



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for November 18, 2016, General Meeting, Dublin, Ohio

Present: Lori Nester (Chair, R3 Rep), Ann Davis (Secretary), Jill Davis (R4 Rep).

Excused: Mary Burton (R6 Rep), Terri Rutz (R1 Rep), Jennifer Foster (OLCA Rep), Libby Svoboda (R5 Rep), Stephanie Carroll (R7 Rep, Treasurer), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep).

Members: Lisa Davidson, Laura Knisley

Lori opened the meeting by asking for updates from board officers and members. Ann shared that she has been answering inquiries from the website and Facebook page from families and individuals who have questions about workplace issues or nursing in public issues, referring them to online information at the USBC website and others, and answering their questions. OBA has not been asked to participate as a support organization for any complaints as we did in September 2015 in the Montgomery County NIP case, but have continued to provide backstage information and support for breastfeeding families encountering harassment or problems with these situations.

Lisa shared what the South East Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition has been doing. They held a retreat where the members brainstormed future goals. The group tagged education as one of their main initiatives going forward, as well as providing resources for help after a breastfeeding family leaves the hospital support system. They have been holding meetups and meet and greet events with speakers, and a luncheon to provide social platforms for members to network and support each other, following on Tina Cardarelli's recommendations to make coalition work fun. They will be holding a painting party as a fundraiser, and have used their funds raised through a bake sale to purchase a banner and window clings to distribute to businesses in SE Ohio cities. They will be holding a raffle and are looking to boost membership. They usually have 3-4 mothers as well as HCPs and LCs attend their meetings. Lisa noted that SEOBC had learned much from the June OBA workshop with Tina Cardarelli and was grateful for that opportunity and the information it provided. SEOBC use of OBA's 501c3 status for funding opportunities was also discussed.

Laura reported on her involvement with the updating of the Ohio State Health Improvement Project (www.astho.org/accreditation/ohio-state-health-improvement-plan/) and how breastfeeding is woven into its strategies and outcomes, most especially for infant mortality. The Ohio Chronic Disease Collaborative is not included in the work plan for this document. The new AAP sleep guidelines also should prompt reviews of ODH policies, although it is not known if that will take place. The OCDC chair is working to include breastfeeding as an across-the-board initiative important in multiple strategy areas.

Lori reported on the progress with the breastfeeding resource database, (now live at <http://www.ohiobreastfeedingalliance.org/database.html>) and did a demonstration for the attendees. She highlighted how information can be added to the database so that its reach for providing resources to Ohio families can increase. Future plans for the database include developing better search features, including to search by type of service; at the moment it only uses location. It was discussed that Ohio

First Steps has a resource guide (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/ofs/Resource-Guide.pdf>) however, this is intended for those hospitals and clinics working towards Ohio First Steps awards, not breastfeeding families.

OBA participation in the Ban the Bags project by Ohio First Steps was discussed, as we will likely participate again when the need to update this information comes around again. 51 hospitals were recognized in 2015 for reporting they are formula sample and marketing bag-free (<http://www.odh.ohio.gov/-/media/ODH/ASSETS/Files/cfhs/ofs/2016/2015-Bag-Free-Award-Winners.pdf?la=en>) OBA participated by helping to conduct the surveys for hospitals to report their policy on marketing of infant formula through sample bags. Laura shared that this survey and award will be repeated likely every 2 years, so hospitals will be surveyed again in early 2018 on their practices in 2017.

Laura requested if anyone has links to media reports on NIP incidents in Ohio, she would like to have the links for a presentation. Laura and Jennifer Foster are also doing a presentation at the Infant Mortality Summit in December titled "Having a Baby Ain't What it Used to Be." They will be sharing historical and cultural information on what recommendations surrounding birth and breastfeeding used to be given out by clinicians, in many cases not that long ago!

Ann presented the revisions to the bylaws that were first presented to the membership in June for discussion. After reviewing the proposed revisions, and making one change to Article IV, Section 9, paragraph B: Automatic Removal, to strike the partial phrase "and signing a statement supporting the WHO Code" the revisions to the bylaws were accepted by a vote of the membership. The new bylaws are posted on the OBA website under the "Meetings" tab. An issue that will be continued in discussions is representation of organizations vs. individuals in the coalition, especially as that affects voting.

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