ALABAMA SICKLE CELL OVERSIGHT AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

2740 Zelda Road • Montgomery, AL 36106
Phone: (334) 420-7238 • Fax: (334) 263-6115 • Email: alsicklecell@alstateboard.com

MINUTES
February 10, 2026

Presiding: Ms. Leah J. Wiggins
Called to Order: 11:07 A.M.
Adjourned: 1:06 P.M.

Members Participating
Ms. Leah J. Wiggins, (President)
Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien (Vice President - virtual)
Mr. James Belton
Dr. Julie Kanter
Ms. Janet Martin (virtual)
Dr. Katisha Vance
Ms. Tokie Dunn (virtual)

Members Absent
Ms. Linda Garrett (Secretary/Treasurer)
Dr. Jacqueline Williams
Ms. Jennifer Harris

Others Present
Mr. Keith Warren, Executive Director
Ms. Renee' Reames, recording secretary
Ms. Pam Thompson, North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Mr. James Arrington, Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Monica VanDiver, Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter
Mr. Gerald Alfred, Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter
Mr. Wilbur Johnson, Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Monique McCarthy, Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
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 10, 2026. The meeting was held at the Commission's office in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was called to order at 11:07 a.m. by Ms. Leah Wiggins, Commission President. Mr. Warren conducted the roll call of members and indicated that a quorum of the Commissioners was present to conduct business. President Wiggins welcomed the Commissioners and guests.

II. Approval of Agenda

President Wiggins presented the agenda for February 10, 2026 meeting for the Commissioners' approval and she indicated that the Site Visit topic should reflect 2026 rather than 2025. There were no other changes to the agenda and the corrected agenda was adopted by common consent of the Commissioners.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Wiggins presented the minutes from the October 21, 2025 regular Commission meeting. Dr. Vance corrected the minutes on page 3 to reference LifeSouth rather than Lifestyle.

ACTION: The October meeting minutes with correction were approved by common consent of the Commissioners.

President Wiggins presented the minutes from the November 25, 2025 special Commission meeting. President Wiggins corrected the minutes on page 1 to reflect President Wiggins rather than President Wilson.

ACTION: The November meeting minutes with correction were approved by common consent of the Commissioners.

President Wiggins indicated that, to minimize discussion content, the minutes of the meetings would record action items of the Board.

IV. Executive Director Report

Mr. Warren reported the annual filing of Statement of Economic Interest by Commissioners was due by April 30, 2026 and information was available on the Ethics Commission website.

IV. Legal Counsel Report

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

VI. CBO Reports

President Wiggins called for Sickle Cell community-based organization (CBO) reports and reports were provided by the following directors: Mr. Arrington for Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, Mr. Johnson for Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, Ms. Thompson for North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, Mr. Alfred for Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter, and Ms. VanDiver for Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter.

Ms. Thompson reported that some of the chapters were unaware that the design for Sickle Cell-specialty license plate had been changed and there had been a decline in renewal of the specialty tag. She advocated for the original tag design to increase sales and Mr. Arrington was also in support of the original design. Mr. Warren indicated that he would contact a member of the legislature that served on the joint committee to inquire about having the design changed back to the original design.

Dr. Kanter reported that her role at UAB had been directed to research rather than patient care effective December 2025 and patients had been notified of the change. She indicated that she continued to serve as co-director with Dr. Lebensburger of the Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center and Dr. Saah was the clinic director at UAB. Dr. Vance indicated that she would like to write a letter to UAB concerning the negative effect on medical providers in the community in the way patients receive care. Dr. Kanter indicated that the outpatient adult sickle cell program was provided at the UAB Russell Clinic.

VII Committee Reports

CBO Standardized Core Education Committee: Mr. Arrington reported that he had no report at this time from the CBO Standardize Core Education Committee.

Performance Goals Committee: Dr. Kanter indicated that she had no report from the Performance Goals Committee.

Advocacy Committee: Ms. Dunn reported that the Advocacy Committee was working on developing a strategic plan and the committee had discussed plans to utilize the unspent Commission funds. Mr. Warren reported that approximately $64,000 was available. Ms. Dunn reported that the committee recommended that $29,00 of the approximate $64,000 be allocated for advocacy activities.
ACTION: President Wiggins called for objections to the recommendation that $29,000 of the unspent funds be allocated for advocacy activities. There were no objections by the Commissioners and the Advocacy Committee's recommendation was approved by common consent of the Commissioners.
MOTION: Dr. Vance made the motion to split the remaining $35,000 of unspent Commission funds equally between the CBOs. The motion was seconded by Dr. Kanter and, following a roll call vote, the motion was unanimously approved by the Commission.

Blood Utilization Committee: Dr. Pack-Mabien reported that to assist the Blood Utilization Committee in creating a brochure with a unified message to appeal to the public about donating blood, data had been requested from blood banks and she encouraged the CBOs to assist with information by providing copies of the Chapter's publications used during their blood drives.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Contract Review Committee Meeting: President Wiggins reported on her attending the January Contract Review Committee meeting and the comments made by the committee members concerning the renewal of the Administrative Services Contract.

SB128 and Sunset Committee Recommendations: President Wiggins reported that the Legislature had approved the Sunset Committee recommendations that the Commission transfer to the Department of Public Health (ADPH) effective October 1, 2026. A copy of SB128 (Act 2026-161) had been provided to the Commissioners. She recommended meeting with the legislators and Public Health representatives concerning the transition and developing a list of questions in advance. Dr. Pack-Mabien recommended that the list of questions be developed immediately to allow the President and Advocacy Committee to schedule meetings as soon as possible. The list of questions included what division of ADPH would the Commission transition, would there be changes to the Commission's structure and budget, what administrative services would be provided by ADPH, staffing structure and cost to the Commission, timeline to track transition, and opportunity for participation in the Retirement System, etc.

2026 Site Visits: President Wiggins reviewed the site visit schedule and list of members who had volunteered to serve on the teams. Site Visit dates confirmed were North Alabama Chapter on February 26th, Southeast Alabama Chapter on March 9th, Mobile and Haynes Comprehensive Center on March 16th, West Alabama Chapter on March 18th, Central Alabama Chapter and UAB Comprehensive Center and Children's Hospital on May 13th, and Greater Montgomery Chapter on July 15th. President Wiggins indicated that an updated schedule would be distributed to everyone and encouraged the directors to submit the complete site visit questionnaires in advance of the visit.

Tri County Sickle Cell Services: Mr. Warren reported that he and Mr. Arrington have been unsuccessful in speaking with Senator Stewart about creating a Chapter or satellite presence in the former Tri County Chapter service area and he would keep the Commission advised of further developments.

IX. New Business

ADPH Newborn Screening Report: Ms. La'Quisha Banks requested that the CBOs submit to her information on secondary contacts at the Chapters. She reported on the Newborn Screening Conference that was scheduled on October 2, 2026 in Prattville, AL.

X. Other Business and Announcements

Next Commission Meeting: President Wiggins reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting of the Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at the Commission's office in Montgomery.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business, and President Wiggins adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah J. Wiggins
Commission President

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

/rr KR *Minutes Approved by the Commission on* May 5, 2026