

Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance Leadership Board  
Meeting Minutes for October 9 2019, 12 noon

Present: Jennifer Foster, presiding (OBA Chair, OLCA Rep), Ann Davis, Secretary (LLL Ohio Rep), Lori Nester, Treasurer (Region 3 Rep), Stephanie Carroll (ABN Rep), Andrea Schleuter (Region 2 Rep), Libby Svoboda (Region 5 Rep), Michelle Catersino (Region 4 Rep), Laura Knisley (Region 1 Rep).

Not Present: Mishele Trescott (Region 7 Rep), Mary Burton (Region 6 Rep).

Minutes: The minutes for the September 11 2019 Leadership Board call were accepted by consensus.

Treasurer's Report: from Lori Nester

Ohio Breastfeeding Alliance

Treasurer's Report September 2019

OBA Beginning Balance: 2135.75 EDBFIM balance 11613.85; WBOC balance 1441.28 Paramount 123.02

OBA income: (dues) 10.00 EDBFIM income: 0

OBA expenses: (pp) .59 EDBFIM expense: 0

OBA Ending Balance: \$2145.16 EDBFIM balance: 11613.85; WBOC balance 1316.28 Paramount 123.02

Submitted by Lori Nester RD, LD, IBCLC. Subject to Audit

I have submitted a request for an accounting intern from Bluffton University to assist with setting up some more formal accounting systems/procedures and helping us have things organized for an audit (they may be able to do that for us as well). The reporting to the Attorney General's office every year uses specific categories for how to identify our funds ("income" is different than grant funding) - I have made changes in how we track those categories in my spreadsheet - but want to make sure we have our bases covered.

I will be sending a bunch of membership renewal reminders to members whose memberships have lapsed in recent months. I would also like to see us create more of a membership push on our facebook page. We have a reasonable amount of activity there with our posts - and new names. We can give regional member lists to regional reps for their more local contact and connections.

Current Projects:

**First Steps:**

**Child Care:** No new report, next call is Nov 4<sup>th</sup>, no meeting has taken place between our last meeting and this one. No draft changes. Ann reviewed a Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition education module that Ohio is intending to contract to use, and found it very well done.

**Workplace:** (from Lori Nester) I am still waiting on more details from the workplace project -- Cathy Carothers is doing another webinar with the counties involved today - will end right before our call. I have not seen the revised plan for their work - or the deliverables being sent to the counties yet - will ask again about getting a copy of that. From what I know after talking to the person involved in Lucas county, they will be reaching out to a certain number of employers in their area to assist with setting up lactation policies and identifying spaces for pumping. (This is the same plan that was done through a different grant a number of years ago - we had two organizations in my county involved - through slightly different funding sources - but essentially the same project). I am especially waiting to see what they would like us to be doing - now - and what our role will be as the grant proceeds. (from meeting)

OBA is not getting much information about this project yet, so as yet is unclear what our role is going to be. The group discussed concerns about how information about workplace support will be flowing through ODH employees, and how well informed those representatives will be. A discussion about messaging and how that information impacts and is received by families was held by the board.

**OECHN:** Ann attended the last OECHN meeting remotely, and heard a lot of information about what is going on in different agencies across Ohio. Interesting connections and information about what is going on state-wide in different agencies for overall child health, still working out what OBA's relationship is to OECHN per our ongoing projects that partner with ODH, as well as the ongoing Breastfeeding Support workgroup. Ann participates in the Healthy Eating cohort discussions.

**Black Breastfeeding Week 2020:** (from Lori Nester) Lakesha Williams, with Union Institute is heading up a work group focused on Black breastfeeding support - including exploring ways to collaborate with BOOBs in Cincinnati - as well as other groups around the state. I haven't had a chance to talk to her more since we had some initial conversation after our September board call - but will touch base with her soon. We talked about an initial project being to get information about the different groups and organizations around the state involved with grants and other programs working with women in different settings - and finding ways to facilitate some networking - and collaboration -- looking at possibilities of having a coordinated breastfeeding celebration next August with Breastfeeding Awareness Month and Black Breastfeeding Week. (from meeting) Lakesha Williams, Michelle Catersino and Stephanie Carroll are all planning to be involved in this project. Stephanie and Lakesha have been talking about this project and will continue to be in touch with each other. Jennifer will be looking to include Lakesha on our next board call.

### **Current Business**

**Display Materials:** This ongoing discussion was tabled while different options are explored, and we determine when materials are needed, and in what time frame. Different options included postcards, business cards, posters, flyers. Different types of information to include were discussed, including a card from the DOL about the federal workplace law.

### **New Business**

**State filing:** Ann will be taking care of our re-filing our business organization with the Ohio Secretary of State.

### **Regional Reports**

#### **Region 1:**

**Region 2:** Andrea is anticipating a new LLL support group in her community in the coming months.

**Region 3:** September has been quiet - after Breastfeeding Awareness Month activities - there are WIC offices looking into becoming milk drops for the milk bank. Buckeye insurance (Medicaid managed care) is using 1 DME to provide pumps to their moms - and they pump they are providing is not a particularly good pump. They are aware of that - I had conversation with people from Buckeye a couple of years ago when they started using. Initially, moms could still go through other DME providers to select other pumps - but now that is not an option. This is a statewide issue - but Gloria Shortridge, WIC breastfeeding coordinator in Lucas county has had more recent and continued discussion with them - (Buckeye is pretty aggressive in their marketing in the NW region).

#### **Region 4:**

#### **Region 5:**

#### **Region 6:**

#### **Region 7:**

**ABN:** ABN's 3rd Annual Conference is THIS Friday & Saturday in Kingsport, TN. The conference registration is closed, however, we will take checks at the door. This year's theme is Ethics and Hot Topics with speakers Stephanie Carroll, Elizabeth Brooks, Karen Gromada, Sekeita Lewis-Johnson, Kimarie Bugg, Tenesha Sellers, Andrea Serano, and Tiana Pyles. Focus is on equity and ethics, as well as other hot topics such as informal milk sharing and marijuana.

Interestingly enough, work has already started on our 4th Annual Conference which will be October 9-10, 2020 in Flintstone, MD (on the border with WV). We have even already sold a registration over a year out! Next year's theme is Breaking Stereotypes: Inequities in Appalachia, and we have most of our speakers already booked, with the exception of a couple. Topics next year will be VERY Appalachia centric - Barriers in Appalachia, Fed is Best, Sexual Abuse, Creating Lactation Careers Where They Don't Exist, Barriers to BFHI in Appalachia, Equity, Queer Parenting, Barriers to Conducting Research and Achieving Higher Education in Appalachia, Reproductive and Mental Health Awareness in Appalachia, and Burnout. We've dropped the price significantly for next year to become a more equitable conference. \$100 for both days and \$50 for one. All come with membership.

We are working on some major grants currently, one being a Fatherhood Program in Appalachia. Mr. Robert Lee is our program lead and we are \*crossing fingers\* hoping to find out if the grant will be approved before this week's conference. In addition to the Fatherhood Program, we are creating a Pregnancy and Parenting Program - focusing on making sure our Appalachian families have the resources they need in order to close the gap on equitable resources between Appalachia v. Non-Appalachia: this includes job placement, shelter, clothing, education, and mental health services, in addition to much more. While we work on this grant, we are trying to focus our energies on our mission: to increase access to care and we know including all parents in this model is a step in the right direction. There is also funding available to continue the hotline, but we do not have an estimated date thus far. The hotline now calls for access to video chat and contracting with a language line. The hotline will remain 24-hours.

Myself, along with Stephanie Martin out of UNC, and a couple students have just completed the very first Appalachian wide breastfeeding research study, focusing on ABN members and professionals. The details and data will be released at our conference this week. We have just received IRB to continue this process with more detailed interviews.

Our hospital education initiative is now complete and ready for piloting. There are a few SE Ohio hospitals interested in piloting the program. The program consists of 13 Appalachian centered education topics on lactation presented to nurses and physicians. There are CEU and CME attached to it, as well as CERP. We have the ability to do this live in person or by webinar.

In addition to that education, ABN has started offering webinars to members. These are free and cover a plethora of topics. We have 12 scheduled for 2020. We have one more scheduled for this year, on October 21 with Carole Peterson. More info is here:

Membership continues to grow. We are almost to 600 members, with a new "organization membership" available for coalitions or organizations interested in our mission.

Goals for 2020: Implement Fatherhood Program, Implement Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Continue Hotline, Webinars, Conference, and host a lactation training that will be free of charge to those attending.

**OLCA:** November 2 meeting will offer CERPS. Planning for March conference has started, dates March 27-28, 2020.

**LLL Ohio:**

Respectfully submitted by Ann Davis, November 12, 2019.