

**LACTATION COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 24, 2018**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, September 24, 2018 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Below are the meeting minutes:

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm.

Attendance Via Webex:

Colleen Sonosky—Department of Health Care Finance Representative
Commissioner Stephanie Hack-Obstetrics/Gynecology (OB/GYN) Member
Commissioner Quamiece Harris
Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert, Chair
Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Stephanie Sieswerda
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member
Commissioner Jenny Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Judith Campbell—Member of the Public
Commissioner Tamika Cambridge—DC Department of Human Resources
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert
Commissioner Amira Roess—Public Health Expert Member
Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member
Lindsey Palmer—Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative
Suzanne Henley —Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative

II. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as is. The motion was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Sieswerda.

III. Approval of Minutes from August 2018 Meeting

The following updates were provided on the action items listed in the minutes:

- Commissioner Long: DC Latch event hosted by DCBFC and the Breastfeeding Center of Greater Washington

- Commissioner Long: The movie *Zero Weeks* was hosted by DCBFC alone and not the DC Paid Family Leave group. However, this group was on the panel.
- The next meeting should be September 24th not October 22nd and is via Webex.

The following spelling change was suggested: Emily Wood to Emily Woody

A motion to approve, pending above corrections, was made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Hack.

IV. Old Business

1. Mother-baby summit:

Commissioner Long reported that the event was successful with 76 participations with attendees as far away as California. There were many great conversations and people were particularly excited about the panel on donor milk for inpatient use. Dr. Lavdena Orr from Amerigroup and Aldwin Lindsay, VP Payer Relations at Children's National Health System discussed some potential ways to bill for donor milk.

- The commissioners discussed that it might be worth asking Aldwin Lindsay to present to the Lactation Commission about options for reimbursement. Commission Tender said she would email Mr. Lindsay to clarify the discussion at the Summit.

There was also a panel on hypoglycemia and hyperbilirubinemia lead by Drs. Young, Bodnar and Tender and panel on marijuana use and breastfeeding and assisted devices. On the evaluations, many participants responded that they would like to have the summit again.

2. Maternal/Infant Health Summit:

Emily Woody reported: A well-attended event with over 1000 people attendees. The main inspiration for the event was the recently released *Perinatal Health and Infant Mortality Report by DC Health*. Discussions focused on different aspects of perinatal and infant health that aligns with improved health outcomes. The event featured panels of mayors and special guests including Mayor Bowser, Valerie Jarett (Advisor to Barack Obama), Cathy Hughes (Chairperson "Urban One"). There will be a follow up meeting on October 23rd. Emily Woody will send out information about this meeting when she gets more information. Colleen Sonosky said that the SSDC (?) meeting held at OSSE has a PowerPoint with 10 slides that summarize the meeting that we can attach to the minutes.

Discussions about breastfeeding were noticeably missing from the summit. Will discuss letter we are writing to the Mayor about this concern as an action item.

It was discussed to consider inviting Anjali Talwalkar, Senior Deputy Director, Community Health Administration, DC Health to a Lactation Commission meeting.

3. Mayoral swearing-in ceremony for Lactation Commission were attended by Commissioners Hack, Long, Tender and West. Commissions Sieswerda was not able to attend. The ceremony went well.
4. Emily Woody reported on the WIC Black Breastfeeding Week Event at the RISE Center August 30th. There was a panel discussion about the barriers to breastfeeding in the District and reasons why breastfeeding rates are not as high among African Americans as other ethnicities.
The Panel included:
 - a. Christi Dorsey, MA, RDN, WIC Director, DC WIC
 - b. Kayla Alexandria, Lifestyle Blogger and On-Air Talent, Moments N Melanin
 - c. Israel Jean Holland, Founder, BreastfeedingInColor
 - d. Nikia Fuller-Sankofa, MPH, MPA, Breastfeeding Project Director, NACCHO
 - e. Dr. Lanre Falusi, MD, FAAP, Pediatrician, Children's National Medical Center

V. **New Business**

- A. Updates from Sub-Committees:
There were no sub-committee updates.
- B. Work place awards: Emily Woody mentioned that the DCBFC accepting nominations for the work place awards until September 30th. You can nominate a business or health care office. DC will be hosting the awards ceremony on November 30th. Awaiting decision about the site for the ceremony.
- C. Letter to Mayor: Commissioner Long circulated a draft letter to Mayor Bowser discussing the absence of breastfeeding discussions at the Mayor's Maternal-Infant Summit and our desire to include it in the next events. The letter will be signed by the Lactation Consultant Association of Greater Washington, The Breastfeeding Coordinators for the AAP. Commissioner Tender moved and Commissioner Stowers seconded a motion to include the Lactation Commission on the letter. Commissioner Tender asked if this would be seen as a conflict in interest and it was felt that Commissioners would not be a problem but Colleen Sonosky questioned if it would be a problem with government agency representatives. There was a discussion if we should just include the Commissioners individually as the consensus was that it was important to sign the letter. It was also suggested to include other organizations such as 1000 Days and East of the River Lactation Support Center. Commissioner Long will send out the final version via email.
- D. Commissioner Tender discussed that Kathy Logan, PNP is getting a Doctorate in Nursing Practice and would like to collaborate with 1000 Days and the DCBFC to conduct informal focus groups on low-income women's breastfeeding experiences in DC.

She is in the early stages of development of her plans and more information will be forthcoming as she progresses.

D. 2018 Annual Report Review and Next Steps

For the remainder of the meeting, the Commission reviewed the draft annual report to highlight areas for revisions. Commissioner McClain will circulate the next draft of the report. Commissioner Stowers will edit the report once it is finalized by the Commission.

Commissioner McClain provided an overview that the Commissioners will be assigned tasks for completion. The Table of Contents will be updated to include tables and figures. We need a conclusion and final recommendation and most importantly, next steps.

Section reviews:

- Overview: Need pictures and a brief bio (one paragraph) from new Commissioners. Need to clarify who will be the OSSE representative.

Part II Section A: (Breastfeeding in the District of Columbia): Initially this section was supposed to be a broad overview for the Mayor. Since we are now directing our report to DC Health we need a different balance. Commissioner McClain recommended discussing the history, how the breastfeeding advocacy movement has evolved and also include others such as the Breastfeeding Center of Greater Washington into the history. Would like to include policies and legislations related to breastfeeding. Commissioners Sieswerda, Long, Tender and West will submit a 1-2-page summary and Commissioner Sieswerda will write about the BF Center of Greater Washington. Commissioner Long will contact Sally Cotton and Commissioner Sieswerda will contact MamaToto Village to include their histories as well. Commissioner McClain will share the VA report to consider duplicating what is important to include.

Part II

Section B: Breastfeeding among Minority. Commissioner Tender will update the numbers and include additional information about health care provider bias including that African American infants are 9 times more likely to receive formula in the hospitals. Jenny will update numbers.

Section C: Barriers to Breastfeeding in DC: Emily Woody will include the DOH survey results.

Section D: Current Breastfeeding Initiatives and Activities should be moved to the Lactation Support Section.

Part III: Subcommittee Reports:

Section A: Breastfeeding Education and Library Sub-Committee: Need to finalize letter to the DC Public Library and send it to them before the annual report is done. The details about the website can be modified because we provided feedback to DC Health's website.

Section B: Human Milk Bank Committee:

Since the DC Council repealed the act, the DOH does not feel creating a Human Milk Bank is a priority but Commissioner McClain would like input from other Commissioners. The committee originally wanted to conduct a needs assessment of the hospitals and Commissioner McClain is open to ideas if the Lactation Commission should continue to advocate for this. Emily Woody said that her survey shows that respondents feel there is a need for a milk bank and she will share this data with the Commission. Commissioner McClain shared Judith Campbell's feelings that more research should be conducted and Commissioner McClain felt we should vote to determine if this should be a priority.

Section C: Lactation Support Services and Hotline: There was a discussion about including information from the DC Health Survey. The Commission also discussed about whether to include individual or private breastfeeding support providers such as doulas and decided that we can include a line about ancillary services for pay but rather focus on larger support services. Commissioner McClain will include information about Sibley and Georgetown support services and 1000 Days, Breastfeeding in Color, The Breastfeeding Outreach for Greater Washington which is a 501 C organization that provides free classes and consultations to people who qualify.

DC Government based support:

Programs: move Section 1C to this section

HelpMeGrow: Emily Woody will add details

OSSE: add daycare rating scale.

Hotline: This needs to be reviewed and changed DOH to DC Health

Appendices and public attendees: need to check links to footnotes.

Next Steps: focus 2019

The subcommittees will meet and review future steps

Library and Education Committee: follow up with DCPL to update their catalogue and include K-12 curriculum.

Human milk bank: Need to discuss among committee members.

Timeline:

October 5th subcommittees and assigned writers send final input. Hold subcommittee meetings this week. Commissioner McClain will take notes on all subcommittee meetings.

Friday October 12th final draft

Wednesday October 17th: Commissioner Stowers will edit and circulate

Meeting October 22nd final review and approval

We voted to cancel the December meeting with the contingency that we meet if DC Health needs questions addressed. Moved by Commissioner McClain and seconded by Commissioner Long.

Additional Items

1. Commissioner Long asked Colleen Sonosky a few questions about the coverage of IBCLCs. 1). Will the Rule and Transmittal only apply to IBCLCs or can it be expanded to other lactation support personnel. Colleen Sonosky said that the DHCF will keep the original rule and consider expanding later. 2) They transmittal about IBCLCs will be sent once they work out the reimbursement rates for the codes. The goal is to have it completed in October. Commissioner Long asked to clarify about Code S9443 because it currently comes up as a lactation class and may be confusing if the IBCLC is billing for individual counseling. One code—S9443. (written as lactation class and may get confusing if billing for class vs 1:1)
2. Emily Woody will be going on Maternity leave end in January. She will keep people abreast about who will take over.

VII. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comment (s).

VIII. Review of Action Items

Commissioner Tender to email Mr. Lindsay from the Mother-Baby summit about presenting to the Lactation Commission the options for reimbursement.

Discussed subcommittee meetings and submitting changes to

IX. Items to Continue for Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 22, 2018 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at DC Health.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 pm.