

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:30 pm, via Teams.

**Notetaker:** Representative Sara Beckwith

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 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 Maritza Guzman—Public Health Nutritionist

Representative Akua (Odi) Boateng — WIC State Director, DC Health

Representative Paige Zaitlin —DC WIC Nutrition Coordinator, DC Health

Representative Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Health Care Finance

**Absent:**

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

Commissioner Vanessa McDonald—General Practitioner/Obstetrician Member

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Representative Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources

Representative Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Services

Representative Suzanne Henley—Office of the State Superintendent of Education

**I. Adoption of the Agenda:** Commissioner Tender approved adoption of the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner West.

**II. Approval of January 2023 Minutes:**

The minutes were approved by Commissioner West and seconded by Commissioner Tender.

**III. Old Business**

a. Reimagining the DC Lactation Commission Working Groups

i. Google Drive Shared Folder – Angela reviewed the Google Drive that she created to house historic and current Lactation Commission documents.

ii. Working Groups Workspaces – Angela reviewed working group folders that she created in the Google Drive.

1. *Mission Statement* – Paige, Angela (present at May meeting)

2. *Description of Roles* – Sara (present at June meeting)

3. *Community Assessment Questionnaire and Stakeholder Directory* – Suzanne, Gwen (present at month TBD meeting)

4. *Other – External Engagement, BF data* – Colleen, Jenny, Paige (present at Aug meeting)

#### **IV. New Business**

##### **a. Government Updates**

###### **i. DC Health**

###### *1. Title V Breastfeeding Performance Measures*

- a. Odi reviewed state level Title Performance Measures related to breastfeeding that are tracked by DC Health: Percent of infants ever breastfed; Percent of infants breastfeeding exclusively up to 6 mos; Number of women provided with breastfeeding support by peer counselors; Number of women referred for support from an IBCLC; Number of staff completing breastfeeding training.

###### *2. Strategies to Improve Breastfeeding: increase continuum of care for breastfeeding in the community.*

- a. Increase breastfeeding training resources (DCBFC Lactation Certification Prep Course, WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Curriculum, CLC Prep Course).
- b. Improve breastfeeding data collection (online forms, Excel spreadsheets, policy and procedure updates)
- c. Improve collaboration with breastfeeding stakeholders and healthcare organizations.

###### *3. USDA Updates – WIC Modernization Goals*

- a. Reach more eligible families,
- b. Keep families in WIC until they are no longer eligible,
- c. Encourage families to redeem more of their food benefits, and
- d. Advance equity

###### *4. USDA Updates – WIC Funding Opportunities*

- a. Outreach
  - i. National Outreach Campaign
  - ii. Community Innovation and Outreach grants
- b. Shopping Experience
  - i. Expanding Online Shopping
  - ii. Expanding Access to Farmer’s Markets
  - iii. Improving In Store Experience
- c. Investing in the WIC Workforce
  - i. Training, skills development
  - ii. Increasing diversity and cultural competence
- d. Modernizing technology and service delivery
  - i. Technology grants to enhance applying, scheduling receiving Nutrition services and engagement
  - ii. Improve automatic eligibility

###### *5. Upcoming Observances*

- a. August 2023 – Breastfeeding Week
- b. September 2023 – Mayor’s Maternal Health Summit

- ii. DC Health Care Finance (DHCF)
  - 1. *Medicaid Renewal*
    - a. With the end of federal public health emergency, Medicaid beneficiaries will need to renew when their eligibility is due. DHCF is working to increase awareness about the need to renew. On April 1, DHCF sent out notices to beneficiaries regarding renewal. Please contact Colleen with any questions. See this website for more information - <https://dhcf.dc.gov/page/medicaid-renewal-information-dc-medicaid-beneficiaries-and-stakeholders>
  - 2. *Perinatal Interagency Mental Health Task Force*
    - a. Meeting is tomorrow April 25. Contact Colleen for information
  - 3. *Broader Perinatal Health Task Force*
    - a. May be forming again. Colleen to provide more information.
- 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) - No representative present.
- b. *2023 National Breastfeeding Month Proclamation*
  - i. Purpose of proclamation is to bring attention to National Breastfeeding Month and the importance of breastfeeding across the District.
  - ii. Edits due to Sara by May 29<sup>th</sup>, [sara.beckwith@dc.gov](mailto:sara.beckwith@dc.gov)
- c. *2023 DC Lactation Commission Calendar*
  - i. Reviewed 2023 DC Lactation Commission Calendar in Google Drive.
  - ii. No meeting in July

**V. Community News and Events**

- a. DC/Maryland Coalitions' 2023 Breastfeeding Awards Recipients
- b. Birth Equity Conference, May 19-21, in person, Newark, New Jersey, <https://bit.ly/BirthequityNJ>
- c. USBC Conference – June 8 - 10, in-person, Bethesda, MD. This year's theme is: *Expanding Connections and Partnering for Progress*. <https://www.usbreastfeeding.org/annual-conference.html>

**VI. Opportunity for Public Comment**

- a. No public members were present.

**VII. Future Meeting Schedule**

- a. May 22, virtual, at 6:30pm.

**VIII. Adjournment**

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.