



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

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Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2014, General Meeting, beginning at 10:30 am

Present: Sylvia Ellison, Board Chair, Jennifer Foster, Treasurer, Ann Davis, Secretary, Terri Hazen, R5 Representative, Lori Nester, R3 Representative, Terri Rutz, R1 Representative, Mary Burton, R6 Representative; Members Judy McCurdy, Georgette Hall, Jill Davis, Nancy Howe; Guests Linda Barrett, Geneva Carnahan.

Chair Sylvia Ellison opened the meeting by asking each person to introduce themselves. Sylvia gave a brief overview of OBA, our mission, objectives, board members, regional map for representatives, executive officers, what was accomplished in the past year, including acting as subcontractor for USBC to help Best-fed Beginning hospitals in Ohio fulfill Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative Steps 3 and 10, and how interested members and guests can get involved. In recruiting more volunteers for OBA, Board Member and R5 Representative Terri Hazen suggested that she bring OBA information to the table presentations held during OLCA's Breastfest the next day.

The discussion turned to the regional map, and what the origins of different maps in use around Ohio for different purposes (WIC, Perinatal, etc) have been. Where other maps incorporate OBA Region 7 into other regions, OBA split the southeast corner of Ohio out as too disparate to incorporate into the priorities of a major urban area like Columbus or Cincinnati. The idea of representation is that the regional rep would ideally be able to be familiar with different needs across the region in order to bring those needs back to the OBA Board. Requirements for Regional Representatives were discussed: attending board meetings, engaging with stakeholders and OBA members in their region, holding regional meetings, working on committees and/or projects.

Membership and recruitment was discussed. Currently OBA has 20 active members, and is looking to improve membership numbers in 2014. Some new and renewing memberships were received during the General Meeting.

Interest in the Continuity of Care Project to support Best-Fed Beginning hospitals was high. Terri Rutz was to share her workplan with interested parties attending.

Regional coalitions were discussed, and those present shared what they knew about local coalitions in their area. Judy McCurdy shared about Firelands Coalition in Erie County, and several other known coalitions were mentioned in northeast Ohio. OBA is looking to compile a

directory of local coalitions around Ohio. Judy suggested that regional meetings during OLCA's Breastfest were a good time to ask further about local coalitions.

Lori Nester shared about the work the board is engaged with to build OBA capacity, and to work towards 501(c) (3) tax exempt status, and how she is engaging the law clinic at Ohio Northern University towards legal review of the work ongoing.

Nancy Howe suggested brainstorming sessions to discover other organizations and individuals that should be involved in OBA, as OBA needs workers as well as representation for regions. It was noted that in projects that are started up for breastfeeding support, objectives and strategies don't always match community needs, and local coalitions can help bring local needs into better focus for those projects. OBA can play a role in better communicating local needs to organizations like Ohio Department of Health, for instance.

The parties gathered agreed that a name change was not needed, and that actions over words were more important in building the reputation of OBA.

Mary Burton, R6 Representative, asked if we can gather information on who attends what coalition at OLCA registration, to be used as those attending networked together during the event.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11: 35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary.