ALABAMA SICKLE CELL OVERSIGHT AND REGULATORY COMMISSION

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MINUTES
October 21, 2025

Presiding: Ms. Leah J. Wiggins
Called to Order: 11:00 A.M.
Adjourned: 12:23 P.M.

Members Participating
Ms. Leah J. Wiggins, (President)
Dr. Ardie Pack-Mabien (Vice President)
Ms. Linda Garrett (Secretary/Treasurer)
Dr. Julie Kanter
Ms. Janet Martin (virtual)
Dr. Katisha Vance
Ms. Jennifer Harris (virtual)

Members Absent
Dr. Jacqueline Williams
Mr. James Belton
Dr. Lee M. Hilliard
Ms. Tokie Dunn

Others Present
Mr. Keith Warren, Executive Director
Ms. Sara Rogan, Legal Counsel
Ms. Renee' Reames, recording secretary
Mr. Cody Herring, Executive Assistant to Executive Director
Mr. James Arrington, Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Pam Thompson, North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter
Ms. Monica VanDiver, Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter
Mr. Gerald Alfred, Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter (virtual)
Dr. LaMonica Herron-McCoy, West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter (virtual)
Ms. Sophia Leverson, Central 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, October 21, 2025. The meeting was held at the Commission's office located at 2740 Zelda Road in the third floor conference room in Montgomery, AL. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 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 October 21, 2025, meeting for the Commissioners' approval and she amended the agenda to replace Old Business to Unfinished Business.
There were no other changes and the amended agenda was adopted by common consent of the Commissioners.

III. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

President Wiggins presented the minutes from the May 20, 2025 meeting for the Commission's approval and requested that the report by Mr. Warren concerning reimbursement to Commissioners for mileage at site visits be amended and include the federal rate reimbursement currently at 70 cents per mile.
There were no objections by the Commissioners and the amended May meeting minutes were approved by common consent of the Commissioners.

IV. Executive Director Report

Mr. Warren introduced his executive assistant, Mr. Cody Herring. He reported that allocations of Sickle Cell funds were monitored by Ms. Nancy Ford, Director of Accounting at Smith Warren. He asked the directors of the chapters and centers to notify him if they would like to register to have allocations funds electronically deposited monthly.

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 Community-based Organization (CBO) reports.

Mobile Sickle Cell Chapter: Mr. Alfred commented on the mission of the Mobile Chapter and reported on the number of services provided during the last quarter. He also reported that the 2026 Counselor Education Training was scheduled April 6-9, 2026 and November 9-12, 2026 in Mobile. He commented on the 2025 Shine The Light UNGALA event, community health intern program, and activities held in cooperation with the Johnson Haynes, Jr., MD Comprehensive Sickle Cell Center. Mr. Alfred was complimented by the Commissioners regarding the national recognition by SCDAA's of the Mobile Chapter, along with the community health worker award for Ms. Stone, a Chapter employee.

West Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. McCoy reported on fundraising and awareness activities and commented on the use of grant funds received from Novo Nordisk pharmaceutical company.

Central Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. Leverson reported that the Chapter became fully staffed in September and reported on the number of services provided. She commented on Sickle Cell Awareness proclamation activities held in September and other activities sponsored by the Chapter.

Greater Montgomery Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. VanDiver reported on counseling and education services provided by the Chapter staff, along with community awareness activities and the 2-day radio-thon held in September during Sickle Cell Awareness month and she commented on the Chapter's quarterly performance goals reports and presentations at the Commission meetings to provide accountability.

Mr. Warren indicated that he would provide a copy of the year-end performance goals report to the Commission, which could be referenced when speaking with legislators.

North Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Ms. Thompson reported on a presentation and fund-raising event honoring prior employees, long with walkathon supported by attendees from three counties. She reported on her attendance at events held in the state to support the activities sponsored by other Chapters in promoting sickle cell awareness.

Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter: Mr. Arrington also reported on traveling and participating in events sponsored by other Chapters. He commented on the transportation grant from UAB and Pfizer pharmaceutical company. He reported on having attended the national SCDAA annual meeting and complimented Dr. Julie Kanter on her presentation at the annual meeting. He also reported on working with Troy University's community health worker interns. Mr. Arrington gave a special acknowledgement to Ms. Lillian Thompson, a volunteer at the Southeast Alabama Sickle Cell Chapter, who passed away in August at the age of 105-year old.

President Wiggins indicated that a written report from the Chapter Directors in advance of the Commission meetings would be appreciated.

Discussion of Sickle Cell Petition: The Commission discussed Ms. Leverson's inquiry about any existing petition advocating for services and awareness of sickle cell disease. President Wiggins indicated that the matter would be referred to the Advocacy Committee.

VII Committee Reports

CBO Standardized Core Education Committee: Mr. Arrington reported that the CBO Standardize Core Education Committee planned to meet about condensing the CBO core education material into one uniform educational program. Dr. Kanter recommended an ex-officio member, such as the UAB pediatrician, be added to the Committee, along Dr. Hilliard if available, and the President Wiggins indicated that she would serve on the Committee as well.

Performance Goals Committee: Dr. Kanter indicated that the Performance Goals Committee would meet after receiving copies of the year-end report of the goals. President Wiggins appointed Dr. Pack-Mabien to the Committee.

Advocacy Committee: President Wiggins reported that Ms. Dunn would transition to Advocacy Committee Chairperson, however, Ms. Dunn was not able to attend Commission meeting to provide an updated report on the Committee's activities. Mr. Arrington recommended that the Committee consider the public awareness campaign by the Mobile Chapter as a model. Dr. Kanter also mentioned the Networking California for Sickle Cell Care Initiative as a blueprint for advocacy and data collection. The Commission discussed establishing an advocacy day and President Wiggins asked Mr. Warren to work with the Committee to schedule a date in April to meet with legislators to promote sickle cell services.

Blood Utilization Committee: Dr. Pack-Mabien reported that she had not received copies of the Chapters' publications used during blood drives and reminded the Chapter Directors to submit copies to her for the Committee's review. Dr. Kanter indicated that she had plans to meet with representatives of Red Cross and LifeSouth and would inquire about obtaining any statistics that they had collected. President Wiggins appointed Dr. Vance to the Blood Utilization Committee.

VIII. Unfinished Business

Sunset Committee Update: Mr. Warren reported that the Sunset Committee had voted on a four-year continuance of the Commission and also recommended that the Commission be merged into the Department of Public Health (ADPH). The Commission discussed meeting with Senator Coleman-Madison about the transition to ADPH, which would terminate the services provided to the Commission by Smith Warren Management Services, when the Commission became part of State government. Ms. Banks with ADPH Newborn Screening Program commented on the different units within ADPH and she was unclear on which unit the Commission would be assigned.

Update on Tri County Sickle Cell: Mr. Warren reported that he would continue discussions with Senator Stewart about creating a Chapter or establishing a satellite presence in the former Tri County Chapter service area. He reminded the Commission that the Tri County Chapter was named in the Commission's statute.

2025 Site Visit Schedule: President Wiggins commented on the established 5-year cycle to conduct site visits.
MOTION: Dr. Kanter made the motion to move the current site visits to 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pack-Mabien and approved by unanimous consent of the Commissioners.

Mr. Arrington reported that his Chapter had been visited in early 2020 and requested that the Southeast Alabama Chapter be scheduled in early 2026 calendar year.

President Wiggins asked Mr. Warren to survey members for participation on the site visit teams, to be comprised of 2 Commissioners and 1 CBO Director and to request proposed dates for each site visit. She asked that completed pre-site visit questionnaires be submitted by CBO and Center Directors by January 1, 2026, and a copy of the final site visit report from the prior site visit be provided to the Directors by November 7, 2025 and Performance Goals final report be provided to the Commission by November 17, 2025.

President Wiggins inquired further about the travel reimbursement to site visits and Mr. Warren explained that the funds had been budgeted for FY 2026, however, previously the Commission did not have the finances to reimburse for travel.

NEW BUSINESS
ADPH Newborn Screening Report: Ms. Banks asked the CBOs to encourage mothers to take their families to get tested for sickle cell trait. She also asked that the CBO Directors to submit to her a secondary contact person at the Chapters for reporting continuity. She reminded the Directors that brochures and other printed material at ADPH were available in other languages. She announced various meetings scheduled in the State concerning newborn screening.

Approval of 2026 Fiscal Year Budget: Mr. Warren presented a breakdown of funds from the Educational Fund in fiscal year 2026 and the percentage of allocation to Centers and Chapters.
MOTION: Dr. Vance made a motion to approve the FY 2026 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Pack-Mabien and approved by unanimous consent by the Commissioners.

Adoption of 2026 Commission Meeting Calendar: President Wiggins presented a list of dates in 2026 for the Commission to conduct business.
MOTION: Ms. Garrett made the motion to approve the meeting dates as presented: January 27, May 5, and August 11, 2026. The motion was seconded by Dr. Vance and approved by unanimous consent of the Commission.

XI. Other Business and Announcements

Honorees' Luncheon: President Wiggins reminded the Commission that a luncheon would be held immediately following the Commission meeting honoring prior Board members: Dr. Felicia Wilson, Ms. Eleanor Barnes and Ms. Katherine Long for their many years of service on the Commission.

Next Commission Meeting: President Wiggins reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting of the Commission would be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 at the Commission's office in Montgomery.

XI. Adjournment

There was no further business, and President Wiggins adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leah J. Wiggins
Commission President

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

/rr *Minutes Approved by the Commission on* February 10, 2026