**Southwest Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition Meeting**

**Date: Monday, May 5, 2025**

**Time: 12:00pm- 1:30pm**

**Our meeting today will be at Firefly (830 N. 14th Street, Ste. 201) or virtual using the Zoom Link Below**

**Zoom Virtual option:**   
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86707696022?pwd=Zupwj31JDnmlevWkC3P8fhil8fTIz0.1&from=addon>

12:00 pm Introductions and agency updates

* Jenny Sharrick, Firefly
* Jenny Stom, Firefly
* Raelee Thompson, Firefly
* Keilie Martens, Firefly Intern from BVU
* Kris Wood, Pottawattamie County WIC
* Kay Eng, Pottawattamie County WIC
* Janelle Anderson, CHI Mercy
* Sumer Sandholm, Montgomery County Public Health
* Brittney Christiansen, Jennie
* Emily Ide, MATURA WIC
* Edna Dsouza, CHI
* Kim Meschede, CHI Immanuel
* Stacia Kennedy, Nebraska Medicine

12:05 pm Old Business

* 2025 goal updates
  + *Add one milk depot and/or drop-off site to the existing Iowa Milk Bank Network in our coverage area. Maybe we could draft a letter from the Coalition to support that request. Madelyn is working on one in Missouri Valley at CHI. Would like to get more information from Jean Drulis about the refrigerator temperature tracking so we can better understand where would be a feasible partner.*
  + *Annually update & communicate out breastfeeding support resources in the service area. Kay will send out a reminder to the Coalition to make sure we collect any updates by the end of June. We are going to print a magnet (probably) with breastfeeding support resources with the update information too.*
  + *Provide lactation education for child care providers & recognize them as family friendly businesses. See note on Coffective funding for steps on this.*
  + *Identify World Breastfeeding Week activities. Things we know about: Community Wellness Bash, National Night Out, Lakin Campus, Chiropractor in Bedford. We will also do a big push for recognitions for Breastfeeding Friendly Businesses.*
* Social Media Updates ([Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/swia_breastfeeding_coalition?igsh=MXQ3dHkza2E5dHpocw==) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/swiabreastfeedingcoalition/) [Website](https://stephaniemelchert.wixsite.com/swiabfcoalition))
  + Posting Bios
    - Send your picture and bio to <https://forms.office.com/r/UvQbGDi24i>
    - Please feel free to send them to Raelee to post. [rthompson@firefly.kids](mailto:rthompson@firefly.kids)
* Family (Breastfeeding) Friendly Business Recognition.
  + Please submit nominations here: <https://forms.office.com/r/F8jnMMBNwJ>
  + Suggestions from prior meetings: MICAH House Child Development Center, Lakin Campus, and day care center in Woodbine
  + Waiting to award Southwest Iowa Families in Clarinda.
  + Do we know if we have any updates from Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition related to the rebrand of this? We do not. Will follow up with IBC later.
* Childcare Lactation Education
* Fillable form for policy and kit. Waiting on a grant to finalize.
* Continuing ed & certifications
  + Iowa Breastfeeding Conference May 14-15, 2025- can include Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition membership in your registration! [www.iabreastfeeding.org](http://www.iabreastfeeding.org)
    - If anyone is interested in running for a board position, please see the most recent newsletter!
    - Lactation Star of the Year nominations are due TODAY (May 5)
  + Olson Center Breastfeeding Conference August 2025

12:50 pm New Business

* Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition update
  + Run for a position!
* Coffective update
  + Grant updates:
    - Working to create a magnet with at least a resource in each county with contact information.
    - Will want to have 6 slots (one per county) for Certified Breastfeeding Specialist certification scholarship. In Council Bluffs, the target population with be a doula.
    - Will do some surveying of support groups and breastfeeding classes to better understand why participation in these is not super great.
      * CHI reports that theirs isn’t super well attended on Wednesdays. They have tried to do specific marketing around this. Janelle is calling every person within 10 days to see how their journey is going so far, so perhaps that’s why hers aren’t well attended at this time because they are getting support on the phone and also sending a letter. Will have some additional areas that she can support once IBCLC certification is awarded in the summer.
      * Pottawattamie County WIC (in person or virtual—less attended--options), Firefly, and Montgomery County Public Health have reported similar outcomes. Nebraska Medicine reports that their support group attendance also dropped off, but private appointments have increased. They now text all moms to provide support (lactation support and some general postpartum follow up).
      * Noticed some challenges related to using an interpreter for phone call follow ups.
      * Raelee is going to share on our social media as well for all local groups. Jenny Stom will also share with Healthy Pregnancy Program clients.
    - Also have a second grant (maybe) for use with child care providers. We would create a kit (i.e. breastmilk storage tub, fridge and freezer thermometers, magnets about safe storage & preparation of breastmilk, etc.) and then template policies as a fillable PDF.
* Other new business?
  + - Don’t forget as health fair and baby shower season are coming up, that we can use the breastfeeding nook! Contact Kris Wood if you are needing to borrow it.
      * The kit includes tape, first aid kit, milk labels, cords, chairs, the feather flag to identify that it’s a breastfeeding space.
      * Will be used July 10th at the Rivers Edge Park concert
    - Denison is closing to deliveries in the next year. More folks are coming to Council Bluffs to deliver and probably will have more going to other hospitals (Myrtue Medical, Sioux City, etc.)
    - LER is looking for places for their interns for 500 hours. If you have an intern, you can get a $950 scholarship.
      * Janelle Anderson is interested in an intern. Email Stacia [skennedy@nebraskamed.com](mailto:skennedy@nebraskamed.com) for more information
    - Kris will look for the WIC contact list for each county and send out to the Coalition.
* Next meeting: July 14 12 – 1:30 pm

1:15 pm Adjourn



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