

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2019**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, April 22, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting was held at DC Health, 899 North Capitol St., NE, Room 306, Washington, D.C., 20002 and by Webex. Below are the minutes from the meeting.

Note taker: Suzanne Henley —Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative

Questions about the meeting may be directed to Chair, Commissioner Angela McClain, at angela.mcclain@dcbc.dc.gov.

I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

II. **Roll Call**

Attendance Via Webex:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair
Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Stephanie Hack—Obstetrics/Gynecology (OB/GYN) Member
Tamika Cambridge —DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Quamiece Harris —DC Department of Human Services Representative

Attendance In-Person:

Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda—Community Outreach Expert
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative
Judy Campbell - Member of the Public
Suzanne Henley —Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative

Absent:

Colleen Sonosky—Department of Health Care Finance Representative
Commissioner Gwendolyn West-Lactation Expert
Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative (maternity leave)

III. **Adoption of Agenda**

- A. Approved with changes. Moved by Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda. Seconded by Commissioner Sahira Long.
- a. Commissioner Angela McClain will present an inquiry from Social Impact Designers.
 - b. Commissioner Christina Stowers will present on a grant support inquiry she received.

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 2019 Meeting

- A. Approved with changes. Moved by Commissioner Sahira Long. Seconded by Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick.
- B. Changes to be made to the minutes include:
 - Update to the spelling of Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda's name (Remove the "i" after the "w".)
 - Old Business:
 - o Under Recommendation 8, capitalize company name Pacify.
 - New Business:
 - o Government Representative Update: Change childcare to child development facility.
 - o WIC: Update list of sites to Unity Anacostia, HUH Minnesota, Unity Parkside, and CNMC MLK.
 - Future Meetings:
 - o Webex only meetings will begin June 2019 and continue through September 2019. In-person meetings will resume in October 2019.

V. Old Business

- A. 2018 Annual Report
 - a. Commissioner Angela McClain talked to Amelia Peterson-Kosecki, Chief, Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau about report recommendations and received information that the recommendations would be included in the DC Health budget. The recommendations have been included and passed on for approval. The report is currently with Dr. Talwalkar for review.
 - b. Commissioner Angela McClain will ask Chief Peterson-Kosecki about the status of the budget approval that includes the Commission's recommendations.
- B. 2019 Sub-Committees
 - a. Decided to continue with existing three committees, including:
 - i. Library Committee will become the Outreach and Education Committee
 - 1. Members: Commissioner Jenny Tender, Commissioner Gwen West, Commissioner Christina Stowers, and Commissioner Stephanie Seiswerda
 - 2. Priorities identified in the FY 18 Annual Report for the committee include:
 - DC Health to highlight and promote activities and events during Breastfeeding Month (August) in DC.
 - Breastfeeding advocates need to be included in future Mayoral summits and discussions about perinatal health.
 - DC Public Library (DCPL) to update its current collection of breastfeeding and lactation materials.
 - DC Health continues to provide updated information, resources and education material on breastfeeding and lactations.
 - 3. Commissioner Stephanie Hack volunteered to join this committee during the meeting.

- ii. Human Milk Bank Committee has no members yet.
 - 1. A priority identified in the FY18 Annual Report for this committee include:
 - DC Health to provide funding for a needs assessment to determine the necessity for a HMBANA Milk Bank in DC. If a HMBANA Milk Bank is deemed necessary, to identify the best options for operation of a milk bank.
 - iii. Lactation Support Services
 - 1. Members include: Commissioner Sahira Long, Commissioner Noelene Jeffers, and Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick
 - 2. Priorities identified in the FY18 Annual Report for this committee include:
 - DC Health commissions a fiscal impact report for a formal needs assessment of the adequacy of lactation services in the District to serve the needs for all members of all wards.
 - DC Health initiates a program to support the systematic implementation of breastfeeding-friendly practices in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and FQHC look-alikes.
 - DC Health commissions a fiscal impact report for the development and evaluation of a pilot program for a District-wide breastfeeding hotline.
- b. A chair will need to be identified for each committee. The chair will report out on the committee notes at the monthly Commission meeting.

VI. **New Business**

- A. Government Representatives Updates – 10 min per Representative, if any
 - a. DC Health (Noni Robinson): For the DC WIC, Sharon Wright's visits began on April 1. She has created a monthly visiting schedule. Noni will meet with her the week of May 6th to understand how the clinics are receiving the support. Sharon Wright will need to go through Unity employee on-boarding process before continuing work at both Unity sites.
 - b. OSSE (Suzanne Henley): There was no update provided.
 - c. DC HCF (Colleen Sonosky): There is no update on the Reimbursement and Transmittal letter. She will follow-up on the status of the letter.
- B. 2019 Meeting Schedule & Note takers
 - a. Meeting Notetakers:
 - i. July - Quamiece Harris, Government Representative
 - ii. August - Commissioner Stephanie Hack
 - iii. November - Commissioner Christina Stowers
 - b. Commissioner Amira Roess' position (Public Health Expert) remains vacant
- C. Social Impact Designers – Elisa Chen and Victor Udoewa
 - a. Commissioner Angela McClain received an inquiry from a meet-up group that wishes to complete a study on low breastfeeding rates in DC.

- i. Their Offer: Community led effort to understand and tackle the low breastfeeding rates in D.C.
- ii. Their ask is for the Commission to sponsor their work.
 1. Commissioner Angela McClain explained that the Commission is not a funding organization. She also explained that the Commission has recommended a similar initiative in the Annual Report and completed mapping of the key stakeholders in D.C. Commissioner Angela McClain suggested that this work could be a precursor to the Needs Assessment. The group decided to take on this issue because of personal interest and experience with breastfeeding. Commissioner Angela McClain invited the group to present to the Commission highlighting that this would enter their request into the official record.
 2. Commissioner Angela McClain opened the floor for comments and questions:
 - i. Commissioner Jenny Tender - What other groups were on the call? No other groups were on the call.
 - ii. Commissioner Angela McClain - Has the group reached out to DC WIC? Noni said yes. There was a conversation with Kodjo. Noni is not aware of the outcome.
 - iii. Commissioner Angela McClain - The sponsorship ask will need to be clarified.
 - iv. Commissioner Angela McClain- After feedback on Annual Report is received, the Commission should decide which meeting would be appropriate for them to attend for a presentation.
 - v. Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda - Suggest that the systems approach could be beneficial and asked would this be duplicative of current efforts to increase breastfeeding rates in D.C.
 3. Commissioner Angela McClain circulated links to the group's promotional materials. See below:
 - [VIDEO] [Why Use a Systems Practice?](#)
 - [VIDEO] [Systems Practice Mindsets](#)
 - [MAP] [Congress & Public Trust map](#)
 - [MAP] [Hawaii Quality of Life map](#)

D. Possible Grant Support Opportunity

- a. Commissioner Christina Stowers received an inquiry from IQ Community Solutions Institute (IQCSI), a health communications company, to collaborate on identify funding opportunities. IQCSI would partner with the Commission in the grant application process. The focus is on partnerships in the D.C. area to assist organizations in applying for grants.
- b. Commissioner Christina Stowers will email the grant opportunities to everyone
- c. The group's ask: Are there any grant opportunities that you would like to apply? Commissioner Angela McClain shared that the Commission discussed seeking

funding in the past. The grant could cover gaps created by recommendations that are unfunded by DC Health. Cathy Long on the DC Breastfeeding Commission is seeking funding opportunities so the Lactation Commission could make that connection.

- d. Sahira: What is the benefit to the group? Can the group look for funding opportunities?
- e. Commissioner Christina Stowers will reach out to IQCSI with the questions.

E. Sub-Committee Updates

- a. **Outreach and Education Committee:** Commissioner Stephanie Seiswerda shared that the committee's task fall under Recommendations 1 – 4 of the Annual Report, including:
 - i. Rec. 1 - DC Health to highlight and promote activities and events during Breastfeeding Month (August) in DC. As an update, the following events are being planned:
 - a. DCBFC received an inquire on the promotion of Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17). This event is organized by Organized by Black Mammamatter.org. The Coalition will consider it for next year.
 - b. Providing more visibility to the DC Workplace Breastfeeding Friendly Award. Commissioner Sahira Long shared that DC Health won the award and recommended that this be placed/acknowledged on its website. Noni requested that the information be sent to her for posting.
 - ii. Rec. 2 - Breastfeeding advocates need to be included in future Mayoral summits and discussions about perinatal health.
 - a. Work is dependent on the next Mayor's Breastfeeding Conference.
 - iii. Rec. 3 - DC Public Library (DCPL) to update its current collection of breastfeeding and lactation materials.
 - a. Follow-up with DC Library about updating materials.
 - iv. Rec.4 - DC Health continues to provide updated information, resources and education material on breastfeeding and lactations.
 - a. Reviewing DC Health's website to determine what materials are on the website.
 - b. Reviewing other government websites for best practices. The committee is looking to NY State and Texas WIC pages as examples
 - c. With the K-12 breastfeeding curriculum, the Lactation Commission and D.C. Breastfeeding Coalition's Program Dev. Committee will review the New York State curriculum. Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda will also research curricula that other States are using.
- b. **Human Milk Bank**
 - i. Commissioner Angela McClain put out the call for participants.

- ii. Commissioner Jenny Tender asked if Judy can be on a committee if she isn't a member. Commissioner Angela McClain will check the by-laws.
 - iii. Commissioner Angela McClain will check with Amelia to ask if the Human Milk Bank work will be absorbed by the larger needs assessment.
- c. Lactation Support Services:**
- i. The committee will meet on April 30 and report out at the June meeting.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment - No public comments were offered.

VIII. Review of Action Items

- Revisions to March minutes
- Approach Commissioners Gwen West and Tamika Cambridge about notetaking and sub-committees (Commissioner Angela McClain)
- Follow up with Dr. Talwalkar about the Annual Report Review (Commissioner Angela McClain)
- Seek Amira's replacement and follow up with MOTTA on recruitment efforts (Noni)
- Confirm that NY and TX websites were shared with the full Commission (Commissioner Angela McClain)
- Follow up with IQ Community Solutions Institute on questions (Commissioner Christina Stowers).
- Follow up with Sharyl Katzen of DCPL (Commissioner Angela McClain)
- Send the Commission the sample videos from the design group (Commissioner Angela McClain)
- Share updates about report between meetings. (Commissioner Angela McClain)

IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by Webex on Monday, June 24, 2019 from 6pm – 8pm. There will be no meeting in May due to the overlap with the Memorial Day holiday.

X. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:41 p.m.