ALABAMA SICKLE CELL OVERSIGHT AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

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MINUTES
May 5, 2026

Presiding: Ms. Leah J. Wiggins
Called to Order: 11:04 A.M.
Quorum: 11:14 a.m.
Adjourned: 12:29 P.M.

Members Participating
Ms. Leah J. Wiggins, (President)
Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien (Vice President)
Ms. Linda Garrett (Secretary/Treasurer attending virtually)
Mr. James Belton
Dr. Jacqueline Williams
Ms. Janet Martin (virtual)
Ms. Tokie Dunn (virtual)
Dr. Shaniqua Anum

Members Absent
Dr. Katisha Vance
Ms. Jennifer Harris
Dr. Julie Kanter

Others Present
Mr. Keith Warren, Executive Director
Ms. Renee' Reames, recording secretary
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. Monica Mason, Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Dr. LaMonica Herron-McCoy, West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. La'Quisha Moore Banks, ADPH Newborn Screening
Ms. Rachael Jones, R.N., ADPH Newborn Screening Follow-up Division
Ms. Carolyn Bern, ADPH Director of Governmental & Community Affairs
Ms. Latisha Kennebrew, ADPH Director of Community Affairs
Mr. Boone Kinard, ADPH Director of Legislative & External Affairs

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Sickle Cell Oversight and Regulatory Commission met on Tuesday, May 5, 2026. The meeting was held at the Commission's office, 603 Interstate Park Drive in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was called to order at 11:04a.m. by Ms. Leah Wiggins, Commission President.

Mr. Warren conducted the roll call of members at 11:14 a.m. and indicated that a quorum of the Commissioners was present to conduct business. President Wiggins welcomed the Commissioners and guests from the Sickle Cell Chapters and Alabama Department of Public Health.

CBO Reports

President Wiggins called for Sickle Cell community-based organization (CBO) reports pending the presences of a quorum. Reports were provided by the following directors: Mr. Arrington for Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, Mr. Alfred for Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter (summary available in the Commission's Official Book of Minutes), Ms. VanDiver for Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter, Mr. Johnson for Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, and Dr. Herron-McCoy for West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter. Mr. Arrington indicated that Ms. Thompson of the North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter was out of town attending an advocacy conference in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Johnson introduced Ms. Monica Mason, new Executive Director of the Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter.

Oath of Office – New Commissioner

Mr. Warren administered the oath of office to new Commission Dr. Shaniqua Johnson Anum (copy available in the Commission's Official Book of Minutes). Dr. Anum commented on her professional background and appointment to the Commission representing Children's Hospital of Alabama.

II. Approval of Agenda

President Wiggins presented the agenda for May 5, 2026 meeting for the Commissioners' approval.

ACTION: There were no other changes to the agenda and the agenda was adopted by common consent of the Commissioners (copy available in the Commission's Official Book of Minutes).

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Wiggins presented the minutes from the February 10, 2026 regular Commission meeting.

ACTION: The February meeting minutes were approved by common consent of the Commissioners (copy available in the Commission's Official Book of Minutes).

IV. Executive Director Report

Mr. Warren reported that, based on the previous action of the Commission, the portion of unspent Commission funds would be disbursed to the CBOs. The total sum to be disbursed was $35,000, with an additional $29,000 allocated to the Advocacy Committee.

Mr. Warren also reported that a new Board Training Act was approved by the Governor, Act 2026-160, that would be effective October 1, 2026 (excerpts of the Act available in the Commission's Official Book of Minutes).

He reminded the Commissioners that Statement of Economic Interest (SEI), filed with the Alabama Ethics Commission, was due April 30, 2026 and asked the Commissioners to send him an email indicating that they had completed the SEI for calendar year 2025.

Mr. Warren reported that Smith Warren employees were transitioning to State employment as employees of the Alabama Security Regulatory Board and Smith Warren was ceasing management services of State boards and commissions. He indicated that an Inter-Agency Agreement between the Commission and the Alabama Security Regulatory Board would be presented later in the meeting.

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 indicated that the CBO reports were presented earlier in the meeting.

VII Committee Reports

CBO Standardized Core Education Committee: Mr. Arrington reported that the CBO Standardize Core Education Committee would meeting prior to the next meeting and would have a report at the August Commission meeting.

Performance Goals Committee: President Wiggins reported that Dr. Kanter was not available and she had no report from the Performance Goals Committee.

Advocacy Committee: Ms. Dunn reported that the Advocacy Committee had no report at this time and the Committee would meet prior to the next meeting and prepare a report.

Blood Utilization Committee: Dr. Pack-Mabien reported that the Blood Utilization Committee was waiting for data from the blood banks in Alabama and she had no report at this time.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Commission Transition to ADPH: President Wiggins reported on the two meetings that she attended with representatives of the Alabama Department of Public Health (ADPH) to discuss the Commission transitioning to the ADPH Office of Community Affairs. She introduced Ms. Carolyn Bern, ADPH Director of Governmental & Community Affairs, Ms. Latisha Kennebrew, ADPH Director of Community Affairs, and Mr. Boone Kinard, ADPH Director of Legislative & External Affairs. Ms. Bern indicated that she would be working with Mr. Warren on the six areas to include finance, legal, space, administrative support, furniture and supplies, and IT support.

2026 Site Visit Reports: President Wiggins reviewed the 2026 site visit schedule. Ms. VanDiver confirmed the Greater Montgomery Chapter site visit for July 15, 2026. President Wiggins indicated that the July site visit would complete the 2026 reviews. President Wiggins indicated that travel reimbursement was authorized in the Commission's statute for the Commissioners serving on the site visit team and the Commission's Legal Counsel had advised that the Commission funds could not be used to reimburse CBO staff travel.

Update on Tri County Sickle Cell: Mr. Warren reported that he had been unsuccessful in reaching Senator Stewart to discuss the Tri County Sickle Chapter (TCSC) that had closed several years ago and whether there had been any interest in reconstituting the Chapter of the same name. Mr. Warren reminded the Commission that Greater Montgomery and Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapters continued to serve the seven counties of TCSC.

Update on Sickle Cell Specialty License Plate Design: Mr. Warren commented on previous discussions concerning changes in the design of the Sickle Cell Specialty License Plate and requests for the license plate's original design. He indicated that he had no additional information through the State Comptroller's office on how to go forth with the request and asked ADPH representatives to assist the Commission in this matter.

IX. New Business

ADPH Newborn Screening Report: Ms. Banks introduced Ms. Rachael Jones, R.N., Newborn Screening Follow-Up Division. Ms. Banks reported that Newborn Screening Symposium was scheduled October 2, 2026 at the Marriott at Capitol Hill in Prattville.

X. Other Business and Announcements

2025 Performance Goals: Dr. Pack-Mabien inquired about the 4th quarter Performance Goals report that indicated the Centers held 4 forum with 151 medical related staff attending. She inquired about Johnson Haynes, Jr., MD Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center's totals services in this category. Mr. Warren indicated that he would review this matter further with Dr. Pack-Mabien.

On-boarding of new CBO Staff and Commission Activities Orientation: Mr. Arrington offered to assist the CBOs with the on-boarding process.

Next Commission Meeting: President Wiggins reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting of the Commission was scheduled on Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at the Commission's office in Montgomery.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business, and President Wiggins adjourned the meeting at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah J. Wiggins
Commission President

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

/rr *Minutes Approved by the Commission on* August 11, 2026