

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, February 22nd, 2021, at 6:30 pm, via Webex. Below are the minutes for the meeting.

Notetaker: Commissioner Angela McClain

I. Call to Order – 6:40pm

II. Roll Call

Attendance via WebEx

Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member and Commission Chair

Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative

Suzanne Henley—OSSE Representative

Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member

Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Resources Representative

Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

Commissioner Stephanie Hack—Obstetrics/Gynecology (Ob/Gyn) Member

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member

Ciera Davis – Department of Human Resources Representative

Absent:

Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos—Public Health Expert Member

Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative

Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member

Emily Woody—DC Health Representative

Commissioner Noelene Jeffers—Lactation Expert Member

Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources Representative

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner Sahira Long moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Angela McClain second it.

IV. Approval of September and November, 2020 Minutes

Commissioner Sahira Long moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick second it.

V. Old Business:

A. Update on Lactation Commission Annual Report submission

Dr. Robin Diggs, the Deputy Director of the Community Health Administration has been invited to join our meetings to provide feedback on our annual report. Presently, DC Health is extremely busy with the COVID-19 vaccines. Dr. Diggs will join the meeting on March 22, 2021 unless there is a COVID-19 emergency.

B. Title V submission

In the Annual Report, one of the recommendations is to provide Title V funding. The DC Breastfeeding Coalition (DCBFC) submitted an application for Title V on January 25, 2021. The grant is anticipated to start date on February 15, 2021. As of today, a decision on the application has not been made. The application focused on continued service for East of the River (EOTR) lactation consultants, work with OSSE on early childcare education center to train staff on breastfeeding and to conduct a needs assessment on training needs, and work with a home visiting program with Mary's Center and Community of Hope.

C. Thrive by Five

Faith Gibson is now deputy mayor of community affairs and is no longer the director of Thrive by Five. The program focuses on care for children from newborn to up to age of 5. Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos attended the first meeting.

VI. Open Commissioner Positions

There was discussion regarding the number of Commissioners needed at meetings to make quorum, and the need to change the by-laws to adjust a more realistic number.

Commissioner Noelene Jeffers is stepping down/retiring. She was in the position of Lactation Expert. This has been communicated to the Mayor's Office on Talent and Appointments (MOTA) and we are waiting for the next steps.

Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos has a new position at the National Institute of Health (NIH) and needs get approval to avoid a potential conflict of interest. Once this is cleared, she will return to the commission.

VII. New Business

A. National Association of Country and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Grant: Identifying Care Gaps: Conducting Community Assessments to Improve the Chest/Breastfeeding Landscape in Historically Oppressed Communities

Commissioner Jenny Tender provided an overview of the grant, stating that this will be a \$15,000 grant. Funds could be used for a breastfeeding needs assessment. The application will be submitted by the DCBFC in collaboration with DC's Women, Infants and Children (WIC). WIC will support by providing relevant data and access to families for surveying. The grant could fund a statistician or researcher. This is a competitive opportunity with a quick turnaround time and is due in one week. The application is three pages, including supporting documents, online

budget and a table for the work plan. The project must be completed in 6 months, by September 2021.

The commission discussed the benefits of this opportunity and how best it may support the DCBFC in developing its application. The data from the study could be used to assist with one of the recommendations of the Lactation Commission, to develop a city-wide strategic breastfeeding plan. The study could include the collection of breastfeeding rates stratified by demographics such as ward, and poverty level. This information could help us to make recommendations to DC Health and the Mayor.

Suggested inputs to application:

- Use of breast pumps by people on Medicaid.
- Medicaid recipient challenges with breastfeeding support.
- Education of breast pump use.

Inputs and ideas to be include by sections of the application:

- Community Status Assessment
 - Update the DCBFC Resource Guide, which is overdue. The last update was 2018.
 - Partner with OSSE to conduct an assessment on training needs of early childhood education (ECE) center providers.
 - Leverage funding from the Kellogg Foundation to conduct assessments of breastfeeding where data will be used for policy making.
 - Collect baseline data on breastfeeding rates.
 - Continue work on Baby-Friendly hospitals in DC. Currently there are five birthing facilities and two Baby-Friendly hospitals. The resource guide lists the workplaces (employers, health care providers).
 - Commissioner Jenny Tender discussed an idea of gaining access to breastfeeding rates through birth certificates through DC Health's Vital Statistics department.
 - There was discussion about DC's participation in the pregnancy risk assessment monitoring systems (PRAMS), (<https://www.cdc.gov/prams/index.htm>), which includes breastfeeding questions DCHR will look into it. Quamiece Harris shared that her division could capture information when families come in to request services such as food stamps, food aid, etc. DCHR does not have public residents come in unless to request a job. It was noted that with this approach, we would only be looking at a specific population. There was a question raised if PRAMS looks at all socio-economic levels? Research during the meeting found that it is statewide and that DC participates but there is no report from DC on the website. It is unclear how DC government is collecting the data. The website lists Dr. Fern Johnson-Clarke as the Principal Investigator for DC, <https://www.cdc.gov/prams/index.htm> or <https://dchealth.dc.gov/DCPRAMS>. This could be a good resource.
 - Judy Campbell shared that Children's could evaluate breastfeeding rates by demographics such as ward/geography.
 - OSSE has submitted a letter of support to DCBFC for the Title V grant application. This letter could be modified for the NACCHO grant.
 - Commissioner Jenny Tender will send a draft of the application the Commission and DCBFC by Monday March 1. She will need a quick turnaround for feedback in order to meet the deadline.

- Commissioner Kanika Harris is working with a developer on an app to collect data. The app is in the early stage of development and will asks questions about a person/family’s decision to breastfeed, timeline for breastfeeding, information needed to breastfeed, frequency of breastfeeding and barriers to breastfeeding. The app is connected to a study at Howard University on diabetes and breastfeeding and will not be available for the NACCHO grant but could be used for other data collection
- Community Partners Assessment
 - There were no specific comments provided for this section.

B. Milk Bank: Judy Campbell

Judy Campbell recently researched tabletop pasteurization for work, and found a company called KenTec Medical (<https://www.kentecmedical.com/>). The company also has expertise in setting up milk banks and have worked with half of the HMBANA banks. They have information on how to do a survey and equipment needed to set up a bank. They are willing to do an overview with the commission on their products and services.

In light of the pandemic and recent winter storms, the milk bank is relevant. The winter storms have knocked out access to DMV’s usual banks. HMBANA believes regional banks are better. It might be worthwhile to look into a small bank for DC.

The Commission discussed the milk bank and shared that we’ll have to seek funding for the milk bank. Commissioner Sahira Long reminded us that DC Health was not interested in the milk bank based on the feedback of our previous annual report. The Commission would like to discuss this further with Dr. Diggs at our next meeting.

The Commission also discussed that it would be worthwhile to have this group come in to do a demo, and that it might be best to have them come after the meeting with Dr. Diggs.

VIII. Opportunity for Public Comment

No public comments.

IX. Future Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be via WebEx at 6:30pm on March 22, 2021.

We will need notetakers for upcoming meetings. The following persons volunteered:

- March: Ciera Davis
- May: Commissioner Sahira Long

X. Adjournment – 7:59 pm