



ALABAMA SICKLE CELL OVERSIGHT AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

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MINUTES May 20, 2025

Presiding: Dr. Felicia Wilson

Called to Order: 11:08 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:09 P.M.

Members Participating

Ms. Linda Garrett, Secretary/Treasurer (Chair)
Ms. Leah J. Wiggins
Mr. James Belton
Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien
Ms. Tokie Dunn (virtual)
Dr. Jacqueline Williams (virtual)
Ms. Janet Martin (virtual)
Dr. Lee M. Hilliard (virtual)
Dr. Katisha Vance (new member - virtual)
Ms. Jennifer Harris (new member arriving at 11:24 a.m.)

Members Absent

Dr. Julie Kanter

Others Present

Mr. Keith Warren, Executive Director
Ms. Sara Rogan, Legal Counsel
Ms. Renee' Reames, recording secretary (virtual – Smith Warren)
Mr. James Arrington, Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Pam Thompson, North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Dr. LaMonica Herron-McCoy, West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter (virtual)
Ms. Monique Hobson, Greater Montgomery 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, May 20, 2025. The meeting was held at the Commission's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was called to order at 11:08 a.m. by Ms. Linda Garrett, Commission Secretary/Treasurer. Mr. Warren conducted the roll call of members and indicated that a quorum of the Commissioners was present to conduct business.

The oath of office was administered by Mr. Warren to new Commissioner, Dr. Katisha Vance. Chairperson Garrett welcomed all in attendance at the meeting, with some Commissioners and guests participating virtually.

II. Approval of Agenda

Chairperson Garrett presented the agenda for May 20, 2025, meeting for the Commissioners' approval and called for any additions to the agenda. There being none, Chairperson Garrett indicated that the agenda was adopted by common consent, with Chairperson Garrett not voting except in cases of a tie vote.

III. Election of Commission Officers

Chairperson Garrett reported that two officer vacancies existed on the Commission; the positions for President and Vice President. Chairperson Garrett opened the floor for nominations for President. Dr. Pack-Mabien nominated Ms. Leah Wiggins as President. Chairperson Garrett called three times for any further nominations and there were none. Chairperson Garrett closed the nominations for President.

Chairperson Garrett opened the floor for nominations for Vice President. Ms. Wiggins nominated Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien as Vice President. Chairperson Garrett called three times for further nominations and there were none. Chairperson Garrett closed the nominations for Vice President and called for a vote to accept the nominations of President and Vice President. Following a roll call vote, the motions were unanimously approved by the Commission.

IV. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairperson Garrett presented the minutes from the March 25, 2025 meeting for the Commission's approval.

MOTION: Dr. Williams made the motion to accept the March meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pack-Mabien and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

IV. Executive Director Report

Mr. Warren welcomed the new Commission member and new officers, and he presented the Executive Director's report. He reported that he had received a certificate of appreciation for Ms. Eleanor Barnes from the Legislature through the assistance of Senator Coleman-Madison. The Commission discussed meeting logistics and timeliness of the presentation. The Commission considered Mr. Warren's offer to work with the Central Alabama Chapter staff to host a Commission meeting to present the certificate to Ms. Barnes.

Ms. Jennifer Harris arrived at 11:24 a.m. and Mr. Warren administered the oath of office as a new Commissioner.

Mr. Warren reported that he had spoken with Senator Stewart of Selma about reviving the Sickie Chapter in the Dallas County to serve the surrounding service area. He asked Mr. Arrington to work with him to continue the line of communications with Senator Stewart.

V. Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Warren reported that Ms. Rogan was unable to attend and he had no Legal Report at this time.

VI. CBO Reports

Chairperson Garrett called for Community-based Organization (CBO) reports.

Southeast Alabama Sickie Cell Chapter: Mr. Arrington reported that regular meetings of the CBO directors had been revived, which he had attended, and directors are offering support by participating in activities hosted by other CBOs. He reported that his Chapter had participated in several local health fairs since the last Commission meeting held in March and was focused

on creating educational forums for the clients. He indicated that the Mobile Chapter had been a motivator for other CBOs through their “Be Heard” campaign.

North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. Thompson reported on being involved in legislative activities to “save the Medicaid program” and the Chapter focusing on trait awareness through participation in health fairs, blood drives and walk-a-thon activities.

Update regarding Newborn Screening Program

Ms. La’Quisha Moore Banks with the ADPH Newborn Screening program provided contact information for services, indicating Ms. Courtney Jones, Clerical Manager, process patient release forms if it is completed at the lab, Ms. Rachel Montgomery, Program Manager, to request brochures and similar educational materials and Ms. Veronica Thompson, Nurse Coordinator, as the secondary contact for the Newborn Screening program in the absence of Ms. Banks. Contact information and telephone numbers for these individuals are on file at the Commission’s office as an additional resource.

VII Committee Reports

CBO Standardized Core Education Committee: Mr. Arrington reported that the CBO Standardize Core Education Committee had not formally met to discuss the educational material he had received from the CBO directors. He indicated that the Committee was tasked with condensing the material into one uniform educational program. Dr. Vance and Ms. Martin offered to serve on the Committee to assist Mr. Arrington and Dr. Kanter.

Performance Goals Committee: Chairperson Garrett reported that Dr. Kanter was not available and had no report at this time.

Advocacy Committee: Ms. Wiggins reported that the Advocacy Committee was working on developing a script for a video and would be presented at the next Commission meeting. She reported that the CBOs had provided information that was being developed into one unified message. Mr. Belton volunteered to assist the Committee and Mr. Arrington volunteered a co-worker to assist with the editing process.

Blood Utilization Committee: Dr. Pack-Mabien reminded the CBO directors to submit to her flyers and similar publications used during blood drives. Mr. Warren indicated that he would send a reminder email about the Blood Utilization Committee’s request.

VIII. Old Business

Proclamations Honoring Ms. Eleanor Barnes: The Commission continued to discuss the meeting date and location of the meeting to present Ms. Barnes with an appreciation certificate and a September date, in conjunction with Sickle Cell Awareness month, was discussed.

IX. New Business

Chairperson Garrett called for any new business and there was none.

X. Announcements

Site Visits in 2025: The Commission discussed continuing the 5-year cycle of conducting site visits. Mr. Warren reported that the matter would be placed on the next meeting agenda and would distribute the last site visit reports for review. He indicated that mileage expense reimbursement had been budgeted.

Conference: Dr. Pack-Mabien announced that a nursing conference would be held at USA Health Strada Patient Care Center in Mobile on October 4, 2025. The conference will be for one day, which will be open to nurses and allied health professionals, with one session open to individuals with sickle cell disease. She indicated that more information will be forthcoming about the conference.

Legal Compliance Audit: Mr. Warren reported that the legal compliance exit audit meeting was scheduled on June 4, 2025, and an email had been sent to the Commissioners from the Examiners of Public Accounts. He indicated that he would provide the Commissioners with a virtual link to the meeting and confirm the meeting time to participate.

Commission Website: Mr. Warren encouraged the CBOs and Centers to submit event information and Internet links about the event and the information would be placed on the Commission's website to expand public awareness.

New Commission Member Welcome: Dr. Vance and Ms. Harris provided a brief summary about themselves and their work experience. Dr. Vance is a medical Internist and Oncologist and Certified Hematologist and Ms. Harris has a degree in Social Work and Law degree and previously served as Executive Director of the West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter and currently works with Alabama Arise, an advocacy group.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business and Chairperson Garrett called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Dr. Pack-Mabien made the motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Mr. Belton. Following a roll call vote, Chairperson Garrett adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda C. Garrett
Commission Secretary/Treasurer

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

/rr _____ Minutes Approved by the Commission on _____