



**Item:**

Doula Friendly Designation National Initiative 2025 Overview (Mia Jones, Averjill Rookwood Lacey, and Angela Daniel)

**Requested Action:**

- 1) The board is asked to receive the information

**Background:**

Developed by A&A Doula Consulting founders Averjill Rookwood Lacey and Angela Daniel, The Doula Friendly® Designation, recognizes hospitals that create inclusive environments where doulas are integral members of the birth team.

The Doula Friendly® Initiative (DFI) is a nationwide framework designed to integrate evidence-based doula care into healthcare facilities. DFI establishes clear guidelines and pathways for hospitals, and emphasizing patient-centric care.

Thanks to investment from the Children's Trust of Alachua County, UF Health Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, was recognized as the nation's first Doula Friendly® designated hospital on June 17, 2025. This milestone represents significant advancement in perinatal healthcare standards and acknowledges UF Health's dedicated collaboration with nurses, administration, obstetricians, midwives, and local doulas.

Following UF Health Hospital, HCA Florida North Florida Hospital in Gainesville is next in line to receive the Doula Friendly® designation by 2026.

Today's presentation will introduce the Children's Trust Board members to A&A Doula Consulting founders Averjill Rookwood Lacey and Angela Daniel. A & A will:

- Briefly define the role of a doula
- Provide an overview of the DFI Framework
- Pathway to Earn the Designation
- And what is next in Alachua County.

**Programmatic Impact:**

Goal 1- Children and youth are healthy and have nurturing caregivers and relationships.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$49,197.00

**Recommendation:**

The board is asked to receive the information.