



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2017, General Meeting, Mothers' Milk Bank, Columbus, Ohio

Members: Robin Hoops, Julie Flesher, Amanda McPeck, Lisa Davidson.

Guests: Gwen West, Kendra Valtal

Leadership Board: Lori Nester (Chair, R3 Rep), Ann Davis (Secretary), Jill Davis (R4 Rep), Mary Burton (R6 Rep), Jennifer Foster (OLCA Rep), Stephanie Carroll (R7 Rep, Treasurer).

Chair Lori Nester opened the meeting with introductions round-robin. Ann gave a review of recent bylaws changes from the revisions voted in on November 18, 2016. The major changes include Leadership Board members being elected instead of appointed, a requirement for having been a member for six months in order to be elected to the Leadership Board being dropped, and stepping back from explicit support for the WHO Code to restricting membership to organizations and agencies who are not involved in production or marketing of artificial baby milk substitutes in order to include some organizations who support breastfeeding, but may violate the WHO Code, such as the AAP.

Lori reviewed projects underway and completed, including the creation of the Breastfeeding Services in Ohio database, available through the OBA website; OBA involvement in the Ohio Early Childhood Health Network breastfeeding workgroup, previously affiliated with the Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative, and working on implementing the breastfeeding objective and strategies from the Ohio Plan to Prevent and Reduce Chronic Disease 2014-2018, including the Ohio First Steps program; the creation of the Nursing in Public Toolkit and its use for presentations and education to organizations around Ohio on supporting families who breastfeed in public facilities; ongoing support of coalitions forming regionally around the state.

Before the beginning of the General Meeting, OBA board members Jennifer Foster, Lori Nester and Ann Davis participated in a conference call for the breastfeeding workgroup under the Ohio Early Childhood Health Network, reorganized from the Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative to continue under OECHN and the Ohio Department of Health. This workgroup is supporting the efforts of Ohio First Steps, and also projects addressing father support including Daddy Boot Camps, underserved populations including minority communities and populations affected by drug abuse, establishing a 24 hour breastfeeding medical hotline, and addressing issues of breastfeeding and childcare settings. Jennifer is co-chairing the breastfeeding workgroup with Lydia Furman. Jennifer, Lori and Ann shared the discussion from the call, especially focusing on recruiting members for the childcare cohort, and strategies to improve childcare facilities' knowledge and implementation of breastfeeding support strategies and policies. Any members interested in participating in any of the cohorts of the breastfeeding workgroup are welcome; please send your name and area of interest to Jennifer Foster via info@ohiobreastfeedingalliance.org. Some possible projects OBA may undertake are identifying childcare settings that are already doing well at supporting breastfeeding and recognizing them as well as seeking for them to mentor other facilities; doing meet and greets with daycare directors and staff, identifying already-established education programs for childcare centers and implementing presentations of those in Ohio. Re-implementation of

a program to recognize employers for their support of breastfeeding employees in their workplace was also a focus.

OBA means to encourage members to participate in the breastfeeding workgroup and to facilitate ways for people to work together between workgroup calls, where ideas and implementation will be reported back to the larger group. US Breastfeeding Committee communication tools in the Coalitions Communities part of their website is one available tool in facilitating work and communication.

Guest Kendra Valtal introduced her business, The Milk Mission, themilkmission.com, which aims to support working mothers by facilitating delivery of freshly pumped breastmilk to daycare facilities from working mothers of babies at those care centers. Kendra's novel business model is available in the Columbus and Cleveland areas.

Nominations for Elections was addressed by Lori and Nominations Chair Mary Burton. The Board made one addition to the elections positions, as it was proposed that the Appalachian Breastfeeding Network be offered a Member-at-Large seat on the OBA Leadership Board, to be added to the OLCA and La Leche League Members-at-Large, increasing the size of the board to ten members. A motion was made by Jennifer to include ABN as a Member-at-Large seat, seconded by Ann Davis. The motion was approved by a vote of 4-0, with one abstention by Stephanie Carroll, President of ABN.

Nominations were then presented and accepted by the Board. The unopposed nominees are as follows:
Debbi Smith-Moore for ABN Member-at-Large
Ann Davis for LLL Ohio Member-at-Large
Michelle Catersino for Region 4 Representative
Mary Burton for Region 6 Representative

No nominees were presented for Region 1 and Region 2, although the terms of those representatives have expired. The Board will need to address replacing those regional representatives in the near future.

The ballot for this election will be sent electronically to all members via electionrunner.com by Secretary Ann Davis. The election will conclude on May 16th, 2017.

Chris Smith, Director of Outreach for the OhioHealth Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio, concluded the meeting with a presentation on the Milk Bank and its work, which is providing invaluable nutrition to sick babies in Ohio hospitals.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary, on December 14, 2016