

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 22, 2018**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, January 22, at 6:00 pm, at the Department of Health, 899 North Capitol St., N.E., Room 306, Washington, D.C. 20002.

Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings. Questions about the meeting may be directed to Emily.woody@dc.gov.

**I. Meeting called to order at 6:13pm by Angela McClain.**

**II. Attendees:**

In person:

Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair

Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member

Commissioner Jenny Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Colleen Sonosky—Department of Health Care Finance Representative

Emily Woody—Department of Health Representative

By Phone:

Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member

Quamiece Harris—Department of Human Services (DHS) Representative

Judith Campbell—Public Attendee

Commissioner Amira Roess—Public Health Expert Member

Absent:

Chibu Anyanwu—Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert

**III. Adoption of Agenda** – motion to approve agenda properly moved by Sahira Long and seconded by Colleen Sonosky.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from December 2017 Meeting** – motion to approve December 2017 minutes properly moved by Christina Stowers and seconded by Colleen Sonosky.

**V. Old Business**

a. Vacancies:

- i. DCHR position: in progress; there is someone identified on MOTA website but not sure if sworn in yet.
  - ii. Second community outreach position being recruited currently.
  - iii. OB/GYN: Christina asked at Breastfeeding Center and will send contact information for the person that was suggested. Sahira sent email to Dr. Constance Bohon, past chair of DC ACOG who indicated that Tollie Elliott, MD, FACOG, Director at Mary's Center, is interested in the position. He was provided Sahira's email address. No email has been received from Dr. Elliott. Sahira will let Dr. Bohon know if the position remains unfilled.
- b. By-laws: Edits discussed at last meeting have been made by Emily Woody and were reviewed. Bylaws signed to take effect as of January 22, 2018; Emily will send copy of signed by-laws to members.
- c. 2017 Annual Report: Based on feedback by Steve Walker from MOTA, report submitted only included bios of Commission Members. Currently under DOH Review and Elizabeth Keaton clarified that once DOH Review is complete and approved, it is considered submitted to MOTA from DOH Director. Changes in structure have been recommended to include making an official report section that indicates there are no recommendations at this time and that there will be some made in next year's report.
- d. Government Representatives Official Titles: Emily has clarified that title of commissioner should not be applied to government representatives who have not been through swearing-in process and that they are not voting members.

## VI. New Business

- a. Repeal of Lactation Support Act: Bill has been repealed. See <https://code.dccouncil.us/dc/council/code/titles/7/chapters/8F/index.html#!?query=lactation&path=library%7CD.C.%20Code&from=0> for additional information. Angela confirmed that our Lactation Commission was established through Mayoral Order and will follow establishment order through 2018 with no changes. Language of report will need to be changed to reflect that funding recommendations be made to Mayor's Office and not DC Council. Current information available suggests that it was repealed as it remained unfunded for two fiscal years per the Budget Support Act.
- b. Sub-Committees Work Plan and Next Steps:
  - i. There are areas which Angela flagged as gaps which will need to be addressed.
  - ii. The challenge with the language of Recommendation 4 per Colleen Sonosky is that DHM will never be paid for separate from the rest of DRG charges and there needs to be a process to include the cost of DHM in the DRG so it can be covered. Decision makers and hospital finance people need to be gathered in order to ensure understanding. Changes to stakeholders list suggested to reflect that MCOs are an extension of DHCF, to include hospital representatives, and to remove DOH.
  - iii. Discussion about Recommendation 8: precedence from CA SB-402 [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB402](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB402) explored in response to a question about whether Baby-Friendly could be legislated.
  - iv. Discussion about whether to include public attendees who have contributed to dialogue. Would be important to show that there is public interest by including public attendees. Presenters will be included as an appendix.
  - v. Under Background (III.), Jenny will develop section A for Sahira to review. Sahira and Emily will review statistics listed under section B. Jenny and Angela

will look at Section C to determine what can be elaborated. Section D will be revised by Emily and reviewed by Sahira.

- vi. Under Subcommittee Reports/Recommendation (IV), each subcommittee will need to review their parts and provide an update.
  - vii. Library Subcommittee (A): Discussion about the need to develop a separate website when similar resources already exist through DC WIC and DC Breastfeeding Coalition. Once done, any website developed can be added to DC Health Check website as a resource for primary care providers. Would be helpful to have an idea/needs assessment to know where moms in DC are going for resources. Need to know if MOTA would have any objection to having a non-government agency serve as a host for an online library.
  - viii. Human Milk Bank Subcommittee (B): Lauren made a recommendation to include information about what is currently happening at Breastfeeding Center's Milk Sharing Program.
  - ix. Lactation Support Services and Hotline Subcommittee (C): Emily to research information about Healthy Start and home visiting programs in DC to be included. Recommendations to further define what each subheading entails include, add information about breastfeeding services offered through Community of Hope and BLESS under Hospitals and Maternity Centers. Discussion about lack of data on number of private pediatrician (non-FQHC, non-hospital based pediatric services) and whether they have IBCLCs on staff. There is also no data on how many FQHCs and FQHC look-alikes have IBCLCs on staff. Needs assessment could be used to explore barriers to access for the services provided by Medicaid, including pumps. Noelene explained that there are a lot of resources provided for breastfeeding families in the immediate postpartum period; Recommendation 6 advocates for developing a similar program that supports pediatric/primary care practices to become breastfeeding friendly.
- c. 2018 Meeting Schedule and Notetakers: In consideration regarding meeting frequency, decision to meet monthly was to allow us to gain momentum as a new commission. Commissioners in attendance asked their perspective on whether we have achieved enough momentum to scale back to less frequent meetings (total or simply in-person). Recommendation by Lauren to keep meeting monthly until April 2018 as we still have a lot of work needed to determine next steps and then determine if we have made enough progress to scale back; suggestion made by Noelene to consider changing some meetings to by-phone rather than in-person. Decision made to continue in-person monthly meetings at least until April 2018 and then decide on needed frequency and any format changes. Schedule for notetaker is as follows (changes will be needed if meeting frequency changes):
- i. February: Noelene Jeffers
  - ii. March: NEED VOLUNTEER
  - iii. April: Lauren Propst-Riddick
  - iv. May: NEED VOLUNTEER
  - v. June: Gwendolyn West
  - vi. July: NEED VOLUNTEER
  - vii. August: NEED VOLUNTEER
  - viii. September: Jenny Tender
  - ix. October: Christina Stowers
  - x. November: NEED VOLUNTEER
  - xi. December: NEED VOLUNTEER

**VII. Opportunity for Public Comment:** None

**VIII. Review of Action Items**

- a. Editing assignments for 2018 Annual Report as above
- b. Subcommittees to review their section based on feedback provided and include priorities; to be presented at the next meeting.
- c. Angela/Emily to verify Christina's terms
- d. Circulate CA SB-402 legislation for review  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140SB402](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140SB402)

**IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting:** None

- X.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:02pm.