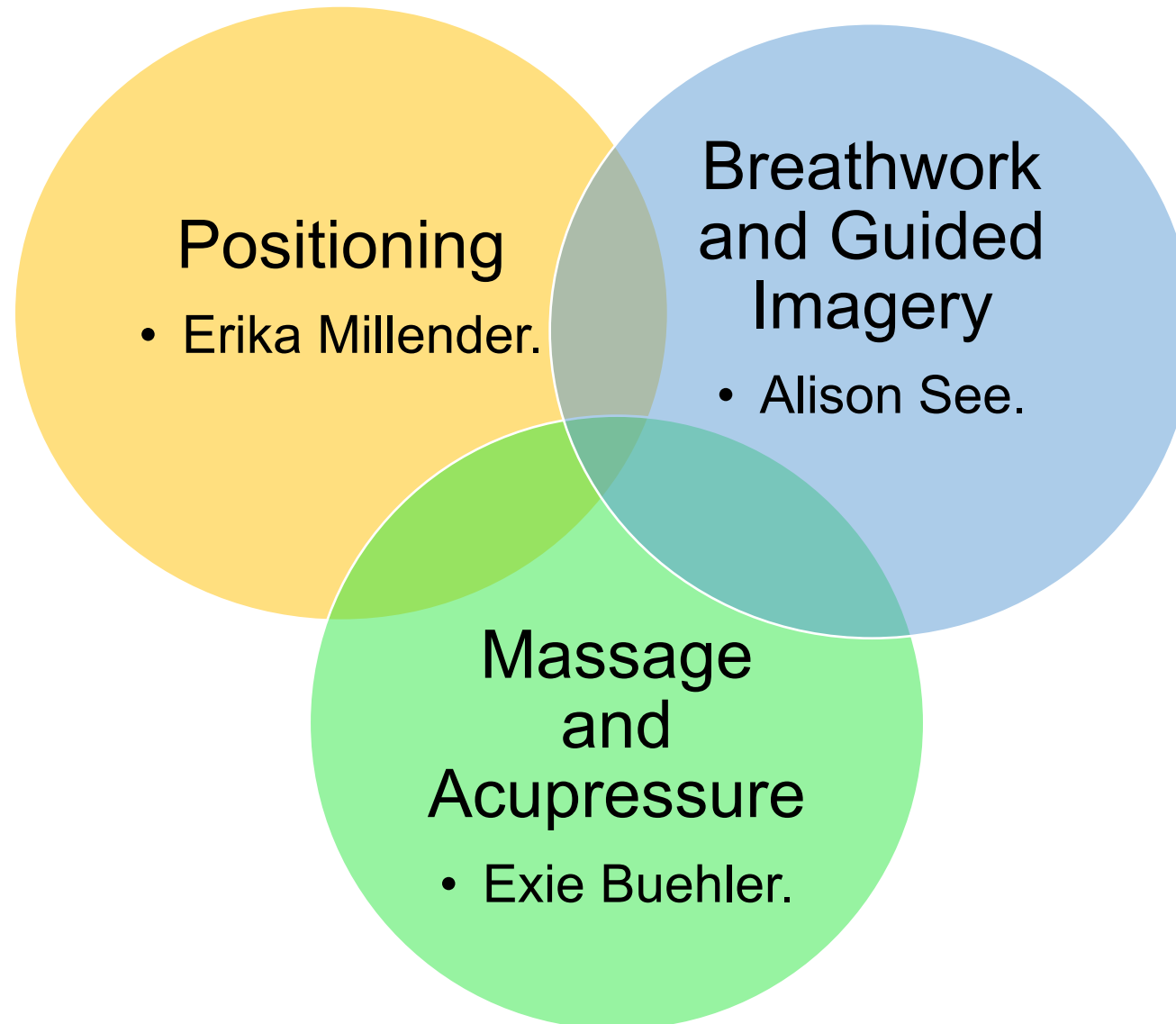
- The hands-on, interactive skill sessions will offer doulas from across Michigan an opportunity to share, learn and create together.
- All *Michigan Doulas Do!* content has been highlighted by doulas, for doulas.
- Each participant will register for two learning paths, one per skill session.
- Each skill session will last two hours and include three, 30-minute interactive stations with breaks.

# Agenda

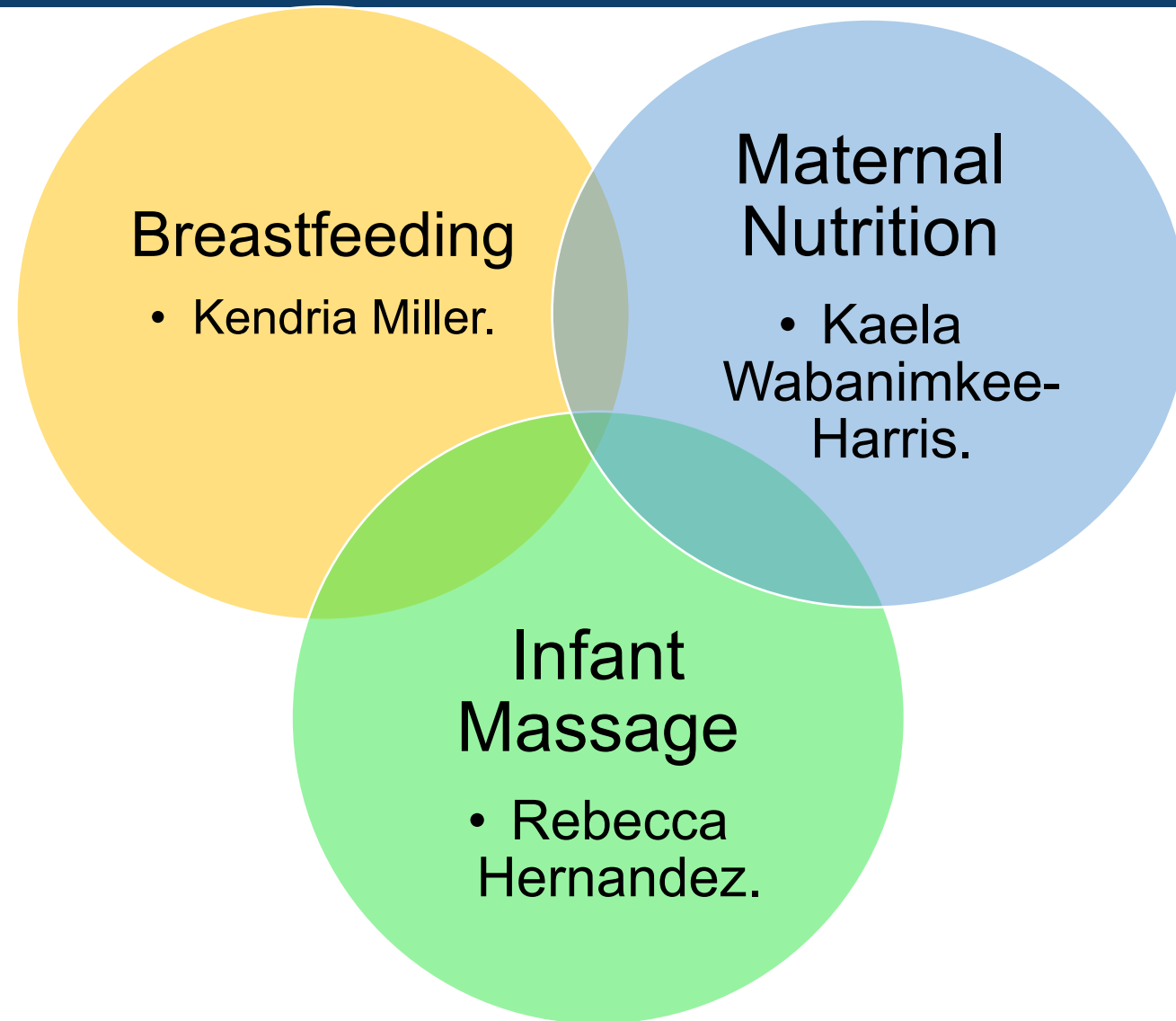
- Sign In (1–2 p.m.)
- Welcome (2–2:30 p.m.)
- Skill Session 1 (2:30–4:30 p.m.)
- Break (4:30–5 p.m.)
- Skill Session 2 (5–7 p.m.)
- Dinner and Closing (7–8 p.m.)
- Networking (8–8:30 p.m.)

- Learning Paths:
  - Advanced Labor Support Techniques.
  - Postpartum Preparation.
  - Specialized Support.

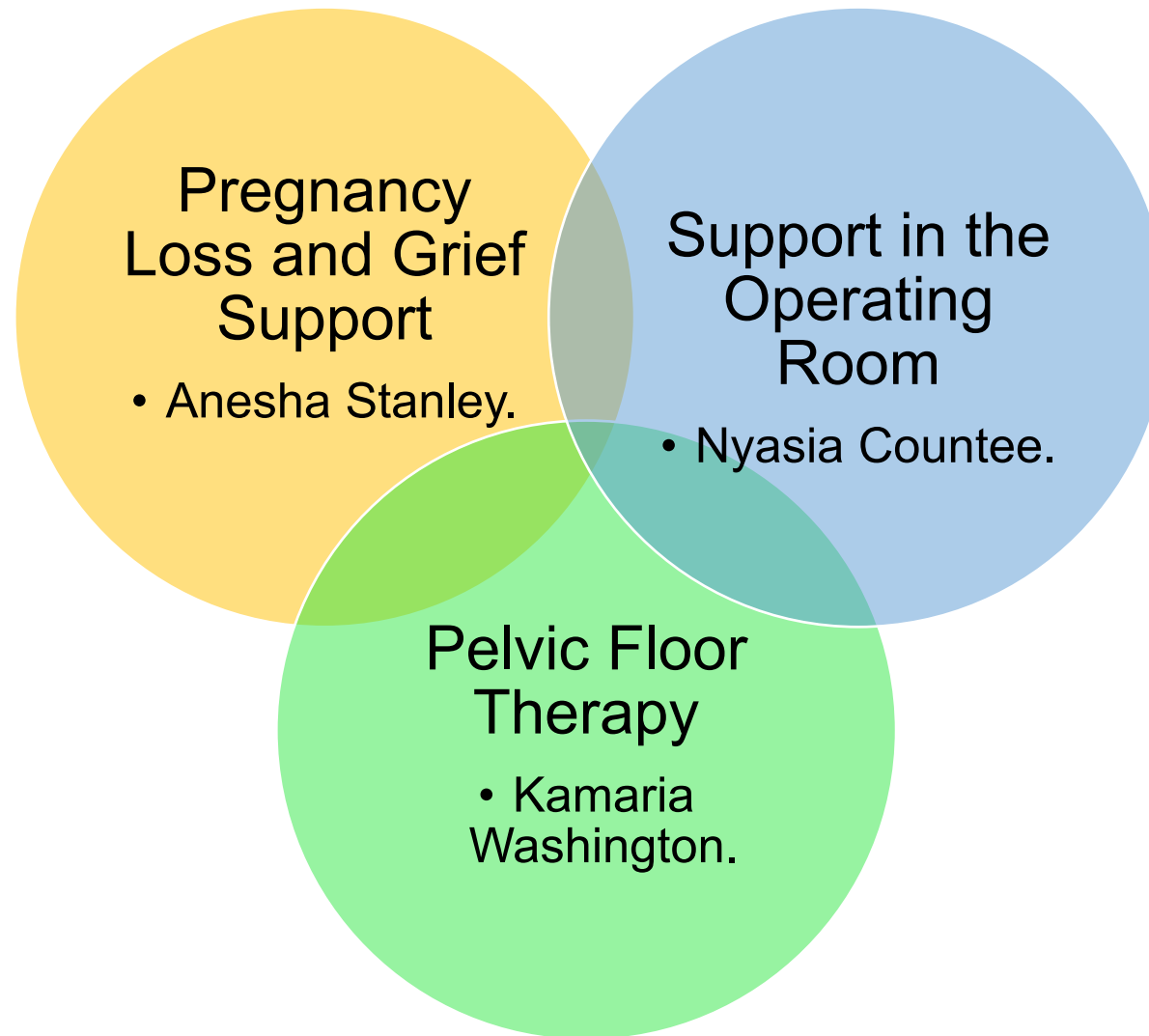
# Advanced Labor Support Techniques



# Postpartum Preparation



# Specialized Support



# Other Offerings

## Doula Care Companion Booklet

- Each speaker will provide a one-page brief overview of the information and skills shared in the station along with key resources where doulas can learn more.
- Booklet will be bound and laminated.

## Event Items

- Journal and pen.
- Small bag.

What are you seeing/hearing/feeling from  
the doula community?

Next Meeting:

June 10, 2025  
1 – 3 p.m.