

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 2018**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, March 26, 2018 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Department of Health, 899 North Capitol St., NE, Room 306, Washington, D.C., 20002. Questions about the meeting may be directed to the Chair at [angela.mcclain@dcbc.dc.gov](mailto:angela.mcclain@dcbc.dc.gov)

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to the order at 6:13 pm by Commissioner McClain.

**II. Attendees**

In Person:

Emily Woody—Department of Health (DOH) Representative

Nonie Robinson – Department of Health

Commissioner Jenny Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda – Community Outreach Expert

Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert

Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair

By Phone:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Quamiece Harris—Department of Human Services (DHS) Representative

Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member

Judith Campbell—Public Attendee

Absent:

Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member

Colleen Sonosky—Department of Health Care Finance Representative

Commissioner Amira Roess—Public Health Expert Member

Tamika Cambridge – DC Department of Human Resources

Chibu Anyanwu—Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert

**III. Adoption of Agenda**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Tender and seconded by Commissioner Propst-Riddick.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes from February 2018 Meeting**

Revisions to the February 2018 meeting minutes was made for the following:

- Change spelling of Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick under updates from sub-committees.

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Tender.

#### **V. Old Business**

- a. Update on recruitment: Community Outreach Expert and Obstetrician & Gynecologist (OB/GYN)

Stephanie Sieswerda has been selected as the Community Outreach Expert. She will be sworn-in in the coming weeks. Commissioner Sieswerda is currently employed with the Breastfeeding Center of Greater Washington where she coordinates breastfeeding classes. She is also a member of the DC Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC). She previously worked at Notre Dame's Breastfeeding Center.

The OB/GYN position is still open. One candidate has applied and is currently being interviewed by the DC Mayor's Office of Talent and Appointments (MOTA) and DOH.

- b. Update on reappointments for Commissioners Long, Tender and West

Commissioners Long, Tender and West have been confirmed for reappointment. MOTA will be reaching out directly to the Commissioners on extending their appointments.

#### **VI. New Business**

- a. DC Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC) Regional Mother Baby Summit

DCBFC is currently planning a summit which will be held on the last Wednesday in August 2018. The date will be finalized once the keynote speaker is confirmed. The speaker will be from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). There will also be a speaker from DOH, Emily Woody.

There will be breakout sessions organized into four parts: 1) Policy and Strategy for Insurance Coverage of Inpatient Donor Milk; 2) Policy and Review for Hypoglycemia & Hyperbilirubinemia in the Breastfed Infant 3) Policies and Procedures for Mother's Testing Positive for Marijuana 4) Potential Impact of Mechanical/Assistive Devices on Exclusive Breastfeeding Rates.

The coalition is asking for recommendations for speakers for the breakout sessions.

Dr. Reece-Stremtan was recommended to speak on the marijuana policy from the Academy for Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM). She may also be able to address DC policy for positive toxic screening.

For the session on insurance coverage, Commissioner Tender has reached out to Colleen to participate. Colleen will think of others to join. Commissioner Long suggested that the panel speakers and participants should be from the different facilities that make decisions for the diagnosis-related group (DRG) reimbursement. AmeriHealth was suggested.

Dr. Michal Young, is a neonatologist, and might be able to speak on hypoglycemia and jaundice. She recently wrote a chapter about this topic in the book “Lactation Education Accreditation and Approval Review Committee (LEAARC).”

Judith suggested that a session be included on mechanical devices (nipple shields, breast pumps), and distribution. Perhaps the coalition could consider inviting Neb Doctors to the summit.

#### b. Updates from Sub-Committees

##### Breastfeeding Library

The subcommittee has a pending question with MOTA in regards to who should host an online resource library – a government agency or other vendor.

Emily shared that DOH is going through a rebrand. It will soon use the name DC Health. With this new name, the website will be revamped and the Commission could recommend that lactation resources be included on the new website. For the annual report, the committee will need to add a description on which resources (other websites) could be connected to DOH.

The committee will develop a letter to formally submit its recommendations of new books, journals and other resources to update the collection at DC Public Library (DCPL). The committee will circulate the letter for the Commission’s review prior to submission to DCPL.

##### Human Milk Bank

The committee is being reformed to include new members.

A few key issues the committee will need to consider include:

- With the needs assessment, could we find out if there is a demand for the milk bank?
- What is the value of having a bank in DC vs other neighboring states?
- Will insurance cover the cost? Shipping is expensive.
- Who will participate in the assessment?

For the needs assessment, we may need to consider private funding. Commissioner West suggested that we consider developers (construction companies). Developers may also provide seed funding or start-up funding (staff, equipment and infrastructure). It was discussed that the Commission needs to find out how to conduct a needs analysis (what are the cost implications, what is the process).

It was suggested that we review other states’ milk banks such as in Austin, Texas; West Virginia and New York to look at existing supporters. Raleigh Wake Medical Center is operated through public funding. There may also be facilities on the West Coast.

Judith shared that Human Milk Banking Association of America (HMBANA) has information on starting/opening a milk bank. Some of its recommendations/guidelines include: complete a needs assessment; develop a 5-year plan; and hire volunteers.

For the bank, we may wish to consider if services could be extended to other states. Meaning the DC bank serves as a regional milk bank for the DMV area.

The committee is currently unsure if there is a huge donor community, but believes mothers will be interested in shopping locally.

#### Lactation Support Services and Hotline

The committee met and went through the feedback on the draft summary of the annual report. Assignments have been made among members to complete revisions by April 9. The committee will meet again on April 16 and share updates at the next meeting.

Commissioner Jeffers will send Commissioner West her assignments.

Emily will provide a summary on the Healthy Start program.

#### c. 2018 Annual Report

Commissioner McClain encourages each committee to revisit their recommendations to see if there are any activities that can be taken on for this calendar year.

#### d. Other

Emily is now working part-time with DOH and will continue to serve as the Breastfeeding Coordinator. DOH is planning to bring on individual contractors to support its breastfeeding work. The Commission was asked to share recommendations on contractors who might be interested in working with DOH.

In regards to outreach or follow-up with Child Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI), Commissioner Long shared that CHAI will launch their next community needs assessment in June 2019. In last discussions, it did not seem that breastfeeding could be included in the assessment, as CHAI's process for selecting questions is community driven.

Commissioner Long asked if we have note takers for the remainder of the year. Commissioner Propst-Riddick confirmed that she will take notes for the April meeting. We are in need of note takers for May and July.

There was discussion about the frequency and location of meetings for the remainder of the year, especially during the summer months. It was agreed that we will continue to meet monthly. For the summer months (June – August), meetings will be held by phone or WebEx.

Also, it was recommended that WebEx be available for all future meetings.

## **VII. Opportunity for Public Comment**

Noni Robinson from DOH joined today's meeting. She is a nutrition contractor.

Stephanie asked if the Commission would consider new subcommittees. The bylaws state that the Commission can organize as many committees as it deems necessary.

## **VIII. Review of Action Items**

- Compile list of questions from all committees for the needs assessment. (Commissioner McClain)
- Follow up with CHAI on inclusion of breastfeeding in its community needs assessment. (Commissioner McClain)
- See Commissioners Amira Roess and Kanika Harris about the process and cost for needs assessment. (Commissioner McClain)
- Review other states' milk bank such as in Austin, Texas; West Virginia and New York to look at existing supporters. (Commissioner McClain)
- Review guidelines on milk bank from HMBANA.
- Commissioner Jeffers will send Commissioner West her assignments for the lactation support services and hotline summary.

## **IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting**

No items were presented to continue for the next meeting.

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm.