

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a meeting a public meeting on Monday, January 30, 2023, at 6:30 pm, via Teams. Below are the minutes from the meeting:

Notetaker: Representative Sara Beckwith

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 pm.

Attendance via Teams

Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member and Commission Chair

Commissioner Jennifer Tender —Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member

Representative Sara Beckwith— Nutrition and Physical Fitness Bureau Chief DC Health

Representative Paige Zaitlin —DC WIC Nutrition Coordinator

Representative Maritza Guzman—Public Health Nutritionist

Representative Suzanne Henley—Office of the State Superintendent of Education

Representative Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Health Care Finance

Absent:

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

Commissioner Vanessa McDonald—General Practitioner/Obstetrician Member

Representative Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources

Representative Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Services

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

- I. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair McClain recommended that we add updates from Commissioner Tender. Commissioner Tender approved the adoption of the agenda with the above modification. Seconded by Commissioner McClain.

- II. **Approval of November 2022 Minutes:**
November 2022 Minutes: Need to add time meeting adjourned. The minutes were approved by with the above change by Commissioner Tender and seconded by Commissioner McClain.

- III. **Old Business**
 - Commission Updates, Vacancies and Farewells
 - Representative Beckwith shared that her team made contact with the Commission’s new representative at MOTA. She is waiting on MOTA to schedule a meeting to discuss vacancies and process to recruit.

- IV. **New Business**

a. Government Updates

i. DC Health

1. World BF Month - Representative Boateng encouraged the Commission to start the planning process for World Breastfeeding Month activities. Discussed need to think about Mayoral proclamations. Representative Beckwith will send previous Mayoral proclamation to Chair McClain.
2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) - Representative Beckwith reported that March 2023 will be the last month that District SNAP clients receive SNAP emergency allotments. For more information: <https://dhs.dc.gov/page/esa-public-benefit-alerts>- DC Department of Human Services is sending multiple notices to SNAP clients and working with agencies and community-based organizations to help prepare families for the end of emergency allotments.
3. Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) - Representative Beckwith described how WIC uses many tools to help District families get connected with DC WIC and increase WIC enrollment. Tools include an online appointment request form, Findhelp.org, CRISP, and more. Representative Boateng explained that WIC recently updated internal breastfeeding logs to better track the referral processes to improve internal referral processes of WIC families to WIC's breastfeeding support staff. WIC is also working on building an online portal for peer counselors to receive and track referrals.

ii. DC Healthcare Finance (DHCF)

1. Medicaid - Representative Sonosky discussed the upcoming end of the federal public health emergency, effective April 1, 2023. As such, DC Medicaid beneficiaries will need to renew again. Throughout the pandemic, Medicaid beneficiaries did not need to do anything to renew, due to federal waivers tied to the federal public health emergency. DHCF is working to keep everyone's renewal date consistent with their past renewal dates. DHCF and DHS will be sharing a lot of information with beneficiaries and the public to make sure everyone has the most up-to-date information, and that beneficiaries understand they need to renew. DHCF is also working with the Medicaid MCO's to help manage this change. DHCF will be submitting a plan to the federal government, outlining their response to manage this change, which will be posted on their website. Representative Sonosky will share a Communications Toolkit with the Commission when it is released.
2. Perinatal Mental Health Task Force - will hold its meeting is tomorrow. Anyone can listen in.
3. Maternal Health Project - implementing Doula provider type and enrolling doulas in Medicaid so doulas can become Medicaid providers and be enrolled with each of the Medicaid MCO's. If you need further information, reach out to Representative Sonosky. <https://dhcf.dc.gov/maternalhealthprojects>.

iii. **DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR)** - No representative present.

iv. **DC Human Services (DHS)** - No representative present.

v. **Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE)**

1. Breastfeeding Awards - Representative Henley provided updates that she received information on DC Breastfeeding Coalition Breastfeeding awards and will share with the childcare provider community.
2. SNAP - OSSE is also working with DHS to help families prepare for the end of SNAP Emergency Allotments.

V. PRAMS Survey Questionnaire

- a. Chair McClain shared of copy of potential questions to include in the District's Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System survey. Commissioners made edits to the survey. Chair McClain will email edits to DC Health's PRAMS coordinator. Chair McClain will email a digital flyer promoting the PRAMS survey to all Commissioners.

VI. 2023 Operational Plan & Calendar

a. Meeting Schedule & Notetakers

- i. Will continue monthly meetings with a hiatus in July. Not enough representatives to schedule note takers. Schedule for next meeting.

b. Subcommittees: 1) Mission Statement; 2) Description of Commissioner's Roles; 3) Community Assessment Questionnaire & Stakeholder Directory; and 4) Other

- i. Mission Statement – Paige, Angela
- ii. Description of Roles - Sara
- iii. Community Assessment Questionnaire and Stakeholder Directory – Suzanne
- iv. Other – External Engagement, BF data – Colleen

VII. Community News and Events

- a. Commissioners Tender and Long met with Michelle Loggins at Council Member Vincent Gray's office to talk about breastfeeding-related policy interests: a) reintroducing Baby Friendly Hospital Act. To address birthing facility concerns related to funding, suggested covering cost of provider training and fees to Baby Friendly USA; b) need for more comprehensive, real-time breastfeeding data; c) requiring hospitals to complete the CDC Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (nPINC) survey. Michelle Loggins should be reaching out to DC Health soon.
- b. DC Breastfeeding Coalition is hosting a learning collaborative for Children's National Hospital Goldberg Center providers to build pediatrician capacity to support breastfeeding families.
- c. Upcoming events: Pump Nursing Mothers Act passed, virtual briefing Feb 7, 2023.
- d. US Breastfeeding Committee – welcome letter to Congress for new session, extended deadline to sign February 10, 2023.
- e. DC Breastfeeding Coalition's Carol Ryan Scholarship Fund is accepting applications to pay for IBCLE exam; added another category \$500 toward books.

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public members were present.

IX. Future Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be held February 27, 2023 via Teams.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.