

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Minutes: August 23 Meeting

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, August 23, 2020, at 6:30 pm, via Webex. Below are the minutes for the meeting.

Note taker: Commissioner Gwendolyn West

Call to Order 6:36 PM

Roll Call

Attendance Via WebEx:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member and Commission Chair
Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos—Public Health Expert Member
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative
Commissioner Stephanie Hack—Obstetrics/Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) Member
Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member
Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member
Judy Campbell—Public Member
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member

Absent:

Suzanne Henley—OSSE Representative
Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member
Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

Adoption of the Agenda

Motion made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Villalobos-

Approval of July, 2020 Minutes

Edits previously provided by Commissioner Villalobos via e-mail. Judith Campbell did not attend the July meeting.

Motion made to accept the minutes with these revisions by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner McClain

Old Business:

National Breastfeeding Month

- Webinar: COVID-19 and breastfeeding
 - Commissioner Tender discussed the panel discussion which she and Noni Robinson moderated on August 7, 2020 entitled "COVID-19 and early postpartum breastfeeding". Over 1000 registrants and 500 attendees.
 - Commissioner Long reviewed success of the other collaborative events, including the Big Latch On at which 2 mothers latched on virtually, and reviewed plans for the upcoming Million Milk March hosted by the DCBFC and funded by DC Health for National Breastfeeding Month. Registration information is available at the DCBFC website. Various WIC local agencies plan virtual events as well.
- Mother-Infant Summit
 - DC is hosting the National Maternal Infant Health Summit virtually, with Commissioner Long moderating a panel on the impact of systemic racism, COVID disparities in breastfeeding and how all of these are linked. The panel recommendation was submitted by DCBFC.

Both panel moderators credited Commissioner Villalobos for her substantial assistance in coordinating the panels.

New Business:

Review of proposed Annual Report Outline

Commissioner Villalobos reviewed the proposed outline for the upcoming 2020 Lactation Commission Annual Report.

- Commissioner Villalobos requested that content edits be submitted by 9/11/2020
 - Content editing assignments remain in multiple areas increasing pregnant women's enrollment in WIC
 - Improve providers' breastfeeding management skills
 - It was mentioned that Maryland Department of Health has an online course for providers curated by Amy Kovar Resnick, Breastfeeding Coordinator of the Maryland WIC Program, and that she should be consulted for access, relevant content, and continuing education credits.

- Inclusion of breastfeeding in HP 2030 still unknown at this time.

The following comments were made regarding the Annual Report:

- Updates from previous reports need to be updated.
- Commissioner Long reminded the commissioners of Dr. Nesbitt's recommendations to state three objectives clearly in the report.
- Commissioner Villalobos mentioned that for the sake of clarity and brevity it would be best to reference the previous report without restating its content.
- Commissioner Sonosky commented that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted DHCF budget outlays for FY 21 and likely into FY22; and therefore, in consideration of the Lactation Commission Annual Report recommendations, the DHCF and DC Health would be more receptive of breastfeeding savings vs. program enhancements at further cost.
- It was suggested that Commissioner Henley, the OSSE representative, be queried about any updates in OSSE policy or staff training.
- DC Health Representative Woody referenced a WIC consumer satisfaction survey as a potential source for needs assessment data.
- Commissioner McClain recommended that the DCPL should include a link to the DCBFC which would serve as the expert body. The DCBFC website could contain links to up-to-date and credible sources of breastfeeding information and support.
- It was queried whether a breastfeeding hotline still up for consideration as a fundable resource. Commissioner Tender said that Ankhoor Shah did not feel it is needed currently.
- It was suggested to review and reference the Journal of Human Lactation publication in which Commissioner Villalobos' DC WIC Breastfeeding Study was published as one source for data.
- It was suggested that sources and estimated costs for provider breastfeeding education should be identified, to include costs for CME credits.
- It was discussed if the Commission should recommend BFHI certification for all DC Hospital. Commissioner Long stated that one impact of the COVID-19 environment is suppressed BFHI resources and certification and we may need to focus on this after COVID restrictions ease.
- Commissioner Villalobos requested feedback on the inclusion of tables and other content from her study to be referenced or included in the annual report. The commissioners felt this information is helpful.

Report schedule and deadlines

- All edits need to be submitted by 9/11/2020
- The final review of the Annual Report will be completed on 9/28/2020, the date of the next Lactation Commission meeting.
- Commissioner Villalobos sent a Google Doc for commissioners to self-assign sections to complete the draft document.
- Commissioner Sonosky offered to review document for tonal quality and updates that may have been issued by DHCF
- Commissioner Harris agreed to do copy editing
- Commissioner Jeffries offered to edit current the list of Commissioners

Upcoming Note takers

- 9/28/2020- Noni Robinson
- 11/23/2020 (tentative date)- Suzanne Henley

Opportunity for Public Comment

- No public comment given.

Future Meeting Schedule

- 9/28/2020
- 11/23/2020 (Tentative)

Items to Continue for Next Meeting

- Review of Annual Report draft for submission.

Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 7:55PM

Next meeting September 28th 6:30 to 8:00 pm via Webex