

**IOWA WIC
BREASTFEEDING
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

 **Date: Thursday, January 25, 2024**

 **Time: 11:00 am -1:00 p.m.**

Zoom Call Connection Information:

Link: <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1609548150>

Phone: [+1 669 254 5252](tel:+16692545252) Meeting ID: 160 954 8150

Attendance:

31- Broadlawns <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karen Goff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kelly Sieper	33- New Opp <input type="checkbox"/> Brenda Chargo <input type="checkbox"/> Paula Spies	34- HACAP <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Munson <input type="checkbox"/> Megan Olsen	37- MATURA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Astra Jennings	38- MICA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Janet Weber <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Buckley
39- Mid-Sioux <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maddie Wankum <input type="checkbox"/> Charity Mucino	41- NICA0 <input type="checkbox"/> Danielle Crail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pam Crosser	42- VNA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elaine Sampson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Theresa Eberhardt <input type="checkbox"/> Sara Kelly	43- OT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Angela Becker <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Kirchoff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carrie Evans	45- CASEI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Leichty
46- AHFA <input type="checkbox"/> Kim Proctor <input type="checkbox"/> Cindy Meiners	49- Siouxland <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tessa Kleene	50- Webster County <input type="checkbox"/> Sara Carspecken <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jenny Vinnece <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeannie Dawson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tori Spencer	52- Pott County <input type="checkbox"/> Kris Wood <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wei Kay Eng	54- CHC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Heather Kearney <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cindy Kaczinski <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maddy Ranshaw
State Office <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nicole Newman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Stockton				

Breastfeeding Updates:

HHS Updates:

- A new HHS Breastfeeding Coordinator role is in the process of being hired that will be tasked with ensuring collaborative efforts are being supported for breastfeeding work across HHS programs.

Midwest Region Breastfeeding Updates:

- The last Regional Breastfeeding call took place January 9, 2024.
- **National WIC Workforce Strategy Development:**
 - University of Minnesota was awarded funding to work on a workforce project at the national level and will be putting out strategies to all regions based on the findings by the end of calendar year 2024.
 - The goal of the project is to work towards a WIC workforce representative of the population being served, or if not represented by staff of the same culture or language, staff that are employed can provide culturally congruent care.
 - An RFA will go out to award funding to implement strategies such as staff training, platform development, etc.



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- MWR has put together a workgroup to address the strategies from the National WIC Workforce project and Iowa is participating.
 - The MWR has a goal to establish a workgroup to come up with the landscape on staffing positions that need to be filled in the region, to determine what the salary is for those positions to compare with positions outside of WIC and to develop some talking points for local agencies for working on WIC hiring guidelines to attempt to alleviate hiring struggles (pay, positions, and DBE).
- **WIC Midwest Region OA Grant Breastfeeding Training:**
 - The FY 2024 OA Grant application was put on hold until further notice related to the uncertainty of the Federal budget. The MWR application is ready to be submitted as soon as we hear more about availability of the funding.
 - The region worked to build a training registration website this year, so pending receipt of the grant, training registration should be much easier this year.
 - More information will be shared via email to local agency WIC Coordinators, Breastfeeding Coordinators and BFPC Coordinators as soon as its available.
- **Breastfeeding Food Package Assigned:**
 - If a baby is breastfeeding any amount but not receiving formula from WIC, they should be offered the exclusive breastfeeding infant food package. The same applies for women breastfeeding any amount and not receiving formula from WIC. If WIC is not giving formula to the infant, the woman should receive an Exclusively Breastfeeding woman food package.
 - Some examples of situations that you might see would be a woman that is buying a different formula than what WIC provides with SNAP benefits or other means, daycare providing some formula so the family doesn't need WIC formula, or women using donor breast milk to supplement their infants.
 - From Appendix A of the USDA WIC Breastfeeding Policy and Guidance resource

Fully Breastfeeding versus Exclusive Breastfeeding

In WIC, fully breastfeeding is not synonymous with *exclusive* breastfeeding, i.e., feeding only human milk. Infants assigned the fully breastfeeding food package in accordance with Federal regulations may or may not be exclusively breastfeeding. Fully breastfeeding means only that the infant is not receiving formula from WIC. While the assumption that forms the basis for the fully breastfeeding food package is that breastfeeding women who elect not to receive formula from WIC are exclusively breastfeeding, there may be instances where mothers supplement with formula from non-WIC sources. Although not breastfeeding exclusively, these mothers are nonetheless designated fully breastfeeding by WIC regulations.



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- There is an FNS document called Updated Food Package FAQs from 3-11-16 that can be referenced for additional questions of food package assignment in unique breastfeeding situations that was shared with the meeting minutes.

Iowa WIC Breastfeeding Training Curriculum:

- USDA Breastfeeding Curriculum
 - Flash drives can be ordered or the content can be ordered on WIC Works, however, the State Office would NOT encourage using this option as the curriculum requires a lot of space and isn't clear what is required to watch.
 - Newly available in Spanish
- CPA/Support Staff (Non-BFPC staff) ONLY
 - Work continues to get the self-study curriculum videos on the new Learning Management System.
 - Breastfeeding training will include the self-paced recordings of the USDA Breastfeeding Curriculum, not the 9-4-hour sessions Cathy presented to the Midwest Region in 2022.
 - Video recordings will be short and separated into each level.
 - In the meantime, CPAs and support staff should continue following the training guidance in policy, including level 1 and level 2 modules.

2024 WBW Slogan and Activities Announced:

- The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action announced that the 2024 World Breastfeeding Week slogan is Closing the gap: breastfeeding support for all.
- Taking place August 1-7, this year's World Breastfeeding Week observance will showcase the need to improve breastfeeding support to reduce inequalities that exist in our society. The event will include a special focus on breastfeeding in times of emergencies and crises.

Focus Updates:

- Serialized and non-serialized inventory
 - Another state in our user group noted some concerns in this area of Focus. Local agencies should report any issues they experience with the system not working as expected.
 - An agency shared a tip that if you don't save before getting out of the screen when returning a pump, it doesn't save the updates made. Make sure to use the "save" button.
 - Updates to the serialized and non-serialized inventory areas that local agencies submitted will be made and a message will go out once completed.

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- Focus passwords
 - All WIC staff, including BFPCs, should now contact their WIC Coordinator or alternate designated staff when Focus passwords get locked, no longer emailing or calling the HelpDesk.

Iowa WIC Breastfeeding Report:

- The 2023 WIC Breastfeeding Report was shared earlier this month.
- The goal is to release the report annually.
- The report and a separate addendum were created and will be posted to the WIC website soon.
- One agency has some questions about understanding the data and was encouraged to reach out to Nicole Newman directly.

Data Direct 2.0- Breastfeeding Data:

- The State WIC Office is working with CDP to better utilize data in the MIS for program planning purposes.
- A breastfeeding datamart is being developed to enable access to breastfeeding data that is not available in Focus reports.
- If there is any data local agencies would like to request related to breastfeeding that is not readily available in a report, please send to Nicole Newman or Jane Stockton (BFPC-specific).

Breastfeeding Strategic Plan Updates:

- Breastfeeding Database
 - <https://app.cofffective.com/resources/>
 - Local agencies were added by Cofffective in May 2023, and they were then asked to add their specific information such as programs, policies, hours, contact information, etc.
 - Make updates to your local agency if haven't done so yet.
 - The workgroup will start to market the database more heavily. Developing two flyers, one brief and one more in depth describing the database, the content and how to access.
 - Everyone is encouraged to share information, including the flyers, with staff, participants, community partners, etc.
- Community Partnership Collaborative
 - An email went out to local agencies recently about potential funding (\$5,000) available pending OA breastfeeding grant receipt for five local communities/WIC agencies to implement breastfeeding projects that increase collaboration with community partners and access to breastfeeding support.

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- IBC Iowa Lactation Education training
 - The training is completed and now being offered.
 - All three parts of the ILE training will be offered once in 2024 virtually by the Iowa Breastfeeding Coalition in summer 2024, dates TBD.
 - The training is available to be offered in communities as requested, in-person or virtual.
 - At this time, four to five local community trainings are being planned in 2024.
- Donor human milk
 - New milk depot and dispensaries continue to open.
 - Local WIC agencies can request handouts from the Mother's Milk Bank of Iowa.
 - Reach out to Nicole Newman if interested

Upcoming Conferences:

- Annual Iowa Breastfeeding Conference- Registration is now open for the 2024 Annual Iowa Breastfeeding Conference May 15-16, 2024.
- The Iowa WIC Conference is scheduled for June 26, 2024- more information should be sent out soon.

BFPC Discussion Topics:

Breastfeeding Award of Excellence:

- BFAE applications were submitted in December 2023 and two Iowa agencies applied.
- A webinar will be presented by the National Office for those awarded in 2024.
- State review will take place 1/22/24 - 3/8/24, National Office will do final review and determination of awards.
- Agencies applying for awards in the future can skip the Gold questions if they have a current Gold status and are applying for a higher level, but if an applicant is not awarded the higher level, they will no longer receive the Gold award. It's best to go ahead and apply for the Gold at the same time applying for higher level.
- The award ends in the fiscal year, September 30, not calendar year, so agencies would need to apply a year ahead to skip the Gold.
- Reach out to Jane Stockton with questions.

Iowa WIC Breastfeeding Training Curriculum:

- Peer Counselors ONLY
 - Jane created the guide that was shared in an email in December 2022
 - Training is flexible, currently using the self-study videos and post-test, staff need to request access from Jane via email.

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- BFPC Coordinators can assign a certain number as appropriate and review afterwards, view videos together, etc.
- Still determining process when State staff transition away from Google.
- BFPCs need to take level 1-2 training before they are able to contact participants.
- BFPC Coordinators ONLY
 - New BFPC Coordinators need to watch the curriculum recordings from the spring/summer 2022 training with Cathy Carothers (different than the self-study videos).

Update Peer Staff spreadsheet:

- New addition to the form is peer salaries and hours/FTEs. If this needs to be completed by the local agency WIC Coordinator, let Jane know right away and she will forward the message to them, or a BFPC Coordinator can forward it to the WIC Coordinator to complete and send to Jane. This is something the MWR is requesting.
 - Complete and return to Jane as soon as possible.

Peer Counselor Networking Meetings:

- Looking into in-person and/or virtual meetings designed for Peer Counselors only.
- How often/dates to be shared as soon as determined- possibly during the May Breastfeeding Conference.

BFPC Policy Review: Peer Contact Observation and Document Review:

- Jane reviewed two policies.

Breastfeeding Supply Purchases:

- Ordered plastic bags, bilingual “Babies Were born to be Breastfed”. They were drop shipped to each agency.
- Purchase Requests for FY24.
- Charm bracelets requested in the past will not be approved.

Additional Discussion/Questions:

BFPCs in Clinic:

- Broadlawns
 - Likely has more in office time than other agencies.
 - CPAs introduce clients to BFPCs, office hours are held, in office 1-2 days a week depending on their hours.

- MATURA
 - Peers don't come into office often because of the 12-county service area, starting to do some FaceTime, attend clinics closest to where they live 1-2 times/month.
- VNA
 - Is looking at the clinics with more breastfeeding or new moms and encouraging peers to attend those clinics.
- NICAO
 - Has two peers coming to two clinics/month covering nine counties.
- Siouxland
 - Has a peer in the clinic Tuesday through Thursday for three hours each day.

BFPC Assignment Caseload:

- MATURA has had moms showing up on the report that are pending status, have not been seen, with no Nutrition Interview, no referral to BFPC.
 - Pott County, Broadlawns, Webster have experienced this as well.
 - An agency shared the fix is to add a Health Interview and mark "no" on the question "Do they want a BFPC?" This removes them from the list, then staff can add a note that says this was done to remove them from the report.

Breastfeeding Credential Certification Renewal:

- The question came up about if grant funds or other state funds could cover the costs for renewal of certifications like CLC/CLS/IBCLC
 - The State Office will not be covering costs of certification renewals, however, local agencies can spend their funds according to the guidance below if it applies.

§ 200.473 Training and education costs.

The cost of training and education provided for employee development is allowable.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013. Redesignated at 85 FR 49570, Aug. 13, 2020]



§ 200.454 Memberships, subscriptions, and professional activity costs.

- (a) Costs of the non-Federal entity's membership in business, technical, and professional organizations are allowable.
- (b) Costs of the non-Federal entity's subscriptions to business, professional, and technical periodicals are allowable.
- (c) Costs of membership in any civic or community organization are allowable with prior approval by the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
- (d) Costs of membership in any country club or social or dining club or organization are unallowable.
- (e) Costs of membership in organizations whose primary purpose is lobbying are unallowable. See also § 200.450.

[78 FR 78608, Dec. 26, 2013, as amended at 85 FR 49569, Aug. 13, 2020]

Upcoming Meetings:

- April 30, 2024, 11:00 am- 1:00 pm (Tuesday due to schedule conflict April 25)
- July 25, 2024, 11:00 am- 1:00 pm
- October 24, 2024, 11:00 am- 1:00 pm

