



Item:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Doula Partnership Guidance – Children's Trust of Alachua County–Funded Local Maternal Health Leadership Recognized

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.

American College of Obstetrician and Gynecologist Committee Statement Release:

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has released a new Committee Statement, *Partnering With Doulas in Clinical Settings*, which affirms the important role doulas play as members of the perinatal care team and offers recommendations to strengthen collaboration between doulas and healthcare providers.

CTAC is proud to celebrate A&A Doula Consulting LLC Co-Founders, Averjill Rookwood Lacey and Angela Daniel, along with Dr. Adetola Louis-Jacques, who co-authored this national publication as part of an interdisciplinary team of physicians and doula leaders. This recognition is especially meaningful because many of the collaborative principles reflected in the guidance align with approaches advanced at UF Health in Alachua County through the Doula Friendly Designated Hospital initiative.

This milestone also reflects the impact of the Children's Trust's investment in maternal health and community-based partnership strategies. Through the partnership between A&A Doula Consulting LLC. and UF Health, our community has helped demonstrate

what is possible when healthcare systems and community doulas work together intentionally to improve communication, patient-centered care, and perinatal outcomes.

It is exciting to see local maternal health leaders helping shape national guidance that can influence practice and advocacy for doulas and families across the country. CTAC applauds these partners for their leadership and for elevating our community as a model for collaborative maternal health innovation.

Programmatic Impact:

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

Fiscal Impact:

\$49, 197.00

Recommendation:

1. Receive the information.