



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for December 13, 2017 Board Call beginning at 12 noon

Present: Jennifer Foster (Chair, OLCA Rep), Lori Nester (Treasurer, R3 Rep), Michelle Catersino (R4 Rep), Ann Davis (LLLOH Rep, Secretary), Mary Burton (Vice Chair, R6 Rep), Libby Svoboda (R5 Rep).

Not Present: Debbi Smith-Moore (ABN Rep), Terri Rutz (R1 Rep), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep), Stephanie Carroll (R7 Rep).

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the November 8 2017 meeting were approved and will be posted to the website. A discussion about the purpose and intent of reports was held, and how to include them in either the minutes or agenda. Jennifer asked for reports to be submitted in advance if someone cannot attend, and also if there will need to be discussion during the board meeting. Any reports can also be forwarded to Ann to be included in the minutes. Ann also suggested that time-sensitive announcements should be forwarded to Ann to be posted to the OBA Facebook page instead of simply being included in the minutes which may not be widely seen nor in a timely manner.

Treasurer Report: Lori is making progress on reconciliation of the accounts, and a report will be forwarded to the board. Jennifer has a current treasurer report that needs a couple of corrections. Decisions on handling of remaining grant money is an issue still being investigated.

Committee Task Force Reports

Childcare (Ann): Jennifer attended the OECHN meeting, and met 2 people at the meeting who are interested in being partners or resources for our work. One new contact may be a resource as a pilot site in NE Ohio, and Libby and Jennifer will dialogue with that contact to see how they can work together. Perhaps the NE Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition can be a liaison to the project.

First Steps (Jennifer): New hospitals who have been accepted in the new round include Premier network hospitals in SW Ohio, and University Hospital system-wide. UH Elyria is set up to become Baby-Friendly as well. UH Elyria was a participant in the EMPower program. It was asked if the EMPower program would be continued in any form, no information was known about that.

Nursing In Public (Ann): Ann summarized OBA's contact with the Children's Museum of Cleveland, following up on an email inquiry from a family who had found their provided facility for breastfeeding to be less than adequate, and wanted to see some change on the part of the museum. In contacting the museum, OBA was satisfied that they were acting in good faith, aware of the issue, and taking action in measure with their resources. The person who contacted OBA wanted to see immediate change in the facility, and was less than satisfied with the outcome, but happy that there was follow-up from OBA. She may initiate local petitioning to help facilitate faster change. The board discussed forming a communications policy based on how this incident was handled, and Ann will write up a draft policy for the PPM work.

Employment: Based on a previous discussion, Jennifer asked if the board wanted to form a committee or task force with a focus on employment issues and breastfeeding. Libby's NE Ohio coalition is drafting a possible award project focusing on businesses that could focus on employee support and public breastfeeding policies. Jennifer will leave the topic for future consideration as NE OH Breastfeeding Coalition makes progress. Lori will also be following up with the Ohio Small Business office about collaborating with them to provide breastfeeding information to businesses, as an outreach of her collaboration with Activate Allen County.

OLCA representation: Jennifer and Libby are still working on the draft for Breastfest to explain about breastfeeding organizations in Ohio.

Database: It was suggested that gathering updates at Breastfest, and spreading information about the database there, may be a good way to improve the data and the use of the database. Lori will have her QR Code link available. This project also needs to have a formal committee or task force to be sure that it gets follow-up.

Policy and Procedures Manual: A working meeting for PPM drafting will be set up in the near future. Google Docs folder for OBA PPM work is <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9dtLtGXA7-7NNGIGODRhbWNETG8>

General Meeting: Jennifer and Lori will work together to find a date and location for the next General Meeting, hopefully to be able to publicize at Breastfest.

Board Calls: Jennifer is still working to find a better way to be able to have effective calls that more members can participate in, and is seeking suggestions for how to improve board call participation. Some suggestions were to hold quarterly meetings that were longer, or to occasionally hold calls in the evening. Board members would like to open phone calls to members to participate in as well. Other methods for participation, such as video conferencing tools were also considered.

Regional Reports/Local Coalitions/ Members at Large:

Region 1: no report

Region 2: no report

Region 3: no report

Region 4: no report

Region 5: no report

Region 6: no report

Region 7: no report

Appalachian Breastfeeding Network: ABN currently is sporting 354 members, residing in almost all of the states with counties in the Appalachian area. We continue to grow, and anticipate many additional new memberships once advertising for the conference is made public. Planning for the 2018 ABN Conference is progressing well, with most speakers locked in, the agenda set, and the venue chosen. The conference will be held on October 12, 2018, at Burr Oak Lodge in Athens, Ohio. We are extremely excited about our topics! Our working theme is Taking Off the Rose-Colored Glasses, and it promises to be an emotional journey for all who attend. The ABN hotline, although currently not funded, is continuing to support breastfeeding women in the Appalachian region. We are hopeful that ODH will renew the grant and we will make a difference in the lives of these women who are so underserved.

LLL Ohio: no report

OLCA: Breastfest, March 16-17, 2018.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary, on February 13, 2018.