

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
LACTATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
Monday, May 24, 2021**

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a public meeting on Monday, May 24, 2021, at 6:30 pm, via Webex.

Notetaker: Sahira Long – Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Attendance Via WebEx:

Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member  
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member  
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member  
Commissioner Jennifer Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member & Commission  
Chair  
Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos—Public Health Expert Member  
Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member  
Cieara Davis—DC Department of Human Resources Representative  
Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Services Representative  
Suzanne Henley—DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education Representative  
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative  
Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Health Care Finance Representative  
Judy Campbell—Public Attendee  
Mudiwah Kadeshe—Public Attendee  
Rebecca Roberts—Public Attendee

Absent:

Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member  
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member  
Emily Woody—DC Health Representative

**III. Adoption of the Agenda**

A motion to adopt the amended agenda (with removal of M. Kadeshe discussing Title V funding) was made by Commissioner Villalobos and seconded by Commissioner Long. The motion passed unanimously

**IV. Approval of March, 2021 Minutes**

A motion to approve the March 2021 minutes including the edits discussed (update Commissioner Villalobos' first name to Aubrey, delete duplication of Commissioner Stower's name, undescriptive attribution of items attributed to Commissioner Long which she does not recall making, change DC Health Alliance to DC Health, change Quamiece Harris' organization to DC Department of Human Services) was made by Commissioner McClain and seconded by Commissioner Long. The motion passed

unanimously. Discussion held regarding timing of receipt of minutes for review and a web-based system that can be used for review/editing of Lactation Commission documents. Suzanne Henley will investigate options for document sharing and report before the next meeting.

## V. **Old Business:**

### *Lactation Commission Annual Report (Commissioner Jenny Tender)*

Meetings organized by DC Health with Thrive By Five and DC Perinatal Quality Collaborative (DC PQC) to discuss annual report were rescheduled. It was recommended that Noni Robinson find out the frequency of Lactation Commission's reporting requirements from MOTA, taking into consideration the time investment and delay in review and dissemination.

### *Open commissioner position and reappointments (Noni Robinson)*

As of 5/19/21, reappointments have been submitted and are awaiting review of general counsel before being added to the register. There are 3 open public member commission positions (OB/GYN, Consumer, and Community Outreach Expert Members). The appointment process was reviewed—applications are submitted online, then applicants are invited for interview by MOTA. Noni Robinson will reach out to Emily Woody for insight into status of open positions and process for filling them. Commissioner VillaLobos recommended that commissioners focus their invitations on potential applicants who have insight into some of the recommendations in the Annual Report (e.g. a former client of The Supplemental the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children)

### **New Business**

- A. *Review of bylaws:* Commissioner Tender highlighted areas in need of review. Bylaws review task force was established to make recommendations and present recommendations to the entire commission during the next meeting: Commissioner Tender, Commissioner McClain, and Noni Robinson.
- B. *Other Commissions:* Thrive by 5 next meeting Wednesday May 26<sup>th</sup> 3 to 5 pm, Colleen Sonosky attends these members and can represent the Lactation Commission and encourage inclusion of breastfeeding/lactation as a priority topic for the next Maternal & Infant Health Summit being planned for September 2021.

## VI. **Opportunity for Public Comment**

- a. Noni Robinson shared that DC Breastfeeding Coalition is a Title V awardee and will be an avenue for carrying out some of the Lactation Commission's recommendations. Additional information will be forthcoming about the exciting plans.
- b. Commissioner Villalobos shared that some of the research cited in the Annual Report has been published: "Breastfeeding in Context: African American Women's Normative Referents, Salient Identities, and Perceived Social Norms" <https://doi.org/10.1177/10901981211014445>; and "Racism and Resistance: A Qualitative Study of Bias As a Barrier to Breastfeeding" <https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/10.1089/bfm.2020.0307>

VII. **Future Meeting Schedule:** Next meeting will be held July 26, 2021, notetaker will be Commissioner Villalobos

VIII. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm