

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
Monday, September 23, 2019**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, September 23, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting was held in person and a WebEx participation option was made available to members who could not attend in person. Below are the minutes for the meeting.

Note Taker: Commissioner Noelene Jeffers- Lactation Expert Member

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

II. Roll Call

Attendance in Person:

Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda- Community Outreach Member and Commission Chair
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers- Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Jennifer Tender- Pediatrician/Neonatologist
Commissioner Kanika Harris- Public Health Expert Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick- Consumer Member
Colleen Sonosky- DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative
Emily Woody- DC Health Representative
Public Attendee - Judy Campbell
Public Attendee – Aubrey Villalobos

Attendance Via Webex:

Commissioner Gwendolyn West - Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Sahira Long- Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Stephanie Hack- Obstetrics/Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) Member
Commissioner Angela McClain- Community Outreach Expert Member
Noni Robinson- DC Health Representative
Suzanne Henley – OSSE Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Christina Stowers - Consumer Member
Quamiece 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 Long and seconded by Commissioner West. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes from August 2019 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Tender. The motion passed unanimously and the minutes will be approved pending the following revisions:

- Dr. Talwalkar's name was misspelled under section V. Old Business (B).
- Suzanne Henley is missing from the list of absent commission members.
- Page 2 – bylaws is spelled wrong under section New Business (A).
- Change Emily Wood to Woody.
- Bylaws spelled incorrectly on page 2.

V. Old Business

- A. Review of Meeting Minute Taker Schedule
 - a. October – Commissioner Propst-Riddick
 - b. November – Commissioner Stowers or Commissioner McClain
 - c. December – Commissioner West
- B. Review of Meetings Schedule
 - a. November meeting will be held via Webex
 - b. December meeting is rescheduled to December 16th
 - c. Agenda for next month will include tentative schedule of meetings for 2020.
- C. 2018 Annual Report Updates
 - a. Emily Woody had a meeting on 9/23/19 with Dr. Nesbitt. Dr. Nesbitt has not yet read the report. The report is in her office and Emily Woody anticipates that next month Dr. Nesbitt will have read it.
 - b. Emily Woody did get some initial feedback from other DC Health individuals that saw the report before it was reviewed by Dr. Nesbitt. As we are planning next steps for the 2019 report, she can provide insights from those individuals. She will provide a presentation of some of the general comments she received on the report.
- D. The Award Ceremony for DCBFC Workplace Awards will take place on November 15th.
 - a. Nominations for the awards close September 30th. Please visit www.dcbfc.org to make a nomination. It is also the 15th anniversary of DCBFC and there will be a celebration to honor DCBFC's fifteen years of promoting breastfeeding in DC.
- E. Draft Warning Letter for Unexplained Absences.
 - a. Commissioner McClain drafted a warning letter for commissioners or government representatives that may have had multiple absences without notice. Commissioner Probst-Riddick, along with Commissioners Sieswerda and McClain, will make edits and submit for the Commission to review at the next meeting. The commission discussed additional components that could be added to the letter:
 - i. A reference to our bylaws
 - ii. Identification of the specific dates of the missed meetings
 - iii. Detailed next steps and a deadline that the individual should meet
 - iv. Reiteration of the expectation of attendance and notification about non-attendance
 - v. Details about the next step if they don't respond
- A. Maternal Infant Health Summit 2019
 - i. Emily Woody provided a recap of the event.
 - 1. The Mayor mentioned the forthcoming Lactation Consultant program and the postpartum doula program that will be supported by DC Health.
 - 2. One of the most impactful discussions was a panel that centered the narratives of moms. The panelists spoke about things that are being done well and things could be improved.

3. The Babies Act (Better Access for Babies to Integrated Equitable Services Act of 2018) and the Maternal mortality review committee were also discussed.
 4. DC Health is also exploring supporting activities to support postpartum moms and also postpartum mental health screening in FQHCs.
 5. The new Thrive by Five coordinating council was highlighted.
 6. The path ahead was identified and the focus will be on the quality of clinical care; removing implicit bias and barriers to clinical care and social determinants of health.
- ii. Commissioner Long spoke at the summit on a panel about breastfeeding. One of the panelists was a breastfeeding mom who provided her experience. Commissioner Long discussed food policy and food access in the district as it relates to breastfeeding.
 - iii. There was also a father's panel that included all black fathers and they discussed their support of breastfeeding.
 - iv. There were over 50 proposals for the Maternal Infant Health Summit and only 8 slots. There will be post-summit events planned and Commissioner Long will talk with Dr. Hubbard about those opportunities and will share as the details grow.
 - v. The DC Maternal Health website (<https://dcmaternalhealth.com>) lists upcoming events of interest.

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VI. New Business

B. Commission Roster

- i. Roster distributed to in-person attendees. Commissioners and government representatives should include a secondary email if they would like. Each person should verify that their information is correct.

C. 2019 Report

- i. The commission discussed some broad considerations regarding the development of recommendations for the 2019 report:
 1. Limiting the number of recommendations. We had 8 recommendations for 2018 and perhaps we could limit to 5 or less.
 2. We may also include, as an appendix, background information and any bios from new commissioners.
 3. There was some general feedback about including specific numbers for items that require a budget.
- ii. Ideally, the Commission would want to receive feedback from 2018 report so that the 2019 report would be informed by that feedback. The commission discussed that if DC Health hasn't evaluated any of the 2018 recommendations, then it is hard to develop new recommendations. One potential strategy would be to look at the recommendations from each of the subcommittees and figure out the status of each recommendation, identify which recommendations are the most important, work on a budget if appropriate, and provide discrete action items. Emily Woody offered her presence at subcommittee meetings to provide any updates.
- iii. Colleen Sonosky mentioned that DC Health is implementing a Community Needs Assessment that is in process. She suggested that we consider cooperating with them to conduct the needs assessment to prevent duplication of efforts.
- iv. Emily Woody will invite Dr. Nesbitt (or a representative of hers) to a face-to-face Commission meeting. The goal of the meeting will be to present priorities and assess her opinion of feasibility. Specific questions and topics will be drafted in advance of this meeting in order to facilitate an effective and efficient conversation.

D. Subcommittee Updates

- i. Outreach and Education Subcommittee

1. Commissioner Hack, the subcommittee chair provided updates on the status of the 2018 recommendations.
 - a. DC Health has been helpful in promoting events for DC Breastfeeding month.
 - b. Maternal Infant Health 2019 Summit – the proposal submitted was not accepted but they plan to submit another proposal next year.
 - c. DC Public Library expansion of breastfeeding books– no further recommendations.
 - d. The subcommittee is revising a 20-year-old New York K-12 Curriculum. The K-12 breastfeeding curriculum is currently being reviewed by Neonatologist Mary Revenis, MD. This is a collaboration with the program development committee of the DCBFC. Commissioner Tender has also been leading this project.
 - e. Promoting Breastfeeding Information on the DC Health Website. The original recommendation was to place breastfeeding information on the DC Health website for consumer consumption. The committee is currently considering promoting the information on the DC WIC website instead because of challenges to placing the information on the DC Health Website.
 - i. Emily Woody suggested that the Commission consider placing community events on the DC WIC site because the DC WIC site gets updated more often. However, syndicated information that does not need to be updated often could go on the DC Health website.
2. Lactation Support Services Committee
 - a. No updates provided from the subcommittee chair, Commissioner Prost-Riddick.
 - b. Emily Woody suggested inviting Pacify to the next Commission meeting. Pacify was one of the services recognized by the Lactation Support Services Committee as already providing telehealth services to DC mothers. Pacify is working with MCOs and service providers to provide these services in DC. Emily Woody also suggested that another option would be to have a representative from Trusted to come in and talk about the work they have been doing with Pacify.
3. Human Milk Bank Updates
 - a. This subcommittee has no chair.
 - b. Commissioners Harris and Public Attendee Judy Campbell will join this subcommittee.
- ii. Government Updates
 1. DHCF – Colleen Sonosky states that the transmittal for Lactation Consultants has not yet been signed but she is anticipating signature in September.
 2. DC Health – Emily Woody had no updates.
 3. OSSE – Suzanne Henley had no updates.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment

A. USLCA Regional Workshop in November 2019

- iii. Public Attendee Judy Campbell invites everyone to a USLCA regional workshop “Contemporary Breastfeeding Challenges: Giving Mother Nature a Helping Hand” which will take place on November 17, 2019. Speakers include Maya Bolman and Marsha Walker.

VIII. Review of Action Items

- Commissioner Sieswerda will follow-up with Commissioner Stowers to see if she will be the notetaker for November meeting.
- All subcommittees will meet before the next meeting. Each subcommittee will give an update on each recommendation and highlight priorities.
- Emily Woody will invite Dr. Nesbitt to our next meeting.
- Commissioners Propst-Riddick, Sieswerda and McClain will edit the warning letter.
- Commissioner Sieswerda will connect Commissioners Harris and Public Attendee Judy Campbell about the human milk bank subcommittee.
- Commissioner Sieswerda and Colleen Sonosky will invite a representative from DHCF, operations administration, to discuss the transmittal and provider enrollment.
- Emily Woody will record the October meeting so that anyone that is absent can listen.
- Colleen Sonosky will reach out to Trusted to see if they can come and talk about their arrangement with Pacify.
- Emily Woody will invite Pacify to the next meeting.
- Emily Woody will follow-up with Dr. Talwalkar about hosting a breakout session at the December 6th Early Childhood Summit for the preschool development grant.
- Commissioner Sieswerda to follow-up regarding the Chair of the Lactation Support Services Subcommittee.

IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 28, 2019 from 6:30 pm – 8pm at DC Health.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 pm.