



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for December 3, 2014, General Meeting, beginning at 10 am

Present: Board Members Lori Nester, Jennifer Foster, Ann Davis, Terri Rutz, Jill Davis, Terri Hazen.
Members Allyson Wessells, Georgette Hall, Lisa Davidson, Esther Gillett, Joan Uhrig, Starla Flautt.

Chair Lori Nester asked those present to introduce themselves going around the room. Jennifer explained the structure of the board according to the current bylaws. The structure of OBA overall was discussed. Lisa Davidson offered her help with identifying local/regional coalitions around Ohio.

Lori reviewed our 2014 goals and what has been accomplished. All goals have been addressed. The only completed goal was to amend the Articles of Incorporation in order to apply for tax-exempt status with the IRS, and to present those amended Articles to a vote of the membership, which was being accomplished at this meeting. Other goals in progress are using a USBC grant for capacity building of OBA, and participating in the Continuity of Care NICHQ/CDC project supporting Best Fed Beginnings hospitals in improving their Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI) Step 3 and Step 10 objectives.

Lori shared a planned information-gathering project intended to precede our participation in the Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative (OCDC) Chronic Disease Plan strategy to implement a program to encourage Ohio hospitals to work towards any BFHI Steps in improving their mother/baby care. The program was to be introduced December 4th at the Infant Mortality Summit. As a precedent to this program, OBA is proposing to gather information on statistics from the 108 Ohio hospitals that have maternity units, on what policies or programs they have in place that address BFHI Steps, and what parts of BFHI they would like to address through the new OCDC program. The OCDC program will be implemented through Ohio Department of Health and Ohio Hospital Association.

Jill Davis gave a report on her and Mary Burton's attendance at the USBC national conference in August, and the perspective she gained on Ohio relative to other coalitions, and how much work we have to do in comparison.

Jennifer gave a treasurer's report and reported the current balance to the group is \$6228.47 (as of 10/31/2014). She has prepared a financial report to use to compare to our budget and prepare for budget planning for the next year.

Lori introduced the amended Articles of Incorporation for the membership to vote on. Lori shared that the reason for amending the Articles is to incorporate requirements from the IRS that the Articles need to include in order for OBA to apply for tax-exempt status. The amended Articles were drafted with the help of the legal clinic for small businesses at Ohio Northern University, to ensure they met the requirements of the IRS and the state of Ohio. The board had voted to accept the amended Articles in November in order to present to the membership today. A motion was made and seconded to put the amended Articles to a vote of the membership. A paper ballot was distributed for voting, in order to

record that the membership voted on the Articles. The votes were cast and collected; the voting was unanimous in accepting the amended Articles, 12-0.

Terri Rutz gave a report on the Continuity of Care project in support of Best Fed Beginnings hospitals. She described the project that Cincinnati undertook to provide continuing education to home visit nurses, and having a speaker for those nurses. She did not have a report from Columbus or Cleveland, but the Akron area effort is revising its project to better meet the needs of the community and hospital by creating a video on breastfeeding. The project has received an extension from USBC until the spring of 2015. Discussion centered around clarifying who is funding this project (USBC) and that the local coalition/OBA managers are responsible for implementation, not the hospitals, as this is a support effort for them.

Lori explained what OBA is doing to develop our capacity as a non-profit coalition, using USBC funding to implement board training, as we hope to work with Tina Carderelli or another designated person to expand our understanding of the role of the coalition and how we can continue to develop our operational capacity. The consensus of the group was that to build involvement and momentum, we need to have a project or projects to move us forward. Gaining a workforce for projects from OBA membership was discussed, and the benefits of being an OBA member, the differences between OLCA as a professional advocacy group and OBA as a coalition working on a common cause were also discussed.

Lori shared with the group that OBA and OLCA were holding a networking session after this meeting in order to discuss what we can do to support the OCDC Chronic Disease Plan breastfeeding objective, including the planned program to encourage hospitals to pursue achieving progress towards any/some/all of the BFHI Steps. Details on this program, which may be modeled on the North Carolina Breastfeeding-Friendly Designation program, are to be released during the Infant Mortality Summit December 4th, 2014. Jennifer shared that progress had also been made on data collection improvement through the Ohio birth certificate program.

The group discussed areas of involvement for OBA, improving our working relationship with ODH, and plans for future meetings and work sessions. Members of the group shared plans for local coalitions to meet; in Cleveland the NE Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition will meet on January 13, 2015, and the Southwest Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition will meet on January 14, 2015. The group discussed what communication channels work best for OBA to keep in touch with members. No universal platform was agreed on, but that communication through several channels (email, Facebook, Yahoo) would probably continue to work best.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary
January 12, 2015