

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
LACTATION COMMISSION**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The District of Columbia Lactation Commission held a meeting on Monday, September 27th, 2021, at 6:30 pm, via WebEx. Below are the minutes from the meeting:

Notetaker: Commissioner Angela McClain

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 pm.

II. Roll Call

Attendance via WebEx

Commissioner Jenny Tender—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member and Commission Chair
Commissioner Angela McClain—Community Outreach Expert Member
Commissioner Sahira Long—Pediatrician/Neonatologist Member
Commissioner Lauren Propst-Riddick—Consumer Member
Commissioner Aubrey Villalobos—Public Health Expert Member
Noni Robinson—DC Health Representative
Colleen Sonosky—DC Department of Healthcare Finance Representative
Judy Campbell—Public Member
Quamiece Harris—DC Department of Human Services
Suzanne Henley—OSSE Representative
Pamela Oandasan—PRAMS Representative
Vanessa McDonald—Obstetrician Member
Jennie Wenzel—George Washington University MPH student

Absent:

Commissioner Gwendolyn West—Lactation Expert Member
Commissioner Christina Stowers—Consumer Member
Jill Johnson—DC Department of Human Resources Representative
Commissioner Kanika Harris—Public Health Expert Member

III. Adoption of the Agenda

Commissioner McClain motioned to modify the agenda to allow the PRAMS representative to speak first. Commissioner Long seconded.

IV. PRAMS Survey

Pamela Oandasan is an epidemiologist and the PRAMS (Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System) Coordinator in the Center for Policy, Planning and Evaluation at DC Health. She provided background about the PRAMS survey. This is a national survey conducted in each state/jurisdiction and overseen by the U.S. Center for Disease Control. In DC, the survey is given to a randomized group of mothers who deliver a live infant in the District. Mothers are the

participants and PRAMS usually make three points of contact. A \$5 incentive is given to mothers who complete the phone call and a \$20 reward is given for the completion of the survey. The current goal is a 50% response rate. The CDC has not shared DC results since DC started collecting data in 2017 because it has not met the response rate. Pam is a recent hire and working on a back log of data, which will be analyzed and available in a few months.

The survey contains 77 core standards and questions that every state must report on. DC will be asking supplemental questions related to disability, opioid, zika, COVID-19 disease, and COVID-19 vaccination. The COVID-19 questions were added mid-year (Jul-Dec 2020). The survey also includes maternal demographics (age, race, insurance, etc.) and ward residence. Mothers are sent the survey on December 31st and must complete it by May. The 2020 data was collected in August 2021 and the data should be available on CDC's website. The unofficial results show that breastfeeding initiation for DC was 90% in 2018 and about 92% in 2019. They are currently conducting data stratification analysis. The plan is to develop a dashboard for sharing this information in the future.

Other forms of data on breastfeeding rates in DC include the perinatal report which contains data from the vital records and may differ from the PRAMS report. The breastfeeding report cards are from CDC's National Immunization Survey. Commissioner Villalobos asked if the PRAMS data and NIS dataset have consistent breastfeeding rates. Pamela stated that the 2019 results were similar. Commissioner Long said that it would be hard to compare data because NIS collects data for children born 3 years previously.

Commissioner Tender met with Dr. Johnson-Clarke in the past [February, 2021] who shared that the Lactation Commission could add core questions related to breastfeeding. Pamela shared that there will be a Phase 9, where our additional questions, if any, could be added. Commissioner Villalobos suggested that the Commission look at the recommendations of the report to see if we want to separate questions to ask annually or semi-annually. Ms. Sonosky suggested that we determine where the data will be shared. Commissioner Tender will share a link for the questions. For supplemental questions, PRAMS usually requests funding and additional time so mothers are not overburdened.

If the Commission's Annual Report is ready to share, Commissioner Villalobos suggested that it be shared with Pam/PRAMS. We will invite Pam to share her results of the analysis in a few months. Pam says she will be happy to do this after the results are posted online

Ms. Henley asked for normal turnaround time for data after it is submitted to the CDC. Pam shared that the data is received by the end of the year.

V. Approval of July 2021 Minutes

There was no addition to the minutes. Commissioner Long motioned to approve the minutes. Commissioner McClain seconded it.

VI. Old Business

A. By-Laws Changes

Currently, there is no deadline to complete the changes. The Commission reviewed the proposed changes and noted the following:

- The date of the by-laws will be updated.
- The Department of Health was universally changed to DC Health.
- Article I Purpose was modified to include language on evidence-based. It has also been suggested that we change our annual report from annual to every 2-3 years. Commissioner Villalobos likes the flexibility in the years (2-3). For this change, we'll need approval from the mayor's office. Ms. Robinson checked to see if Donovan responded to our earlier inquiry and shared that his response was that the report be completed annually. There was discussion about the 2021 Annual Report. For this year's report, we will use the date of the completion of last year's report. Commissioner Long asked for clarification on the question submitted to MOTA. The question was is it required to submit annually? If this is the case, the 2021 report is due in its year's report is due in 7 days. Commissioner Villalobos suggested we add a note that states "pending approval and publishing of last year's report."
- On the matter of quorums, it has been suggested that we change it to 2 and clarify that it excludes the chair. Commissioner Long suggested that we make it a percentage of filled position of public members. It was proposed that we change it to 40% of filled positions.
- For Section 5 Meetings, it was clarified that there be a minimum of four meetings per year.
- Commissioner Villalobos note that for meeting agendas and minutes, nothing has been posted online since July 2020. She suggested that either this needs to be edited in the bylaws or we need to figure out where the breakdown is.

B. Review 2020 Report and Updates

This topic was tabled to the next meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Birthing Report Card Legislation

This topic was tabled to the next meeting.

B. Rental Breast Pumps Approval Process

There are ongoing challenges for obtaining hospital-grade rental pumps through Medicaid Managed Care Organizations. The approval process may take up to 2 weeks which is not acceptable for a baby in intensive care. Ms. Campbell asked how the Commission can help with and if we could make suggestions to improve the system. Commissioner Tender suggested that Ms. Campbell and Ms. Sonosky meet to discuss this as Ms. Sonosky oversees MCOs. Ms. Sonosky suggested that the Commission invites a representative from the MCOs to discuss these

issues. Colleen Sonosky then recommended that Judy Campbell first speak with MCO representatives (either the Medical Directors or case managers). Commission Villalobos suggested an offline meeting. Commissioner Tender asked Ms. Sonosky to prepare list of contacts at each MCO. Ms. Campbell clarified that she is not only asking for help at Children's Hospital, and suggested that we also ask Commissioner West at Howard University Hospital about her experience with breast pump rentals.

VIII. Community News and Events

Commissioner McClain proposed a new topic to add as a standing agenda item to our meetings. For each meeting, she would like to share community news and events related to DC government (Mayor's Office) and the DC breastfeeding community. It was noted that DC Health also advertises events on the WIC website.

Recent and upcoming events include:

- **September 15 – 16, 2021.** DC Maternal and Infant Health Summit
- **October 13, 2021.** LWCGA

Recent news include:

- **Healthy DC 2030 Participation.** Since the beginning of this month, there have been ads posted on Facebook to invite DC residents to participate in the development process of the Healthy DC 2030 plan. <https://ourhealthydc.org/>, <https://dchealth.dc.gov/page/dc-healthy-people-2020> and <https://www.facebook.com/DCHP2020/>. The actual survey can be complete at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HealthyDC2030>
- **Thrive by Five released its 2020 Annual Report.** <https://thrivebyfive.dc.gov/page/annual-report> It includes a list of its working group and coordinating council members from 2019 and 2020. The Lactation Commission was not listed. It would be good to scan it to see if peer organizations are represented. If not, we may consider joining. There is a link on their website to join <https://thrivebyfive.dc.gov/page/partners-and-working-group> and/or <https://motaboards.applytojob.com/apply/4ywT6g3LoY/Mayors-Thrive-By-Five-Coordinating-Council> The next coordinating council meeting is Nov 10 at from 3pm – 5pm.
- **Breastfeeding Center of Greater Washington also released its 2020 Annual Report.** <https://www.breastfeedingcenter.org/about-us>

IX. Government Representatives Updates

A. DHCF Updates

Ms. Sonosky shared that she is currently working on adding doulas as Medicaid providers. Postpartum coverage is considered a part of pregnancy related services. Commissioner Long shared the following link about doulas through WebEx chat: <https://www.dona.org/the-dona-advantage/about/>

X. Other Updates

Commissioner Long shared that DCBFC and the MD Coalition for Breastfeeding are gearing up to recognize work places and health care providers that support breastfeeding. This year, they are adding childcare providers. As such, Commissioner Long would like to connect with Ms. Henley.

Commissioner Long asked if there is a new link to access the DCBC/MOTA email account? Commissioner McClain stated that MOTA emails are not listed under office.com

Commissioner Villalobos shared that she would love to see DC Health get additional staffing support with this funding opportunity "AmeriCorps for Public Health" <https://americorps.gov/funding-opportunity/fy-2022-ameri-corps-state-national-public-health-ameri-corps>. This Public Health AmeriCorps will include a \$400 million dollar investment, over five years, from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding will allow recruitment, training, and development of a new generation of public health leaders who are ready to respond to the public health needs of the nation by providing public health service in communities.

XI. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

XII. Future Meeting Schedule

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Nov 22, 2021. It was suggested that MOTA (Donovan) be invited so that we may discuss the schedule of the annual report.

XIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.