

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, July 27, 2020, at 6:30 pm, via Webex. Below are the minutes for the meeting.

Note taker: Commissioner Stephanie Hack

**I. Call to Order 6:38 PM**

**II. 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  
Suzanne Henley—OSSE 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

**Absent:**

Judy Campbell—Public Member  
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

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

Motion made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner West-

**IV. Approval of June, 2020 Minutes**

Edits previously provided by Commissioner Villalobos via e-mail. No other edits made.  
Motion made by Commissioner Long and seconded by Commissioner Villalobos

**V. Review of proposed Annual Report Outline**

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

- a. Multi-year strategic breastfeeding city plan
  - i. Commissioners to volunteer to write progress updates on 2018 recommendations. This should include how the recommendation was addressed, how obstacles were addressed, or why the corresponding

recommendation was no longer a priority. Commissioners able to select a portion to write via Google share drive.

- ii. This includes 2020 recommendations and supporting evidence.
- b. Improve prenatal breastfeeding education
  - i. Increasing pregnant women's enrollment in WIC
    1. Emily Woody suggested we consider emphasizing women's increased participation of WIC within the first trimester, instead of just 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester to increase their amount of education.
  - ii. Improve providers' breastfeeding management skills
    1. Should DC's baby friendly hospital initiative be part of the annual report? Commissioner Long discussed that we may want to consider deferring until 2021 as COVID-19 restrictions have limited Baby Friendly inspections.
    2. Discussed recommending that physicians be mandated to complete breastfeeding education as part of their license renewal. It was brought up to consider this for other licensed professionals, and/or social workers, yet felt that it is best to start with physicians as this is an easier group to mandate.
- c. Improve postnatal breastfeeding support
  - Ideally, these recommendations would include metrics and measurable objectives with evidence-based strategies.
  - In addition to the outline above, items for discussion included:
    - o Discussion of whether a needs assessment is necessary to make recommendations or whether we could rely on previous studies. Emily Woody discussed that a needs assessment is important and that the commission could consider putting it in the report with a financial request to provide funding for a specific person/s to accomplish this task.
    - o Inclusion of breastfeeding in HP 2030 unknown at this time.

## **VI. Report schedule and deadlines**

- a. Emily Woody discussed deadlines. Upcoming report due to DC Health by end of fiscal year 9/30/2020.
- b. Commissioner Tender and Commissioner McClain proposed having draft completed by 8/24, with review by 9/28.
- c. Commissioner Villalobos sent Google Doc for commissioners to self-assign sections to draft/

## **VII. Collaboration with other Commissions**

- a. Commissioner Tender proposed postponing this item until commission has formalized thoughts and recommendations.

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. Webinar: COVID-19 and breastfeeding
  - i. Commissioner Tender discussed progress. Over 600 people have registered. Commissioners to continue to share registration link.

- b. Milk Bank Depots (Noni Robinson)
  - i. In the beginning of July, Emily Woody and Noni Robinson met with mother's milk bank of Austin. The Austin milk bank would like DC to provide additional sites for milk collection in the city. Solicitation made for anyone would like to be involved.
- c. DC WIC State Plan - Breastfeeding Goals & Objectives (Emily Woody)
  - i. Emily Woody discussed yearly plan, due around 8/15/20, and provided opportunity to for commissioners to provide input for 2021. She indicated that while the goals don't change, the objectives do, and that DC Health can hopefully use some of the recommendations from the lactation commission report in drafting new objectives. Recommendations should be submitted by 7/31/2020.
- d. Mother-Infant Summit Added to Agenda
  - i. DC is hosting the National Maternal Infant Health Summit virtually. A document is currently circulating for proposals, and is due 7/31/20.
  - ii. DCBC submitting rec for a panel- discussing impact of systemic racism, COVID disparities in breastfeeding and how all of these are linked. Dr. Long to moderate.
- e. Note takers
  - i. 8/24/2020- Commissioner West
  - ii. 9/28/2020- Noni Robinson
  - iii. 11/23/2020 (tentative date)- Suzanne Henley
- f. National Breastfeeding Month
  - i. Commissioner Long discussed 2 upcoming events planned by DCBFC
    - 1. Virtual Latch-On- 8/1/2020 via Zoom. DC WIC/Health has provided funding.
    - 2. A Million Milk March- in honor of black breastfeeding week (last week of Aug). The miles and steps you take for whole month will count. They hope to be able to fund 50 WIC participants. This is a national event, hosted by B Stars (Breastfeeding Sisters That Are Receiving Support from Memphis, TN). The goal is to reach 1 million miles across the nation.
    - 3. DCBFC will host a panel discussion.
    - 4.

**IX. Opportunity for Public Comment**

- a. No public comment given.

**X. Future Meeting Schedule**

- a. 8/24/2020
- b. 9/28/2020
- c. 11/23/2020 (Tentative)

**XI. Items to Continue for Next Meeting**

- a. Commissioners to sign up to draft various sections of annual report.

**XII. Adjournment- Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM**

**Next meeting August 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30 to 8:00 pm via Webex**