



**Item:**

Launching the First Doula Friendly Hospital at UF Health (Mia Jones)

**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, emphasizing patient-centric care, culturally responsive, and inclusive practices.

**Update:**

Thanks to funding from the Children's Trust of Alachua County, UF Health Hospital in Gainesville, Florida, will be recognized as the nation's first Doula Friendly® designated hospital tentatively 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.

The location for this launch event has not yet been finalized. An invitation will be provided once all details are approved and finalized by UF Health.

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

**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.