

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Monday, July 22, 2019**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting was held by Webex. A summary of the meeting is listed below:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

II. Roll Call

Attendance Via Webex:

Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative
Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda—Community Outreach Expert
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair
Quamiece Harris —DC Department of Human Services Representative
Suzanne Henley —Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member
Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member
Commissioner Stephanie Hack—Obstetrics/Gynecology (OB/GYN) Member

Absent:

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert
Tamika Cambridge —DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Commissioner Gwendolyn West-Lactation Expert
Colleen Sonosky – DC Department of Health Finance

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Sieswerda.

IV. Approval of Minutes from June 2019 Meeting

Approval of the June 2019 Meeting minutes was tabled to the next meeting and after review and edit by the Chair, Commissioner McClain.

V. Old Business

A. 2018 Annual Report Final Recommendations

The 2018 Annual Report has been reviewed by Christi Dorsey (Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children or WIC) and Amelia Peterson-Kosecki (Nutrition and - Physical Fitness Bureau). The report is currently under review by Dr. Talwalker (Senior Deputy) and Dr. Lindsey (Medical Officer). The report will then undergo review by Dr. Nesbitt.

Once reviewed and approved, DC WIC will provide a presentation to the Commission on next steps. The presentation will focus on the budget and planning process, response to the Commission's recommendation especially those recommendations that included a funding request, and how to put the recommendations into action.

Dr. Nesbitt is the final reviewer and has the authority to approve funds. Any recommendations with funding request will be included in DC Health's budget. For this current year's budget, the recommendations will not be included. The Commission's recommendations will be considered for FY2020. DC Health's new fiscal year begins in October.

Commissions stated that recommendations in this year's annual report gives us a clear an idea on of how to plan and provide recommendations in the future and to stick with its mandate. Emily Woody will follow up with DC Health to see what is feasible.

VI. New Business

A. Government Representatives Updates – 10 min per Representative, if any

DC Human Services – Quamiece Harris

DC Human Services provides services in the District such as temporary assistance for needy families (TANF), supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP), Medicaid and Support for the Homeless. The department has set up child and wellness rooms at all service facilities. This is requirement for new buildings. The department is working to communicate this service to residents. Commissioner Long suggested that the department applies for the Breastfeeding Workplace Award. This could be an example for other local government agencies.

DC Health- Emily Woody

DC Health will re-apply for the Breastfeeding Workplace award. This time the department is aiming for the gold award. Recently the department updated its wellness room to include new refrigerator for storing milk, dimmer lights, a sound machine and infuser with lavender spray to create a relaxed setting. The department also expanded and created two more rooms, for a total of three rooms.

DC Health also recently started a baby-friendly workplace policy, where staff can bring their babies to work.

Commissioner Long suggested that the department update its website to include its previous award.

DC Health is in the process of training breastfeeding peer counselors, and preparing for activities and events for National Breastfeeding Month (August).

Emily reminded Commissioner who are interested in serving as chair to contact her before the next meeting. One Commissioner, Stephanie Sieswerda, has expressed interest to date. The new chair will start in October 2019.

Office of State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) – Suzanne Henley

No updates were provided.

B. Revisions to By-Laws

The Commission discussed changing two clauses in the by-laws focusing a quorum for meetings and removal for non-attendance.

At present, Commission meetings have started after 6:15 pm. For in-person meetings it is difficult for Commissioners to find parking to arrive in time to start meetings at 6:00 pm. This creates a delay in start time for meetings, as the by-laws state the following:

A quorum to transact business shall consist of a majority, plus one, of the voting members. A quorum of the Public Members must be present to conduct business.

The Commission also discussed that number for a quorum is in accordance with the DC Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA) guidelines and cannot be changed. Therefore, the Commission decided to change the start time of meetings from 6:00 pm to 6:30 pm. Commissioner Hack motion for the change and Commissioner Long seconded it. The new meeting time will be from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm beginning at our next in-person meeting (Oct).

For removal for non-attendance, it was discussed that there are some Commissioners who do not regularly attend meetings. The Chair of the Commission and DC Health representative communicate regularly about attendance and any patterns. In the past, the Chair would attempt to reach out to the Commissioner to see if there are any extenuating circumstances that is preventing attendance. Emily Woody also keeps an attendance sheet, and during periods of re-appointment is asked by MOTA on the Commissioner's attendance. Attendance is also noted in the monthly minutes.

Before removing a Commissioner for non-attendance, Commissioner Sieswerda suggested that we inform the Commissioner about the removal to give them an option to resign. The Commission discussed that if a Commissioner does not attend three consecutive meetings, the Commissioner should be notified of a possible removal. After missing six meetings, the Commissioner should be removed. This removal should apply to public members and government representatives.

Commissioner McClain agreed to change the language of the by-laws and present these changes for review at the next meeting.

C. Breastfeeding Month Activities & Events

DC Health will host the following events:

- August 13: Food and Nutrition, USA Peer Counselors at the Barbara Jordan Conference Center will be held from 2:30 pm – 5:00 pm.
- August 25: Chocolate Milk filming.
- August 3: Global Latch-on hosted by DC Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC).
- August 21: Mary Center will host an event from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm.
- More information can also be found at www.dc.wic.org/upcoming-community-events.

Howard University Hospital will host screening events.

DCBFC will also host a number of events. Commissioners may speak to Commissioner Sieswerda for more information.

D. 2019 Maternal and Infant Summit

This year's summit will be held on September 10. Suzanne Henley reminded Commissioners to review the application form from Thrive by Five if there is any interest in setting up a panel. Applications are due on July 26.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public attendees at this meeting.

VIII. Review of Action Items

Emily Woody will follow up with DC Health to see what is feasible with the recommendations included in the 2018 Annual Report.

Commissioner McClain agreed to changing the language of the by-laws and review these changes at the next meeting.

IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be by Webex on Monday, August, 26, 2019 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.