



ALABAMA SICKLE CELL OVERSIGHT AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

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MINUTES February 25, 2025

Presiding: Dr. Felicia Wilson
Called to Order: 11:22 A.M.
Adjourned: 1:01 P.M.

Members Participating

Dr. Felicia Wilson, President (virtual)
Ms. Katherine Long (virtual)
Mr. James Belton
Ms. Linda Garrett
Ms. Tokie Dunn
Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien (virtual)
Ms. Leah J. Wiggins (virtual)
Dr. Jacqueline Williams (virtual)
Ms. Janet Martin (virtual)

Members Absent

Dr. Julie Kanter
Dr. Lee M. Hilliard

Others Present

Mr. Brannon Littleton, CFO (Smith Warren)
Ms. Renee' Reames, recording secretary (Smith Warren)
Mr. James Arrington, Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Pam Thompson, North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Monica Van Diver, Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter
Mr. Gerald Alfred, Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter (virtual)
Dr. LaMonica Herron-McCoy, West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter (virtual)
Ms. La'Quisha Moore Banks, ADPH Newborn Screening

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission met on Tuesday, February 25, 2025. The meeting was held at the Commission's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was delayed due to technical difficulties, with some Commissioners and guests participating virtually. The meeting was called to order at 11:22 a.m. by Dr. Felicia Wilson, Commission President. Ms. Reames conducted the roll call of members and indicated that a quorum of the Commissioners was present to conduct business. President Wilson welcomed all in attendance at the meeting.

- II. Approval of Agenda**
President Wilson presented the agenda for February 25, 2025, meeting for the Commissioners' approval and called for any corrections or additions to the agenda. There being none, President Wilson indicated that the agenda was adopted by common consent.
- III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**
President Wilson presented the minutes from the December 17, 2024 meeting for the Commission's approval.
MOTION: Ms. Martin made the motion to accept the December meeting minutes as present. The motion was seconded by Dr. Williams.
Ms. Wiggins reported a correction on page 3 in the Central Alabama Chapter report and the correction should reflect Ms. Wiggins was elected as Treasurer of the Chapter's Board of Directors.
Ms. Martin amended the motion to accept the December minutes with the correction. The motion was seconded by Dr. Williams, and following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.
- IV. Executive Director Report**
President Wilson reported that Mr. Warren may have had technical problems attending the meeting virtually. Ms. Reames reported that Mr. Warren had sent an email to the Commissioners, after the December Commission meeting, updating them on committee compositions and other pending business, and she indicated that he was working on obtaining a proclamation or commendation from the Legislature concerning Ms. Barnes. Mr. Littleton reported that the February allocation checks were late due to omission of vendor addresses on payment vouchers. He explained that he was unaware of the requirement and the Comptroller's office had recently begun enforcing this procedure. Ms. Reames asked that the organizations receiving monthly allocations submit verification of the address the allocations checks were to be mailed to them. Mr. Littleton indicated to Ms. Van Diver that he would check with the Comptroller's office that the Greater Montgomery online registration was received.

Mr. Belton reported that after the Commission had approved the Administrative Services Contract in December, he attended the Contract Review Committee meeting in January and the Administrative Services contract was approved by the Committee.
- V. Legal Counsel Report**
Ms. Reames reported that Ms. Rogan had a conflict and was not able to attend the meeting and there was no Legal Counsel Report for this meeting.
- VI. CBO Reports**
President Wilson called for Community-based Organization (CBO) reports.

Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Mr. Arrington reported that the chapter was focused on a series of educational forums, and some were in partnership with Pfizer Pharmaceutical. He reported on the Chapter's presence in the 13 counties. He complimented the Mobile Chapter on their public service announcements concerning the "Be Heard" campaign created by the Chapter.

North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. Thompson reported on plans for the annual walk-a-thon, the Chapter's biggest fundraiser, and June 19 Fun Day activities, along with scheduling

health fairs in the upcoming months in 5 of the 10 counties served. She commented on the difficulty in contacting families referred through the Newborn Screening program due to no current known address.

Ms. Banks with the ADPH Newborn Screening program reported that there were no known avenues to assist in identifying the location of the newborn's family so that they could be contacted about follow-up care. Ms. Banks mentioned other potential options for assistance, e.g., DHR, WIC and/or Medicaid program or through public service announcements to educate the public about services and to reach transit clients and families.

Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. Van Diver reported on activities partnering with the local health coalition and outreach to schools in disseminating information on sickle cell healthcare. She commented on the need for mass printing of educational materials to support the outreach to schools and community.

Ms. Van Diver inquired about the type of content to be included in the CBO updates at Commission meetings and President Wilson explained that the reports were meant as updates, not a duplication of the quarterly report activities.

West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Dr. McCoy reported on participation in health fairs, contacts with schools in the 9-county service area, creating a virtual support group that grew into an onsite network, planning for the annual walk-a-thon and activities for June 19 World Sickle Cell Day and partnering with the American Red Cross in sponsoring some activities.

Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter: Mr. Alfred reported on the Sickle Cell Disease Educator/Counselor Certification Program planned in April in Mobile and he encouraged the chapters to register participants online beginning March 10, 2025. He announced that the annual gala was scheduled September 11, 2025, and he reported about the various media platforms used for public aware of the "Be Heard" campaign and plans for a promotional mobile van. Other activities, such as partnering with the Mobile Community Action program, showcasing sickle cell warriors, he named in his report, as part of Black History month, and the success of the compassionate talk sessions that were begun in cooperation with a local hospital.

Johnson Haynes, Jr. M.D. Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center: Dr. Pack-Mabien commented on the transfer of one of her adult patients to the Birmingham area and requested the CBO in that area contact her about assisting with the transfer of services from Mobile to Birmingham.

VII Committee Reports

CBO Standardized Core Education Committee: Mr. Arrington reported that he had received information from the CBO directors about Chapters' educational programs, and the committee planned to meet before the next Commission meeting with the task of condensing the material into one uniform education program.

Performance Goals Committee: President Wilson reported that Dr. Kanter, along with Ms. Levenson, were at another meeting and there was no new report.

Advocacy Committee: Ms. Wiggins reported that the Advocacy Committee had met twice since the last Commission meeting and had received from the CBOs event photos and information about the Chapters' services impacting on patients, etc. She explained that the information would be used to advocate in a unified message and plans were to select two videos and create script from the information submitted by the CBOs.

Ms. Long recommended that a bullet point description of CBO activities be placed on the Commission's website, with links to the CBOs social media platform, and the information be

maintained with timely updates for public awareness. The CBO directors and Commissioners discussed the information already available on the individual chapters' websites and President Wilson indicated that she would work with Ms. Long to determine a format that fit the Commission's website.

Ms. Garrett recommended that the Commission coordinate a statewide awareness campaign, specifically during September to promote Sickle Cell Awareness month. President Wilson indicated that the Advocacy Committee material could be considered for this awareness campaign as well as advocating for additional funding.

Blood Utilization Committee: Dr. Pack-Mabien reminded the CBOs to submit to her flyers and similar publications used for blood drives.

VIII. Old Business

Proclamations Honoring Ms. Eleanor Barnes and Ms. Lynne Eskridge: President Wilson requested that Mr. Warren send an email to the Commissioners as an update on efforts to obtain a proclamation from the Legislature honoring Ms. Barnes.

IX. New Business

Update from ADPH Newborn Screening Program: Ms. Banks with the Department of Public Health Newborn Screening program commented on the activities outlined in the cooperative agreement with CBOs and specifically the reporting requirements of the CBOs to maintain the relationship and funding. She reported that there were 49 open cases, and one CBO had 35% of the open cases. She emphasized the importance of submitting reports and data collection. She requested updated contact information from the CBOs, and she delivered promotional tablecloths for the CBOs. She reported that printing requests should be addressed to Rachel Montgomery at ADPH.

Proposed FY 2025 Meeting Schedule: Ms. Reames recommended that the Commission establish a meeting calendar for 2025 to aid as meeting notifications and a list of dates was presented based on the recent meeting poll.

MOTION: Ms. Garrett made the motion that the meeting dates of May 20, August 26 and October 21 be approved. The motion was seconded by Mr. Belton, and following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved with Ms. Long abstaining from voting.

President Wilson requested that the minutes from each Commission meeting be prepared and distributed to the Commissioners within two weeks following the meeting.

Ms. Martin left the meeting at 12:58 p.m. due to a conflict in scheduling.

X. Announcements

Mr. Littleton announced that the February allocation checks had been received from the Comptroller's office and checks were distributed to the CBOs directors attending the meeting and he indicated that the other checks would be mailed to the organizations. Ms. Reames reported that she would email the organizations about verifying the mailing address, as reported earlier in the meeting in the Executive Director's report.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business, and President Wilson adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "KEITH E. WARREN", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

/rr  Minutes Approved by the Commission on May 20, 2025