

Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Coordinators Meeting Notes

November 21, 2022

Present: Heather Kearney, Angela Becker, Beth Ferguson, Heather Buckley, Kelly Siepker, Laurie Jasper, Lindy Schreier, Pam Crosser, Sara Carspecken, Theresa Eberhardt, Kay Eng, *McKenna Hogg, *Miranda Klausner, *Ariel Quinn, *Ariane McVeigh, *Danielle Dunning, *Kayla Swartz, *Yolanda Pina, *Laura Lytton, Amanda Kirchhoff, Karen Goff, Emily Ide

BFPC Coordinators absent: Kim Proctor, Sneha Virippil, Astra Jennings, Brenda Densmore

*Peer Counselors present for Doula presentation

See BFPC map below for all program locations and coordinators names below.

Iowa Black Doula Collective Partnership – Ebonie Bailey, owner of Naturally Ebonie Doula Services. Certified Birth Doula, Postpartum Doula, Doula mentor, and CLS. Executive Director and co-founder of the Iowa Black Doula Collective. To contact Ebonie: doulas@iowablackdoulas.com

Visit the Iowa Black Doula Collective website for information on black doulas, training available, the collective, programs support groups, and services: <https://www.iowablackdoulas.com/>

New BFPC Programs mentoring/shadowing - all coordinators in new BFPC programs will be expected to connect with a coordinator in an established program for mentoring. Those mentors that have been identified so far are Laurie Jasper at HACAP, Angela Becker at Operation Threshold, Astra Jennings at MATURA, and Sneha Virippil at Siouxland District HD. Thank you so much for your willingness to mentor.

Also, once peer counselors are hired, they will need to be mentored by experienced peers in one of these agencies mentioned above.

BF Awards of Excellence - <https://wicworks.fns.usda.gov/wic-breastfeeding-award-excellence>. The 2023 application period closes 12.22.22. Only WIC agencies that have had a BFPC program for at least one year are eligible to apply. For agencies planning to apply for a Premiere or Elite award, criteria is based on breastfeeding rates published in the WIC Breastfeeding Data for Local Agencies. The 2021 report is not yet available so to get an idea of your rates and if you would qualify, you can look at the 2020 report.

Important info from USDA: “awards are valid for 4 years and the count starts the year the application was awarded. Local agencies with awards prior to 2020 would need to complete a new application with all the supportive documentation for the Gold application. It is also encouraged that 2020 or 2021 awardees reapplying for a Premiere or Elite award to submit their full Gold application/documentation. In the event that a local agency does not meet the requirements of the higher award, they could still be evaluated and receive a Gold award if all criteria is met.”

The only way to view the BFAE 2023 application is to go into the WIC Works website and set up an account as if you were going to apply. Kelly Siepker has graciously shared a copy of the application that she printed. This you will find attached to the email.

Peer Counselors - resigned position: When a PC resigns, make sure to reassign them to another staff (DBE, coordinator, another PC) in Focus and get them deactivated in Focus.

Observation of Peer Counselor contacts: Refer to the procedure located in the [WIC Portal](#)

Reminder: You need to do your observations of peers via phone, virtual, or in-person - "I know that the clients prefer texts but for an "observation" we really need to do those either via in-person or phone. Otherwise it is like doing a documentation review. For FY23 I will not accept using texts for contact "observations." You may need to creatively figure out how to make the face-to-face or phone happen. Maybe have a 3-way call between you, the client, and the peer? Maybe arrange for a face-to-face when the client is in for her appt or a support group? Using texts for "observation" started during COVID mostly, I believe."

iPads for peers - cannot use for Focus

Iowa Grants update - switching to the revised, updated version. Can not be in Iowa Grants 12/4/22 - 12/12/22. The updated version goes live 12/12/22.

BFC Training - Please let me know if you have BFPC staff that were not able to attend the BFC training this summer. We at the state office continue to work on a plan for using the BFC in the future to train all WIC staff and should have a plan in place by the end of the 2022. In the meantime, continue using the current method of training with Loving Support.

Focus - New Users

To set up new users for Focus: Need to have the "New User Request Form" and "WIC User Information Form" located at <https://idph.iowa.gov/WIC-Portal/Training-IWIN-Security> filled out and emailed to WICHID@idph.iowa.gov. These are PDF fillable forms and should not be handwritten. All forms need to be submitted by WIC Coordinators.

From the MWRO Meeting:

Idea: Use a very short video to introduce peers to the participant at their first visit. Maybe Include children? Throw in a few tips on breastfeeding?

Mandatory Reporting: Local WIC Agencies should have a policy regarding what a peer should do when she suspects abuse. From MWR meeting, peers should always refer that to the coordinator/DBE/other WIC professional to make the determination whether to report and make any reports.

Breastfeeding Strategic Plan: The Plan has been finalized and will be officially released at the State Breastfeeding Strategic Plan Partnership meeting on 12/29/22. It will then be shared widely.

One strategy included in the Plan that directly affects Peer Counseling is as follows:

Strategy 2.2.3: Ensure all local WIC agency peer counseling staff reflect the population being served.

Activities

- Review diversity of WIC caseload and determine priority WIC agencies.
- Develop best practice for racial and ethnic diversity of WIC peer counseling services.
- Provide assistance to local WIC agencies on diversifying their peer counseling workforce.

Breast Pumps: It is still unclear what Medicaid and MCO's are going to offer for breast pumps to their clients in the future. There have been conflicting messages and Nicole Newman continues to work to

clarify. It seems clear that WIC will need to be providing pumps to WIC clients who have Medicaid coverage.

Discussion surrounding more WIC moms asking for breast pumps with the reason being unclear. When a mom asks for a pump it is the responsibility of the CPA to do some probing to find out why a mom thinks she needs a pump and then determine if it is a legitimate reason for issuing a pump.

Next Peer Coordinators Meeting: January 2023 with exact date TBD.

