

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a meeting on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 6:30 pm, via WebEx. Below are the minutes from the meeting:

Notetaker: Commissioner Sahira Long

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm.

**Roll Call**

**Attendance via WebEx**

Commissioner Jenny Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member and Commission Chair  
Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member  
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative  
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member  
Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative  
Sara Beckwith—DC Health, Bureau Chief in division of nutrition and physical fitness  
Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Services  
Suzanne Henley—OSSE Representative  
Akua Boateng—DC WIC Program Manager  
Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member  
Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member  
Judy Campbell— Member of the Public

**Absent:**

Commissioner Vanessa McDonald—Obstetrician Member  
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member **Term Appt Ends 04/30/22**  
Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources Representative  
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Commissioner S. Long motioned to approve and seconded by Commissioner A. McCain

No objections and passed unanimously.

**Adoption of January 24, 2022 minutes**

The minutes were sent 1.5 hours prior to the meeting, so approval tabled to May 2022 meeting to allow time for them to be reviewed.

**Old Business:**

- I. Commission vacancies: Several vacancies, including Lauren Propst-Riddick who has also recently asked to step down from Commission. Commissioner Tender shared her thoughts regarding reasons for high turnover among commission members and invited others to share their thoughts.
  - a. Discussion held about “identity crisis” of the Commission.

- b. There has been some actualization of ideas and concerns discussed through individual agency members but there is question about the scale of those changes.
  - c. Need to keep in mind the role of the Commission—advocacy as opposed to implementation.
  - d. We need to get a better grasp on how get things turned around once annual reports are submitted as there has been a general lack of response to prior reports.
  - e. Questions to consider:
    - i. are we addressing key issues related to lactation
    - ii. personal impact of individual commissioners
    - iii. timeframe to move things through government
    - iv. difference between Commission and the DC Breastfeeding Coalition.
  - f. Keep in mind the amount of time it has taken to move things may be impacted by the pandemic as well as ability of individual members to stay engaged.
  - g. Commissioner West discussed formula recall and need for breastfeeding to be included in hunger advocacy efforts.
- II. Telelactation Webinar: held 2/7/22 in collaboration with DC Health, Breastfeeding Center for Greater Washington with brief representation from the Children’s National East of the River Lactation Support Center. There were 34-35 attendees.
- III. Review of Annual Report and next steps:
- a. Recommendation 1: Multi-Year Strategic Plan Development. There has been no movement from DC Health on this recommendation as a whole, but there has been some activity on some of the components.
    - i. PRAMS survey questions were submitted, all breastfeeding questions in the core questions have been approved but the additional questions that were recommended must go through another voting process. Awaiting a response on any advocacy needed to move the questions forward.
    - ii. Breastfeeding report card: DC Health is in the process of drafting regulations and reporting requirements for hospitals to include their breastfeeding rates. Sara Beckwith has suggested that Lactation Commission review them once developed and will get additional information including a timeline on this project that is being led by the Family Health Bureau.
    - iii. Discussion of Lactation Commission as an interagency workgroup on breastfeeding and identifying the agencies of DC Government that need to be at the table. Role of the government representatives needs to be better clarified and shaped; how do we make the ask clear and relatable for the agency—here to help but need to know what to do in order to help. A meeting will be held with Commissioner Tender, Quamiece Harris and Akua Boateng to discuss next steps for interagency connection and support.
    - iv. Discussed whether we should develop a subgroup of the Commission to look at what has happened this recommendation. Given role of Commission being advocacy as opposed to implementation, Commissioner Long did not recommend establishing subgroups to address implementation but rather advised seeking feedback from those who have

knowledge of what has and can happen to move the strategic plan development forward. Sara Beckwith will investigate who would be best to return and provide feedback on what has happened with the recommendations and next steps.

- b. Two additional recommendations (WIC and Postnatal support): DC Health representatives will look at recommendations to determine who would be best suited to provide an update on what movement has happened since the recommendations were made.

### **New Business**

- I. DC WIC focus groups: tabled to next meeting due to time.
- II. OHR outreach: tabled to next meeting due to time.

### **Community News and Events**

Applications for the Carol A. Ryan Equity in Lactation Scholarship: applications are being received for September exam.

**Opportunity for Public Comment:** No comments due to time.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

Our next meeting will be on Monday, May 23, 2022 at 6:30 pm via Webex.

Notetakers for 2022

May: Commissioner West

July: Commissioner Harris

**September: Commissioner Propst Riddick (will need an alternate?)**

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.