



Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance – *Human Milk for Human Health*

Meeting Minutes for December 16, 2016 Board Call beginning at 12 noon

Present: Lori Nester (Chair, R3 Rep), Ann Davis (secretary), Jennifer Foster (OLCA Rep), Stephanie Carroll (Treasurer, R7 Rep), Jill Davis (R4 Rep).

Not Present: Terri Rutz (R1 Rep), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep), Libby Svoboda (R5 Rep), Mary Burton (R6 Rep).

Approval of Minutes: The minutes for the October 12 2016 board call were accepted with no changes, and will be posted on the website. The minutes for the November 18 2016 General Meeting were also accepted into the record and will be posted to the website.

Treasurer's Report: The transfer of treasurer's duties from Jennifer to Stephanie is still underway. Stephanie has paper access to the bank account, but not online access. Jennifer has made notes for the Policies and Procedures Manual to aid in a smoother transition. She also asked if we should consider a bank change given the problems that Huntington has had with the transfer, and to make sure that the treasurer has access to the bank. Stephanie is about 45 minutes from a Huntington branch, but also is not close to any other major Ohio bank, so online access is critical. Ann is working on completing the Ohio Attorney General financial statement forms, and will work to get copies of the questions asked to Stephanie for future reference in financial statements.

Bylaws: Since the approval of new bylaws, OBA needs to form and seat a nominating committee, in order to be prepared for elections of Leadership Board members this spring. It was suggested that a board member position be a permanent member of the nominating committee, and further suggested that the vice chair could play this role. Ann noted that we need to prepare to hold elections in April so that the new board can elect officers in May, consistent with current terms. It was suggested that an announcement be sent to the membership to request members for the nominating committee. Jennifer made a motion to appoint the vice chair a permanent member of the nominating committee, and Jill seconded. The intent is to have the vice chair be able to solicit members to help form the committee, which will be able to organize itself, elect its own leadership, and collect nominations from the OBA membership. Lori will check with Mary Burton, current vice chair, about this change and what support she may need for this process, since she was unable to attend this meeting. This discussion also touched on the need to put in place other standing committees for projects and ongoing needs. Methods for how the election will be conducted also need to be worked out in the near future.

Lori introduced the topic of organizing a spring General Meeting. She said that Chris Smith and the Ohio Mothers' Milk Bank has offered the possibility of hosting the meeting, and including a tour of the milk bank facilities. Possible dates for this meeting were discussed, but not decided on at this time, although April was targeted. Lori will pursue discussions with Chris. The regular meeting date for the monthly board meeting/conference call was also discussed, and Lori will send out a Doodle poll for that to board members.

Lori reported on the installation of the database on the OBA website. We need to expand the number and type of entries to make it a valuable resource, and to promote its availability as a way to support clinic efforts to implement BFHI Steps 3 and 10.

Jennifer reported on her presentation at the Ohio Infant Mortality Summit in December 2016. Along with Laura Knisley, she did a presentation on the historical changes in maternity practices. She also attended a presentation by Lydia Furman of University Hospitals on training community health workers to be certified lactation consultants, which seems to be very successful. Lori went to a presentation about training community health workers in the Cleveland area to be doulas and birth attendants. One concern that came up during the IMS was that a presenter on Daddy Boot Camps was asked about how babies are cared for during the lengthy boot camp course where babies are with dads/partners and separated from the breastfeeding parent, and the response was that the dad would simply give a bottle, indicating a casual attitude towards the importance of breastfeeding and breastfeeding support. Jennifer will follow up on finding out more about efforts to ensure Daddy Boot Camp volunteers are educated about the importance of supporting breastfeeding and accommodating breastfeeding during their boot camps. Jennifer and Lori stressed that supporting and expanding existing programs for breastfeeding in Ohio are more likely to have an impact on infant mortality than developing new efforts that may be disconnected from other similar efforts.

Ann reported on USBC's push to lobby Congress on how the ACA affects breastfeeding and that those provisions need to continue in any health care effort, and/or to support keeping the ACA. Spreading the word about the USBC efforts is important, and Ann is highlighting the USBC work on the OBA Facebook page. Ann urged others to help spread the word.

Stephanie reported on the successful efforts that the Appalachian Breastfeeding Network has had in garnering support and bringing together interested parties across the region to support breastfeeding in the Appalachian population. They are planning a conference and have a Ban the Bags candidate identified in the region.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary, November 8, 2016