



#BEYONDBIRTHWORK

Support Community Based Doula Organizations that are working toward Bridging racial disparities in Maternal Mortality Rates

June 8, 2021

NASEM

Ancient Song Doula Services

Our Mission



At Ancient Song Doula Services we focus on the whole and not the parts. Through community, advocacy, reproductive/birth justice and education we aim to tackle some of the issues affecting communities of color.



Through a reproductive and birth justice framework we are addressing the maternal mortality and morbidity through training, policy, and offering direct services to the community for pregnant and parenting people.

Advocacy and Education



OUR ADVOCACY WORK COMES IN THE FORM OF POLICY REFORM, CAMPAIGNS FOR EQUITY IN MATERNAL HEALTH, WORKSHOPS, AND CONFERENCES. OUR GOAL IS TO SHIFT THE NARRATIVE AND ADDRESS IMPLICIT BIAS AND RACISM WITHIN MATERNAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.



THROUGH EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP, CONFERENCES, AND TRAININGS OUR GOAL IS TO PROVIDE THE SKILLS NEEDED FOR INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CHOICES.

Understanding
Legislative Process,
Community in Action,
Listening to Your
Stakeholders

The Process



The Legislative (Education) Process

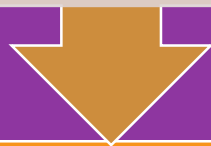
Introduced by Assembly
Member Amy Paulin (D,
88th Assembly District),
and Sen. Jennifer Ramos
(D, 13th Senate District),
respectively.

Bills A.364B and S.3344B

Summary of Bills

Stipulates that each doula enrolled in the Medicaid Reimbursement program must be a “certified doula”.

“CERTIFIED DOULA SERVICES’ MEANS CONTINUOUS EMOTIONAL AND PHYSICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY A CERTIFIED DOULA THROUGHOUT LABOR AND BIRTH, AND INTERMITTENTLY DURING THE PRENATAL AND POSTPARTUM PERIODS”



“Certified doula” means:

Certification conferred by the Health Commissioner

\$40 application, filed with the Department

Completing certification specified by the State

State-defined “good moral character” (i.e. background check)

In partnership with
Carriage House Birth
International, BEBO Inc.,
Manhattan Birth, Bronx
Community Doulas, and
many more to come!

Community Listening Sessions

Political Education Series

Aim: to educate birth workers and the communities they serve on the legislative process so that they can self-advocate.

First event in the series occurred at Ancient Song Doula Services on June 25, 2019.

Since then, doulas and birth workers have hosted educational events in Brooklyn, Manhattan, Long Island, the Bronx to bring awareness of how our political system functions, and how these bills might affect the birthing community.

Community Feedback

How will the New York State Certification process affect current and future doulas' ability to practice?

How was community engagement handled during the legislative process?

How might certification affect birth workers ability to practice?

The \$40 application fee and any ongoing costs

Will volunteer and community-doulas be able to practice? Doulas certified under other certifying bodies? Undocumented doulas? Non-certified doulas?

“Good Moral Character” requirement

Will New York State Hospitals be able to turn away Doulas not certified by the state?

How were community-based doula organizations consulted in the legislative process?

Many were unaware of these bill until their passage, despite the legislation's direct impact on community-based doulas and the families and communities they serve.

Our collective voices for
change city and state
wide.

The Campaign #BeyondBirthWork

#BeyondBirthWork

[Home](#) [Call to Action](#) [Petition](#) [Toolkits](#) [Contact Us](#)

#BeyondBirthWork

Shifting the Narrative in Healthcare



#BEYONDBIRTHWORK

CALL TO ACTION!

SUPPORT COMMUNITY-BASED DOULAS WHO GO

#BEYONDBIRTHWORK

Community-based doulas go #BeyondBirthWork to provide holistic, culturally-relevant care to women of color and low-income women who would not otherwise be able to afford care. The community-based doula care model helps women navigate systems to connect to the services and supports they need to be healthy. This model also addresses racial discrimination affecting communities of color and helps reduce racial disparities in maternal health and birth outcomes.

We are gathering in community to address the recent passing of **Assembly Bill A364B** and **Senate Bill S3344B**. While these bills were created with the intention of expanding doula care and access to marginalized communities, the proposed legislation contradicts these efforts.

Join us and support Black women-led community-based organizations like Ancient Song Doula Services as we demand our concerns to be addressed by politicians and the needs of our communities and families be fully met within this legislation!

Digital Campaign Imagery



General Concern about Bills A364B and S3344B:

We want to make sure that **non-certified doulas** can still provide services in New York State if these bills become law.



If you would like to get involved whether locally NY or Nationally please contact us at: policy@ancientsongdoulaservices.com.

Bills A364B and S3344B will require "good moral character as determined by the department" for state doula certification.

➤ How will "good moral character" be determined?

➤ Is this standard for Medicaid providers?

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Bills A364B and S3344B:

The term "certified doula" has been in place for a long time and is used by many different certifying organizations.

We do not believe New York State can lay claim to it.

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#BeyondBirthWork

Community Conversation on Doula Certification Bill A364B & S334B

Join Ancient Song Doula Services in the community as we discuss the recent passing of the Doula Certification Bills. Joining us in the panel discussion will be Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages

Please RSVP for FREE tickets on our Facebook event page.

Weeksville Heritage Center
158 Buffalo Ave, Brooklyn, NY, 11213
July 10, 2019
6 PM to 8 PM

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Bills A364B and S3344B will require a **redundant** examination for state doula certification.

Focus should be on requiring:

- Skills-building for community-based doula work
- Birth/health equity
- Racism/implicit bias
- Case management



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#BeyondBirthWork

Define doulas and their scope of practice, and do not lay claim to the term “Certified Doula”. Instead, clarify to whom the bill applies and distinguish between state-certified doulas and doulas certified elsewhere.

Offer opportunities to train with established certifying bodies, instead of collecting fees.

Fund Black women-led doula organizations, not create a state-controlled program.

Focus on ending structural racism in medicine, instead of regulating doulas.

Community is the
Foundation.

Recommendations

Policy doesn't Inform People, People Inform Policy

- Lead with Community in mind. (Be Humble)
- Don't assume. Education is key.
- Organizing starts with an ASK.
- Know Your District & Legislators.
- Let Your Campaign Reflect Community.
- Don't Let up!

Community → **Awareness** → **Education** → **Legislation**

Give Thanks

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