



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

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Meeting Minutes for January 21, 2015, Board Conference Call, beginning at 12 pm

Present: Ann Davis (secretary), Lori Nester (Chair, R3 Rep), Jennifer Foster (Treasurer), Jill Davis (R4 Rep), Terri Rutz (R1 Rep). Libby Svoboda joined at 12:30 pm.

Not Present: Pam Edenfield (R6 Alternate), Mary Burton (R6 Rep), Sylvia Ellison (R2 Rep).

Approval of Minutes: The Meeting Minutes for the November 12 2014 Board Call and for the December 3 2014 General Meeting were presented for approval. No corrections were offered. Jennifer made a motion to accept both sets of minutes as written, and Terri Rutz seconded; the vote was unanimous to accept. The minutes will be posted to the website. Ann also reported the amended Articles of Incorporation have been sent to the Ohio Secretary of State, and uploaded to the Ohio Attorney General website. Ann also completed the financial report due to the AG office. The next required reporting is to let the AG know when we complete the IRS form 990 e-postcard. With the addition of several new memberships, OBA has over 40 members now.

Treasurer's Report: Jennifer submitted a treasurer's report, which is attached to these minutes, including the spending for the materials used at the Infant Mortality summit (nail files and postcards) and the December General Meeting. Jennifer noted she is tracking spending for the funding that is set aside for specific projects. Jennifer noted that the new members are all from Cincinnati Children's, and thanked Terri for recruiting new members who are also interested in volunteering and contributing to OBA. Jennifer asked the board to consider reopening the discussion to invite the Ohio AAP to join OBA and provide a representative for the Leadership Board. Jennifer asked the board to review her financial report, and there were no corrections to her statement. Jennifer also shared a proposed budget based on the prior year's spending and projected revenue from membership. The board reviewed the budget and briefly discussed how upcoming items could be categorized, for example: Breastfest display materials, or new project funding. Some spending is still occurring under capacity building, but we need to plan to include those items under our own funding in the future. The group discussed budgeting in general, what the purpose of the budget is, and how it can be amended as the year progresses. Inexpensive display options for Breastfest were briefly discussed. Lori made a motion to accept the proposed budget and the treasurer's report for November-December 2014, and Terri Rutz seconded. The budget was accepted by unanimous vote.

Chronic Disease Plan Update: Jennifer and Ann attended the meeting of all partners and members of the Chronic Disease Collaborative on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Laura Knisley of OLCA also attended and pointed out to the Objective 1.14 group that breastfeeding advocates should also be involved in other objectives, and made notes of where other objectives involve breastfeeding considerations, and that we should consider partnering on those objectives. The logo for the First Steps program was approved and is up on the website, and the program is moving forward. There is a letter going out to all the hospitals about the program and to identify a 'champion' from each hospital who would work on the First Steps program for each hospital. An online survey will be used to gauge progress, and a kick-off date towards the end of March will be instated. A webinar format will be used to introduce the program; it is being

finalized and set up. The group is also working with Sylvia Ellison/WSU Public Health and her formerly created survey on where hospitals are on the Ten Steps, so that survey will be uploaded and recreated for use in tracking hospital progress. Once this information is evaluated, our role as educators, support and guidance for hospitals will become more clear. Lori applauded the effort to evaluate the impact on breastfeeding of other objectives, and Jennifer stated that the involvement of ODH on all the objectives can help pull breastfeeding into the picture more easily.

Continuity of Care Project: Terri and Libby have been in touch on planning the project for Cleveland, and clarified funding questions for themselves and the hospitals with Emily Lindsey from USBC. Terri is working with UC Hospital now they are Baby-Friendly on how we can assist them with the available funding we have. She is waiting to hear from Esther Gillett and from Jennifer on needs for Columbus and Akron.

501(c)(3) application: Ann had done a brief look-over of what needs to be done to move forward on the IRS application, and we should be able to complete an EZ version of the application, which is much simpler than the long form. Ann had a checklist to review an organization's eligibility and readiness for the application which she completed, and gave her a good overview of what to do next. She has some questions for USBC about NTEE codes for OBA and other subjects relating to the application. With that information, she should be able to move forward with the application. The payment for the \$400 fee is online, so she and Jennifer will collaborate on setting that up. Lori shared about the call she, Ann and Jennifer had with Denae Heartfield from USBC, who has stepped into the coalition support position that Kinkini Bannerjee had, as Kinkini is taking on other responsibilities at USBC. We are being recommended for extended funding for capacity building; more info on that soon. USBC is revamping their website in terms of resources for coalitions online.

Upcoming events: January 27<sup>th</sup>, Greater Miami Valley Breastfeeding Coalition meeting, with speakers from pump companies. Lori will be attending that meeting.

Lori mentioned that OBA did sign the BMBFA petition to pressure Medolac into discussions over their proposed Detroit project. Ann mentioned that LLL USA also signed the petition.

Jennifer will submit the request for an exhibit space at Breastfest.

Member Meeting: a proposed date in late March was discussed. A possible location is the OhioHealth building where the Milk Bank is located. Other space proposals are welcome.

Libby asked about the proposed survey of facilities regarding Ten Steps progress, and she noted that ODH is also surveying hospitals in a similar vein. Jennifer suggested we hold off on our proposed survey and Lori concurred that we should wait until ODH has done theirs and see if it is still needed. The survey was an idea to get things started while we were waiting for more information on the First Steps program, but now looks like is not needed.

Jennifer asked that we add two items to our next agenda: adding more members at large to the Leadership Board, especially a representative from Ohio AAP; also when to hold elections, and when to continue bylaws changes discussions. Ann noted that she and Mary are the only remaining members of the Bylaws Committee. Holding a work session at Breastfest was proposed, working out timing is still unclear; possibly this could take place on Thursday evening. Prioritizing the next General Meeting is

important, in order to stay in compliance with current bylaws. Jennifer noted that it would be valuable to announce the date at Breastfest.

The meeting was adjourned by the chair with consent of all.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, Secretary  
February 8, 2015

**Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance  
Treasurer's Report November 2014**

Beginning Balance \$6228.47

Expenses

- Paypal \$5.01

Income

- Dues \$100.00 (Hazen, Walker, Deering, Brewer, Bucknell, Barrett, Rutz)

Ending Balance **\$6323.46 (checking account balance as of 11/30/14)**

(note: \$1280.58 OBA Funds, remainder USBC Subcontract)

Submitted by: Jennifer Foster, BSN, RN, IBCLC Treasurer  
Subject to Audit

**Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance  
Treasurer's Report December 2014**

Beginning Balance \$6323.46

Expenses

- 203.85 postcards OCPIM (Capacity funds)
- 438.20 nail files OCPIM (Capacity funds)

Income

- 10.00 dues
- 40.00 dues
- 47.05 dues paypal

Ending Balance **\$5778.46 (checking account balance as of 12/31/14)**

(note: \$1342.81 OBA Funds, remainder USBC Subcontract)

(note \$2985 Implementation, \$1450.65 Capacity balance)

Submitted by: Jennifer Foster, BSN, RN, IBCLC Treasurer      Subject to Audit

# Open Letter to Medolac Laboratories from Detroit Mothers

Posted on [January 12, 2015](#) by [Kiddada Green](#)

Elena Medo

Medolac Laboratories

305 SW Roserood Street, Suite B

Lake Oswego, OR 97035

## **RE: An Open Letter to Medolac Laboratories from Detroit Mothers**

Dear Ms. Medo,

As a group of mothers, community activists, and lawmakers in the greater Detroit area, we are writing to you in the spirit of open dialogue about your company's recent attempts to recruit African-American and low-income women in Detroit to sell their breast milk to your company, Medolac Laboratories.

We are troubled by your targeting of African-American mothers, and your focus on Detroit in particular. We are concerned that this initiative has neither thoroughly factored in the historical context of milk sharing nor the complex social and economic challenges facing Detroit families. It is also troubling that no community organizations serving or advocating for African-American breastfeeding families in Detroit have been consulted in the development of such a program that is meant to benefit those families.

Detroit's struggles, and those of its citizens, are well known at this point. Around the country, African-American women face unique economic hardships, and this is no less true in our city.<sup>[1]</sup> In addition, African American women have been impacted traumatically by historical commodification of our bodies. Given the economic incentives, we are deeply concerned that women will be coerced into diverting milk that they would otherwise feed their own babies. Research shows that exclusive breastfeeding for at least six months leads to significant health benefits for infants, fewer respiratory illnesses, gastrointestinal diseases and ear infections. The benefits for breastfeeding mothers include decreased risk of breast and ovarian cancers.<sup>[2]</sup> With Detroit's infant mortality rates currently double that of the rest of the state,<sup>[3]</sup> and rivaling that of some developing countries, our city's babies need mother's milk. We are writing to you publicly today in order to ask you to respond to our questions, and to engage with us in a discussion of your company's aims and objectives in recruiting African- American mothers in our city to participate in your for-profit milk-selling venture.

Our questions are as follows:

1. Why did your company decide to target Detroit, and specifically low-income African-American women within our city? Given the long history in our country of profiting off Black women's bodies, what steps are you taking to ensure that this process is not exploitative?
2. What representation from Detroit's African-American communities are part of this program's ongoing stewardship or organizational structure?
3. In your literature, you claim that for-profit milk collection will encourage women to breastfeed for longer. What credible data or research do you have to support that assertion?

4. What are your plans for the milk you collect through this endeavor? According to online sources, your company may have a stockpile of up to 1 million ounces of breast milk that has neither been shared nor sold. What is Medolac doing with the stockpiled human milk?
5. How does Medolac plan to ensure that collected milk benefits the 18% of infants born prematurely in our city?
6. What do you plan to charge hospitals for access to your product? How will you ensure that Detroit hospitals are able to access your product?
7. Do mothers pay income tax on the money you pay for their breast milk? How does this affect their take-home income?

We are eager for all mothers to breastfeed their children for as long as works for their families, but we are deeply concerned that targeting women within one of America's hardest hit urban centers is motivated by profit rather than concern about encouraging breastfeeding in our community.

We look forward to engaging in constructive and meaningful dialogue with you about the questions above. We stand ready to meet with you here in Detroit.

**CALLING ALL ADVOCATES. ARE YOU A COMMUNITY MEMBER OR ORGANIZATION THAT WANTS TO HOLD MEDOLAC ACCOUNTABLE? SHOW YOUR SUPPORT BY SIGNING ON TO THIS OPEN LETTER. The letter is now closed because Medolac retired their initiative. [Read more.](#)**

**SIGNED:**

Kiddada Green, Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association  
 Danielle Atkinson, Mothering Justice  
 Erika Geiss, State Representative (MI HD12)  
 Afrykayn Moon, President-Breastfeeding Mothers Unite  
 Acquanda Y. Stanford, University of Washington  
 Victoria Gensheimer Doula, Occupy Breastfeeding  
 Lavender Spirit, Birthing Blessings  
 Alia Harvey-Quinn, Community Educator and Organizer  
 Wilbert Small-Ausetcentet  
 Mark Dilley, AFT Michigan  
 Bianca Suarez, Graduate Student, University of California Berkeley  
 Michelle Martinez, SW Detroit  
 Gloria Rivera, IHM  
 Jarret Schlaff, New Work Field Street Collective  
 Marcia Lee, Detroit Area Restorative Justice Center  
 Anjanette Davenport Hatter, Harambee Care MIHP  
 Malik Yakini, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network  
 Anayah Sangodele-Ayoka, MomsRising  
 Marion Rice, Oregon Breastfeeding Coalition  
 Rachelle Leshteshen – Breastfeeding USA  
 Julie Hamilton – Health Children's Center for Breastfeeding  
 Katrina Pavlik – Breastfeed Chicago  
 Makeda Kamara – Imani Family Life Center  
 Sejal Fichadia – Nursing Women's Counsel  
 Mona Liza Hamlin – Breast for Baby Solutions  
 Felisha Floyd – Blactavist  
 The National Association of Professional and Peer Lactation Supporters of Color  
 Susan Johnson – Motherfed  
 Norma Ritter – Breastfeeding Matters  
 Danyelle Claxton – Community Doula  
 Edward Ramey, Brothers on the Porch  
 Naim Edwards – Voices for Earth Justice