



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for June 5, 2015, General Meeting, beginning at 10 am

Present: Board Members Lori Nester, Jennifer Foster, Ann Davis, Terri Rutz, Terri Hazen. Members Bonnie Wykoff, Kayla Monfort, Christy Orr, Doris Knapke, Pat Bucknell.

Chair Lori Nester began the meeting with introductions. Those present introduced themselves and issues with breastfeeding policies and support in their respective organizations. Topics included difficulties with and incentives for introducing the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative, recognition or credit for those who had successfully implemented change going to other supervisors, response to the Ohio First Steps program, and experiences working in WIC clinics, hospitals, with other HCPs, and funding breastfeeding initiatives. One participant described challenges in the WIC Peer Counselor program where as a PC she was encouraged to increase her breastfeeding education and become an IBCLC, but found she could not advance in the WIC staff because of her PC status.

Participants also discussed how what we recommend to mothers might not translate well in various health care settings. An example was how recommending skin-to-skin with a cesarean birth bumps against hospital and MD policies, such as how surgical drapes are set by the anesthesiologist, instead of the obstetrician. Implementing changes at the doctor level involves not just one, but many colleagues.

Kayla Monfort of Activate Allen County described that system and participation and how leadership by non-medical groups such as the YMCA is making headway in her area. YMCA is also participating in the Ohio Chronic Disease Coalition (OCDC). Jennifer noted that through her participation in OCDC she is seeing many shifts in who is promoting breastfeeding. It was noted that connections among many groups is a huge priority in bringing about change for addressing chronic disease as well as breastfeeding support.

Ann Davis, OBA Secretary, gave the Secretary's report. OBA currently has 48 members, 2 supporting and 46 active. One is a nonprofit organization; the rest are all individuals. Ann distributed a survey to see what organizations members are involved in, and what connections we can make, as well as what skills OBA can find among members. Ann discussed how OBA communicates with members through email, the OBA website, Facebook, the OBA Yahoo chat list, and what other options are preferred. Development of the website was a focus, and Ann would like to utilize the members in helping to improve the information available on the website, especially in checking and updating the links in the Breastfeeding support and information pages. The group discussed having members being able to attend the Board conference calls, and how that would work. Ann shared with the members that OBA has attained 501c3 status with the IRS, and is now tax-exempt, and that OBA has amended its Articles of Incorporation in pursuit of that goal and is working on amending the OBA Bylaws and creating a Policies and Procedures Manual.

Another avenue of communication is the USBC Regional calls, which take place after the USBC bi-monthly webinars, which all members are invited to attend. Participation in the regional calls is through

5 phone lines allotted to each state coalition through the provided phone number from USBC. The Ohio Department of Health was helping OBA facilitate further participation by allowing use of their phone system to call into one of those phone lines, so that more people could share the use of one of the lines, but that option is no longer available to us. In general, not many OBA participants call in to the regional call, and a larger group would be more problematic for the facilitator, but OBA will be discussing how to best use this resource and how to invite members to participate in the regional calls.

Lori briefly discussed how USBC is set up as a coalition of organizations, and that each state coalition is a voting member of USBC, set up to extend USBC's reach into each state and tribal territory, and what OBA's relationship with USBC is.

Jennifer provided a treasury report, which is attached to these minutes. Jennifer shared the 2015 budget which had been approved by the OBA Board in December 2014.

The group discussed increasing membership in order to support OBA goals, and working with local coalitions to meet their needs and help them facilitate local projects. Lori introduced the topic of forming OBA standing committees to address 2015 goals, which include capacity building goals of bylaws revision, creation of the Policies and Procedures Manual, improving the OBA website, and improving revenue through membership; and program goals of supporting Ohio First Steps, participation in the Ohio Chronic Disease Coalition Plan objective strategies, and creating ways to support local coalitions.

The General Meeting was adjourned by the chair at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, OBA Secretary, on July 8, 2015.

Insert financial reports here