

**From:** [Gabriel, Sonya M](#)  
**To:** [Jim Dwyer](#)  
**Cc:** [Roberson, Angela C](#)  
**Subject:** Year End Doula Summary  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 14, 2020 3:13:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Good afternoon Jim,

I submitted the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter report online. Below is additional information from this past year:

- There were a total of 40 referrals received this past FY: 19 refused or did not respond to contacts; 1 miscarried; 1 did not qualify; 13 gave birth and the remaining are receiving services and due later in this new fiscal year
- I recruited 3 doulas – one was pregnant and gave birth in July, the other had personal issues but fortunately having the 3<sup>rd</sup> doula helped with coverage
- Mary Rainer (local midwife) backed out of the doula program due to family issues but is still willing to assist the doulas when needed
- The effects from the pandemic: telephonic prenatal & postnatal contacts are being done vs in person; doulas were prohibited from going to the hospital until this 4<sup>th</sup> quarter; one of the doulas was not able to attend one of the births because hospital security would not let her up (I have since addressed & fixed this issue with the hospital); from March thru Aug referrals were slow to come in
- Most of the referrals are coming from our TOPWA program, very few from the OB offices and none from the high risk OB office. I have done face to face meetings with OB offices, hospitals and community agencies to get the word out about this program, with email & phone follow up.
- The women that have participated are enjoying it and benefitting with good outcomes to show for it
- The doulas seem to be enjoying this work, are establishing good rapport and developing positive relationships with their clients
- The biggest challenge has been engaging clients. Many will fill out the referrals but when contacted, they refuse or don't answer their phones.
- The next big challenge was staffing of the CLC program – the two women I did recruit did not pass the CLC certification exam, have not made efforts to study or retake the exam, were very non-committal to scheduling training time with me, and often wouldn't show for trainings that were scheduled.
- At this point, I am still looking to recruit two new candidates. The CLC training program is now offered fully online, so if there are training dollars available, would I request that through Special Designations? I am trying to find someone who is already trained as a CLC, however, finding a CLC who is also a woman of color in this area is going to be difficult.

Thank you again for entrusting me to manage this new doula program. Although the number of participants is small, the positive outcomes are proving to be worthwhile. At this time, I have 12 women referred in and due between October and April.

Thank you.

**Sonya Gabriel, RN BN CLC**

Community Health Nursing Consultant – Maternal Child Health  
Florida Department of Health in St Lucie County  
5150 NW Milner Drive, Port St Lucie, FL 34983  
PH: 772-462-3955 | Cell: 772-370-5470 | Fax: 772-462-5641

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