

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a meeting on Monday, September 26, 2022, at 6:30 pm, via WebEx. Below are the minutes from the meeting:

Notetaker: Commissioner Jennifer Tender

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Attendance via WebEx

Commissioner Angela McClain - Community Outreach Expert Member and Commission Chair

Commissioner Jenny Tender - Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Vanessa McDonald - General Practitioner/Obstetrician Member

Commissioner Gwendolyn West - Lactation Expert Member

Noni Robinson - DC Health Representative

Colleen Sonosky - DC Department of Health Care Finance Representative

Quamiece Harris - DC Department of Human Services

Akua Boateng - DC WIC Program Manager

Paige Zaitlin - DC WIC Nutrition Coordinator

Maritza Guzman - DC WIC Public Health Nutritionist

Sara Beckwith - DC WIC Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau Chief

Absent:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

Suzanne Henley—OSSE Representative

Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources Representative

III. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was amended to remove the May minutes and Community News and Events. Commissioner Tender motioned to approve the amended agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner West. There were no objections and it passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of May 2022 Minutes

The May 2022 minutes are delayed and the Commission will defer approval until a later date.

V. Old Business

a. Commission Updates, Vacancies and Farewells

Chair McClain reviewed the Commission vacancies which include five positions:

- a public health expert,
- a community outreach expert,
- two consumer members
- a breastfeeding expert.

Commissioner Long's position (pediatrician/neonatologist) may be vacant soon. The commissioners discussed recruitment strategies. Since the Commission has no social media platform, Chair McClain recommended posting on our personal social media platforms. Other options include preparing a flyer and reaching out to community groups such as Mamatoto Village, the DC Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC), DC Women, Infant and Children (WIC), George Washington University (GWU) and Howard University to post or share with their network, staff, and clients. Representative Sonosky has connections with GWU Master's in Public Health program and will reach out to them. Chair McClain suggested that it would be ideal to recruit a social worker for the role of Community Outreach Expert. It would also be good to bring on Doulas. Representative asked for a description of each commissioner's role which sparked a conversation about how each role needs to be better defined.

b. Hospital Breastfeeding Rates (Commissioner Jenny Tender)

There had been discussions about requiring hospitals to submit breastfeeding data to DC Health which Representative had been overseeing. Representative Boateng will follow up with Representative Beckwith about progress on the PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) survey questions. Representative Sonosky will investigate about additional breastfeeding questions and how to get summary of breastfeeding questions.

c. DCBFC District of Columbia Workplace BF Support Toolkit (Commissioner Jenny Tender)

The DC Health Webinar introducing the breastfeeding workplace support toolkit has been postponed and awaiting a new date.

d. OHR (Office of Human Rights) Webinar

Listening Lab about pregnancy and breastfeeding protections was scheduled for August 25, 2022. There were no attendees, so it may be rescheduled.

e. DOES/OHR Paid Family Leave flyer

Commissioner Tender shared that DC Breastfeeding Coalition, DC OHR and DOES (Department of Employment Services) developed a flyer in five languages that summarizes

pregnancy and breastfeeding laws in DC. The plan is to distribute this to birthing facilities and WIC.

VI. New Business

Commissioner Angela McClain is the new Chair of the Commission after Commissioner Jenny Tender's two-year-term.

Representative Noni Robinson will be leaving WIC and the Commission. Commissioners expressed gratitude for her hard work and administrative support.

The CDC's mPINC survey (Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care) for DC is due October 17, 2022. The CDC requests states/jurisdictions to reach out to birthing facilities to encourage their completion of the survey. DC requires all five hospitals to submit the survey to obtain published results. Representative Sonosky suggested reaching out to the DC Perinatal Collaborative (Rikiya Moore) to bring it up at their meeting this week.

a. Government Updates

i. DC Health

DC Health introduced Representatives Paige Zaitlin and Maritza Guzman as new representatives to the Commission.

The new USDA Breastfeeding training curriculum for breastfeeding peer counselors will start October 1, 2022.

The new MIS system will track data and information.

ii. DC Human Services

DC Human Services opened a beautiful new location on Taylor Street and Representative Harris welcomes the opportunity to provide breastfeeding information to residents.

iii. DC Health Care Finance

Doulas are now eligible to be Medicaid providers effective October 1, 2022.

The Federal Public Health Emergency which allows Medicaid recipients to keep their coverage will be extended until January 2023.

b. Reimagining the Lactation Commission

There is a need to fill vacancies.

There is also strong interest in obtaining feedback from DC Mayor's Office and from DC Health about previous reports.

The Commission has accomplished the DC Council mandates and now believes it needs to decide on next steps. To collect inputs and feedback on the future of the commission, Chair McClain will survey commissioners through October and compile results. Chair McClain recommends we hold a meeting in October to review the data which will be finalized in the November meeting.

Critical areas the Commissioner will need to decide about include: frequency of meetings, roles of each commissioner, and individual contributions.

Additional comments shared by Commissioners include:

- Commissioner West recommended we research other Commissions; look at addressing food emergencies; and review what other DC agencies are doing throughout the city which Chair McClain reminded us that we have done previously, but could be updated
- Representative Harris would like to address activities/interventions that would impact the most people.

c. Future Meetings – Frequency, Format, Notetakers

There is general interest to return to monthly meetings.

d. 2022 Annual Report

There is consensus that the Commission does not provide an annual report until feedback from the Mayor's Office and/or DC Health is provided on previous reports. The Commission will need to confirm gaps in reporting with the Mayor's Office.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VIII. Future Meeting Schedule

The Commission plans to hold meetings October 24th and November 28th at 6:30 pm via Webex.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.