

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Monday, October 28, 2019**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on October 28, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting was held at DC Health, 899 North Capitol St., NE, Room 306, Washington, D.C., 20002. Below are the minutes for the meeting.

Note Taker: Commission Lauren Propst-Riddick – Consumer Member

I. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm.

II. Roll Call

Attendance in Person:

Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda - Community Outreach Member and Commission Chair
Commissioner Kanika Harris - Public Health Expert Member
Commissioner Stephanie Hack - Obstetrics/Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) Member
Commissioner Jennifer Tender - Pediatrician/Neonatologist
Commissioner Gwendolyn West - Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick - Consumer Member
Commissioner Angela McClain - Community Outreach Expert Member
Colleen Sonosky - DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative
Emily Woody - DC Health Representative
Kristy Dorsey - Director of WIC
Natasha Lewis – DC Healthcare Finance

Attendance Via WebEx:

Commissioner Noelene Jeffers - Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Christina Stowers - Consumer Member
Aubrey Villalobos – Public member

Absent:

Commissioner Sahira Long - Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Noni Robinson - DC Health Representative
Suzanne Henley – OSSE Representative
Quameice Harris - DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Tamika Cambridge - DC Department of Human Resources Representative

III. Adoption of Agenda

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Commissioner Hack and seconded by Commissioner Propst-Riddick. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes

a. September 2019 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Propst-Riddick and seconded by Commissioner Hack. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes will be approved pending the following revisions:

- Page 2 – change Probst-Riddick to Propst-Riddick.
- Page 4 – change Prost-Riddick to Propst-Riddick.

V. Welcome Dr. Nesbitt! Questions from the Commission

- Emily introduced Dr. Nesbitt and noted that she provided questions in advance for her to consider in terms of our desire for additional guidance/direction regarding the 2019 Annual Report.
- Dr. Nesbitt thanked the Commission for their volunteerism. Noted that over half of all the commissions are managed by DC Health.
- Process is in place to meet quarterly with staff who support boards/commissions and/or serve on a commission. Opportunity to gain alignment on mission, hear updates on what is being discussed, questions to be answered directly by Dr. Nesbitt.
- She noted the commission should consider the context and the ability to achieve results. Maybe address 2-3 focused initiatives with high impact. Try to align with other boards/commission with similar missions.
- Ways to help: If there is another topic that we feel we can make an impact with, maybe brainstorming with another board/commission instead of taking that on and expanding our charter. There may be other boards/commissions that are focused in this area.
- She noted the areas we should focus on include:
 - o Increase the rates of women breastfeeding
 - o Continue breastfeeding to at least 6 months
 - o Decrease the racial/ethnic disparity gap
 - o Increase awareness
 - o Do we have the most effective programs?
 - o How do we educate the public about policy changes?
- Question: Are we making recommendations for DC Health to act or are we supposed to act?
 - o Response: Would be difficult to get any agency to implement a recommendation without the support of DC Health.
 - Try to be vocal and use power within the agencies/institutions we represent to help make a cultural change.
 - In terms of research they do consider themselves a research-oriented organization that has several people that write and publish.
- Question regarding funding:
 - o Response: Dr. Nesbitt noted that the commission should specify in recommendations what we are trying to do that requires financial resources.
 - Budget timing – DC Health currently discussing budget. Budget hearings for FY21 will start in Feb/March.
 - Budget priorities change from year to year.
 - Health is the largest expense in the city's budget (\$3B). Provides insurance for 40% of our population and 70% of our kids (Children's Health Insurance Program - CHIP).

- Question regarding should we partner with one of the Education commissions to implement the breastfeeding curriculum being worked on by the commission.
 - o Response: We should pursue it if we think it could happen.
- Discussion ensued amongst the commission with feedback regarding the comments from Dr. Nesbitt.
 - o Still unclear to some commissions as to how we move things forward and/or make achievements.
 - o Noted that we need to shorten our recommendations.
 - o Try to partner with other commissions like social work, maternal and child welfare, thrive by five.

VI. Old Business

- a. Note on the Lactation Commission Roster
 - i. Stephanie noted that several people removed their secondary email and she clarified that she will only use their secondary email if there is an attendance issue and has been unable to contact a commissioner.

VII. New Business

- a. Department of Health Care Finance Medicaid Transmittal Update – DHCF Representative Colleen Sonosky and Natasha Lewis.
 - i. Screens all prospective re-enrolling DC Medicaid providers. Lactation consultants will be enrolling online.
 - o Create a profile, complete a standard application.
 - o Need your National Provider Identifier (NPI) number.
 - o Current certification from International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE).
 - o Submit it to the online system. Maximus does a cursory review. Then the state does a more rigorous review and approves/disapproves.
 - o Efforts underway to get everyone on funds transfer.
 - o Can enroll as a lactation group. Each provider still needs to be enrolled, however.
 - ii. Colleen asked how we make sure this gets communicated to lactation consultants. There are ample resources/support available if they have issues with the system, billing, training, etc.
 - o Suggestions: Post it on the DC Health Lactation commission page on DC Health website, list of contacts for survey Emily used previously, utilize social media, email to entire Breastfeeding Coalition. USLCA – has a list of lactation consultants by zip code, DC Board of Nursing.
- b. Subcommittee Updates
 - i. Outreach and Education
 - o Subcommittee wanted to address that breastfeeding be included in all discussions about perinatal health with Dr. Nesbitt. Dr. Nesbitt answered in a way to suggest they should work within their own organizations.
 - o DC Public Library – Sheryl Katzin did receive the letter.
 - They will remove materials 5 years and older. Will update their collection with what the commission recommended. Also, put a hold on old material so people won't continue to access it.

- K-12 Curriculum – Dr. Tender noted the following:
 - Dia Michels is reviewing it.
 - Judy Campbell is looking at it and had concerns about being culturally sensitive.
 - She contacted NY State and they were going to email the medical director or NY State contact to get permission.
 - Question re: how easy/difficult would it be for DC Health to approve?
 - Emily noted that DC Health wouldn't be the one to implement it. Should work with OSSE representative to get approval and implementation.
 - Jenny noted that this won't be a mandated part of the curriculum. It will be a resource available to teachers if they want to utilize it.
 - Jenny noted that Friendship Public Charter School had expressed interest in having someone come to their school to discuss with their older students.
 - Emily noted Suzanne from OSSE can provide some insight.
 - USBC – support for schools with high schools with lactating students.
 - Angela noted that Early Childhood Education (ECE), social workers, and psychologists at schools are also options.
- ii. Lactation Support Services
 - Gwen will join Lactation Support Services subcommittee.
- iii. Milk Bank
 - Given feedback from Dr. Nesbitt, we may need to reconsider if we need this subcommittee.
 - Maybe consider milk depots as an option instead of milk banks.
 - Need to roll in support for babies that need breastmilk in the NICU into lactation support services.
 - Commissioner Hack made a motion to consolidate the milk bank subcommittee and include the priorities into the Lactation Support Services subcommittee. Commissioner Propst-Riddick seconded. Motion passed.
- c. Review edited draft warning letter
 - i. No time to review - will send via email.

VIII.

- a. 2019 Annual Report Highlights and Timeline – Emily's last correspondence was that the report was sent to Dr. Nesbitt's office.
- b. Government Representatives Updates – 10 min per Representative - none
- c. Lactation Commission Reappointments
 - i. Commissions can search on the MOTA site to see their name and when their appointment is expiring. No commissioner's appointment is ending until 2020.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment

IX. Review of Action Items

- a. ALL – Subcommittees should meet to determine which recommendations are most important; narrow them down and prioritize for the 2020 report.
- b. Commissioner Jenny Tender - Follow-up with NY State about the curriculum.
- c. Commissioner Stephanie S. - Will reach out to Suzanne to see if she will attend next meeting to help with curriculum.
- d. ALL - Review list of other boards and commissions and determine which ones we could potentially partner with.
- e. Colleen Sonosky – send out information to the Commission about the School Health Commission mentioned during the Meeting
- f. Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda and Commissioner Jenny Tender - Adding transmittal to DC Breastfeeding Coalition website.

IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting

- a. The next meeting will be held via WebEx on Monday, November 25, 2019 from 6:30pm – 8pm. Reminder that December meeting was rescheduled to the third Monday of December.

X. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.