



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for November 9, 2018, General Meeting,
Public Library, Westerville, Ohio

Members: Lisa Davidson, Stacy Notestine, Kavita Singh, Rachel Concitis.

Guests: Lakesha Williams

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

Attending Remotely: Libby Svoboda (R5 Rep), Misha Kemp (R7 Rep), Madison Omanhe, Heather Kristofski, Lauren Sommer, Betsy Buchanan.

Chair Jennifer Foster opened the meeting with introductions, and Treasurer Lori Nester gave a report on finances. Lisa Davidson gave a report from her coalition, Southeast Ohio Breastfeeding Coalition, and the support they are providing in their community. Lisa gave credit to Tina Carderelli's presentation at the OBA workshop in 2017 for inspiring the work they are doing, in holding events and gatherings in their community that educate and reinforce support for breastfeeding. They also host an annual retreat which energizes their membership. Their speaker events have been successful and educational, and they have received an OLCA award to create a calendar with breastfeeding photos that has been well-received. You can contact Lisa to order calendars, or check out the SEOBC Facebook page. SEOBC is looking for support for financial transactions from OBA, and Lisa and Lori will coordinate on that issue. SEOBC is also looking to create events that will draw in partners and fathers and support them, possibly through a partnership with Boot Camp for Dads. Lisa said that "networking has changed our community" and that finding each other and making connections is the basis of their success as a coalition. The idea of weaving a web of community keeps families from falling through the cracks. Breastfeeding rates seem to be improving in the SEOBC area anecdotally, and the area has some clinicians, but needs more. They would like to boost the number of CLC or CLS trainees working in the area, especially at WIC clinics. They would like for hospitals to extend their clinical reach into the community instead of staying inside hospital walls.

Lakesha Williams of Union Institute and University share that UiU is planning another breastfeeding conference, and is looking for speakers. UiU also has a milk drop on the campus for Mothers' Milk Bank of Ohio.

Ann Davis shared that the Greater Miami Valley Breastfeeding Coalition has published a new edition of a Regional Breastfeeding Services Directory, thanks to the hard work and effort of Carlene Nihizer at Dayton Children's Medical Center. This helps coalition members and breastfeeding support people across the region find and access services for clients. Dayton Children's supports the paper publication for the coalition.

Heather Kristofski reported that Clark County WIC, where she works, is moving forward with a breastfeeding support group, with the support of two women in her community, and is also providing support for families and mothers who have experienced trauma or are sexual abuse survivors.

Jennifer spoke to the issue of members being involved in working on projects for OBA, and informed the group that OBA is planning to start using MailChimp to keep in touch and coordinate opportunities for member participation in work for OBA projects. OBA is looking for members of a publicity committee to help with the communication effort; if interested please contact us at info@ohiobreastfeeding.org. OBA is also seeking members who are able to represent OBA at events as an exhibitor as a way of encouraging new membership and participation in OBA; anyone interested can also contact OBA regarding this. Ideally, having members involved in this effort across the state makes it easier for OBA to be represented at many events.

Jennifer shared new on OBA's efforts to start up a project to support breastfeeding in child care settings, which is being integrated into Ohio Early Childhood Health Network's reorganization and strategic planning. A goal of ODH is to improve the breastfeeding rates at 6 months and beyond, so a focus on child care settings may help support that goal. Ohio Department of Health is dedicating part of a Centers for Disease Control grant to this effort. They are working to create a breastfeeding support award for child care centers, and to provide policy creation support and education as a follow-on to the inclusion of a mandate for Ohio child care centers to have a breastfeeding policy. Lakesha shared that UuU students may be able to participate in this work as part of student projects that are required for their degree program. Rachel asked to be included on the work of the child care committee. Lori shared information from a presentation she has done on what USDA/Food and Nutrition Services guidelines are and how those are interpreted in child care centers. The group discussed different sources of information from projects across the nation.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm; thanks to all who attended.