



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for April 12, 2017 Board Call beginning at 12 noon

Present: Lori Nester (Chair, R3 Rep), Ann Davis (secretary), Jennifer Foster (OLCA Rep), Mary Burton (R6 Rep), Jill Davis (R4 Rep), Libby Svoboda (R5 Rep).

Not Present: Terri Rutz (R1 Rep), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep), Stephanie Carroll (Treasurer, R7 Rep).

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the February 8 2017 board call were accepted with no changes, and will be posted on the website.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report was tabled since Stephanie was unable to attend.

Elections: Some confusion was expressed about the procedures and timetables for elections. Clarifications for questions by board members were shared. Since no timeframe was concerned during the last board meeting, elections have not opened yet. Mary has not received any nominations yet, but that is because no notice has yet gone out about nominations being accepted, since no timetable was finalized. A question was raised about an old requirement for having been a member for 6 months to be appointed to the board, which has been removed from the bylaws with the latest revision. Another question was about Members-at-Large representing organizations, which is clarified in the bylaws as member organizations qualifying for a Member-at-Large seat being able to nominate a candidate, who must be elected by the entire membership of OBA. Another question was how the vote will be conducted. Ann had shared information about electionrunner.com, and the possibility of conducting an electronic ballot with that website. Another question was how elections for regional representatives affected executive committee positions. Elections for executive committee officers will take place after Leadership Board elections. A question was raised about how much notice was needed to be given according to either bylaws or Ohio Revised Code, which needs to be clarified.

A letter will be sent to all OBA members by Ann as Secretary asking for nominations. Mary shared that she will nominate herself unless there are any new candidates for Region 6. Jill also had some candidates in mind to contact for Region 4. All board members were encouraged by Lori and Mary to contact possible candidates in their regions. Lori asked about new members, and Ann stated we have had 5-6 renewals in the past month, most board members, with only 2-3 new members or renewals who are not board members.

A new proposed timetable was set out, with nominations being opened after this meeting, and a message sent to all members asking for nominations by April 14th, with the nomination period closing at the end of the General Meeting on April 28th. Nominations will be accepted at the General Meeting. The Board will accept the nominations and approve the ballot at the General Meeting. Voting by electronic ballot will then open by April 30th, and close on May 16th, by the end of the day, or 11:59 pm. Executive Committee elections can then be held at the Leadership Board meeting on May 17th. Lori made a motion to instigate this new timetable, and Libby seconded. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Two options were suggested for the election, SurveyMonkey and ElectionRunner. Ann will look at these options further.

Libby shared happenings in the Northeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition. They are looking into electronic options for attending the meeting to increase attendance. They are drafting a letter to send to the local museums and other organizations that had received Nursing in Public education presentations, under the name of OBA, to ask for donations, and to offer continuing education to any organization interested. The NE Ohio Coalition has had good reception to their presentations using OBA NIP toolkit, and the response from the Cleveland History Museum supporting breastfeeding in their facility has been strong. OBA is representing NE Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition financially, and NE OH Breastfeeding Coalition is providing local representation for OBA as a mutual partnership, and Lori expressed that OBA sincerely appreciates NE OH Breastfeeding Coalition's work on OBA's behalf.

Libby also shared questions that were raised for education of childcare facilities about breastfeeding, during the NE Ohio coalition meeting. These three questions were asked to be included in educational efforts: handling breastmilk properly, feeding protocols for breastfed babies such as paced feeding, and feeding older babies breastmilk, especially over 1 year of age.

Jennifer shared updates from Ohio Department of Health and Ohio First Steps efforts. The application period for new participants in Ohio First Steps closed on April 1 2017. Some new hospitals have applied for the program, and some hospitals have applied for additional steps. The list of hospitals in the current year program will likely be released in May. Because the Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative has been disbanded, ODH is looking to continue the efforts of the breastfeeding workgroup under the auspices of the Ohio Early Childhood Health Network, which is an organization formed by ODH, and the authority for which isn't clear to us, but seems to be responsible to ODH. Other projects under the breastfeeding workgroup are the 24 hour hotline for breastfeeding, a childcare education project, a group on underserved populations, and a fatherhood support cohort, as well as First Steps. Jennifer is taking the names of any interested OBA members to participate in any of these projects to help further the breastfeeding objective in the Ohio Plan to Prevent and Reduce Chronic Disease 2014-2018. The breastfeeding workgroup will have monthly calls where members can report back about what is going on within their own organizations and agencies, and how we can support each other.

The agenda and format for the General Meeting on April 28th was discussed. It was decided, based on input from Chris Smith at Mothers' Milk Bank, to conduct tours from 11 am to 12 pm, then have a networking lunch open to all, and then hold the General Meeting from 1-3 pm, with a presentation by Chris again at 3 pm. Ann will update the information on the event posted on Facebook. Lori will finalize the agenda of topics to be covered, including the election, to be distributed to OBA members.

Lori has information on accessing the USBC database for grant seeking coalitions, if anyone is interested in following up on that resource for grant-based funding and applications. Lori is continuing to clarify our role as a nonprofit with the ONU Law Clinic.

Nationwide Hospital is hosting a perinatal conference on May 17th-19th, and has asked OBA about exhibiting at the event. Plans were not finalized at this time, as there is a board call scheduled for the same day. We would also need the fee waived for the event, and Lori has not heard back about that question.

Supporting the Esali Birth 5/10K Mothers' Day race was discussed, but more information was sought re: what the funds were to be used for, and Lori will seek more information from Danielle Bergun. This donation would not come from OBA funds, but rather be donated on behalf of OBA to the effort. Danielle hosts a regular breastfeeding café in Parkersburg WVA, which is available to Ohio residents right across the Ohio River, and is a source of breastfeeding support in an area without any other support in SE Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary, on May 16th, 2017.