



## **Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health***

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Meeting Minutes for December 9, 2015 Board Call beginning at 12 noon

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

Excused: Terri Rutz (R1 Rep), Stephanie Carroll (R7 Rep), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep).

Approval of Minutes: The meeting minutes for the November 13 Board Meeting were approved with a correction to the roster of attending board members, as Mary was not present, but Libby was present. There being no other changes, the minutes were accepted with this correction, and will be posted to the OBA website.

Treasurer's Report: No official report this meeting; no changes in the bank account status.

Jennifer spoke about the Ban the Bags award being presented under the umbrella of the Ohio First Steps program. This is a 'best practices' award for not giving out formula samples or coupons. Doing a census for the verification process might involve OBA volunteers. More information about how OBA might be involved will be forthcoming. Hospitals will be applying for this award. Hospitals who are applying for the First Steps recognition are listed on the Ohio First Steps website, and those are hospitals who should be notified about the Ban the Bags award as well. Hospitals in this program can use some encouragement to see what they can do to qualify for the awards, and in some cases, how close they are to meeting the standards. Make-up dates for the skin to skin training are available in January, and are being held for hospitals who did not attend the first sets of training sessions. Ann asked if we can put together some scripts or questions to ask to facilitate our contacts with hospitals. OBA's name does appear on the certificate for the Ban the Bags award. The Ohio First Steps people are using their brand to add other certificates or recognitions under their umbrella rather than starting new programs that would take longer to be approved. The long term goal is to improve the breastfeeding rates at the 6 month mark, including breastfeeding support for working mothers. One item being evaluated is the program ODH used to administer for workplace recognition of employers who supported breastfeeding for employees. That is being looked at to be resurrected, but that is unsure at this time. It might be a program that OBA can take up. A potential nominee might be the Montgomery County Jobs Center and Sheriff's office after their positive actions after the September NIP incident. Recognizing medical/health settings that promote breastfeeding would be one area of focus that could be addressed. Ann noted that an effective recognition program needs an effective publicity component that would motivate potential nominees to participate and reach for the award and recognition. Having the higher state level agencies such as ODH and OHA is a plus for encouraging participation.

Jennifer stated her intention to not run for treasurer in the spring, and is looking for a board member to step and replace her, and to be prepared for that change. Jennifer wanted to be sure that any bylaws changes didn't stand in the way of other board members being nominated, and the current bylaws do not put a restriction on who can serve as treasurer, so any current board member can serve as treasurer. The board discussed the process of electing new officers, and if that election should be

bumped up so that new officers can have an orientation period before taking office at the same time as in past years, in May; possibly moving officer elections to February might facilitate orientation. Possibilities for sharing treasury responsibilities were discussed. It was noted that how to handle officer transitions is a topic that needs to be included in the Policies and Procedures Manual. How to pull in other members for positions was discussed, as some members are concerned about how a few people carry the burden of work for OBA. It was suggested to look at other models of boards that pull in more people who are eligible for jobs and do not have dual responsibilities.

Completing the bylaws revisions was discussed. Lori will send the current revision to the ONU intern in January. She needs a fresh copy from Ann in order to send that to their law clinic intern. Ann will get her a copy of that for that purpose.

Coordinating responses to nursing in public incidents with WIC and ODH was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps we could form a committee to address these incidents and send out an invitation to join to WIC and ODH representatives. Lori shared that WIC is beginning to look at a campaign to educate about nursing in public, and perhaps OBA might be able to help train others to educate about how to train staff on NIP. Since WIC is just beginning to think on this, OBA can take a lead on setting up a project and involve WIC and/or ODH as this proceeds.

Lori is working on a newsletter for OBA to send out to members and coalitions, soliciting participation and feedback from recipients. She will be sharing that information with the board when ready.

Lori has contacted Tina about participating in an event in the spring for OBA, she has not heard back from her yet.

The USBC regional call system was discussed. WIC and/or ODH involvement in the regional call meeting was discussed; it was noted that the ODH system is probably no longer available to us. Ann noted that USBC is directing those interested to contact their local coalition about the regional call meeting, and that OBA needs to be prepared for that possibility, and how to share participation. Lori noted that ODH may be stepping back from USBC involvement, which is a puzzle that should be addressed. Lori will make some contact with ODH about this. Ann wondered if we should have a meeting with ODH about USBC participation. Lori suggested that the WIC office is who is pulling back because of staffing concerns. There have been several staff changes in ODH and WIC breastfeeding support. State agency participation in USBC should be clarified. In the past, a WIC staffer has been included as a USBC DCS; it is not known if that is still the case. Lori will ask more about the relationship with USBC.

The Continuity of Care project has transitioned to the EMPOWER campaign sponsored by the CDC as a way to promote BFHI practices in hospitals nationally. Ohio hospitals are involved in the EMPOWER program, including Akron General, University Hospital Elyria and others. There is a NACCHO grant available for minority support groups to those hospitals participating, working with WIC, and UH has applied for one. Libby reported that the University Hospitals system has added maternity units in several hospitals that they have recently brought into their system.

Jill asked about the resources for the Columbus Driving Park support group, which is an LLL Group that is including IBCLC and OBA participation and support. Jill will provide a list of needs for the group that OBA can help fulfill with the Continuity of Care funding that was to go to Doctors' Hospital but that was not used, and instead will be used to provide community support in the Columbus area through the Driving Park LLL Group. Lori is rechecking that this use is ok with USBC, but OBA is committed to supporting the

group. Jill listed some resource books that would be useful to the Leaders and group. Ann noted that new LLL Groups also get a \$100 grant from LLL Ohio.

Mary asked about current LLL information, and Ann shared that referencing the LLL Ohio website gives the most current information: [www.lloho.org](http://www.lloho.org). Having a resource for all local community support groups would be useful; however having paper references can be problematic when the information is not kept fresh. Some local coalitions publish a regional directory like this; Miami Valley Breastfeeding Coalition is one example. Collecting local resources to publish on the OBA website is an idea supported by board members and that should be facilitated.

Lori is working on a draft for business cards, and will share those soon, as well as a card with breastfeeding in public law information on it.

Planning a coalition general meeting in the spring was discussed. Lori would like to facilitate sharing of resources and information across regional coalitions and within each region. We need a location for this event, and Lori is looking into some, but suggestions are welcome.

Libby and Jennifer did a Baby Friendly presentation for the NW Ohio Lactation Network meeting, which was very helpful to those considering BFHI or Ohio First Steps, in getting tips to move forward. It was suggested that OBA might be able to facilitate a summit for hospitals looking to participate in programs that promote BFHI practices.

The next board call will be January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary, January 11, 2016.