

Breastfeeding Coalition

Mission Statement

The Healthy Kent 2010 Breastfeeding Coalition exists to improve the health and well being of infants and families through education, outreach and advocacy to promote and support breastfeeding and the use of human milk.

Minutes of Meeting: February 23, 2015

Attendees:

Kelli Damstra (GVSU), Lois Ditmar (KCHD), Abby Hess (KCHD WIC Dietitian), Lauren Valentine (Community), Tony Jolliffi (Strong Beginnings), Brandon McBride (Strong Beginnings), Denise Evans (Strong Beginnings), Bonita Agee (Strong Beginnings), Jennifer Duron (First Steps Kent)

Information and Sharing

- I. **Minutes of last meeting:** Motion: Bonita, Second: Lauren. Approved
- II. **Introductions:** completed
- III. **Report on “Milky Way” Event**

Lauren Valentine reported on the showing of the documentary “the Milky Way” on February 4, 2015. The movie was shown at Wealthy Street theatre followed by a discussion panel and it was a successful event with a good turnout. There were a lot of young women there and feedback about the event was positive.
- IV. **Report on Breakfast Break for Breastfeeding Event**

The recent educational event took place at the KCHD on February 5, 2015. The topic was “Breastfeeding and the Drug Dependent Woman” and was led by Michele Virva, MSW, from Dr Corey Waller’s office. Feedback was positive overall. The educational event focused a lot on general information related to substance abuse and not as much on breastfeeding, which would have been preferable. It was discussed that it was a teachable moment and that in the future we should give the speaker more time to provide the information to us, specific to the objectives they will be presenting on. Lois has not had the chance to look over all the evaluations yet but will follow up with Joann Hoganson to do so. Discussion occurred regarding ideas for topics for the next upcoming breakfast break for breastfeeding event for fall 2015. Bonita suggested exploring the idea of having Cynthia Mojab come to talk about “unpacking the invisible bag of breastfeeding” and exploring the historical perspective of breastfeeding related to people of color.
- V. **DADS COUNT Focus on Fathers Fatherhood Conference: April 18, 2015**

The upcoming conference will be the 2nd annual fatherhood conference in our community and this year it will be open to mothers as well. Tony Jolliffi (Strong Beginnings) reported on the event. The keynote speaker will be Carlton Brewster and breakout sessions include topics on: Early childhood education, PPD, mothers supporting fathers, parenting teenagers, custody/child support, work/life balance for men, and importance of play. Some of the breakout sessions will be for fathers only. Cost is \$25 to register. The coalition members discussed the option of paying \$50 for a display table at the conference. This would include registration for 2 individuals to attend the conference. Lauren Valentine will reach out to find 2 men of breastfeeding families to attend the conference and sit at the coalition display table. Kelli to follow up with Barb Hawkins-Palmer to see about coalition funds going toward this.

VI. Healthy Kent Breastfeeding Coalition Committees:

Discussion about current coalition sub-committees, and having the next meeting in March 2015 be a “working meeting” in which individuals can break up into the respective committees, and work on goals for the upcoming year.

- a. **Advocacy/Media:** Grace Abraham is committee chair. Action items include maintenance of coalition website and facebook page, as well as publicizing breastfeeding related events.
- b. **Education:** Bonita Agee is committee chair. Upcoming educational events include:
 - i. **Safe sleep & breastfeeding conference** sometime in 2015. This will be a conference type event with a keynote speaker and will address evidence related to safe sleep and breastfeeding, and sleep-related infant deaths.
 - ii. **DAD talk** (facilitated by Tony Jolliffi, with the DADS group). Upcoming dates are 2/23, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, & 3/31. Each week they will discuss a different core value (Respect, Communication, Faith, Responsibility, Integrity). These are hosted at Harrison Park Elementary school from 6-8pm. Tony has invited the breastfeeding coalition to come to one of these talks and give educational information related to breastfeeding and the selected core value. *This will be planned for 3/31 from 6:15-7:15pm.* Bonita is going to check with some of the HUGS participants (IBCLC, peer counselor, parent rep) to see if they would be able to participate in this talk with the DADS group on breastfeeding. The possibility of including Responding to Racism (R2R) content was also discussed. Tony will send Kelli additional dates for the DAD talks.
- c. **Events:** Lauren Valentine is committee chair. Upcoming events for 2015 include:
 - i. **“Yes We Do” luncheon**- occurring during the last week in August, 2015. The coalition would partner with HUGS in an opportunity to recognize black mothers who breastfeed. Strong Beginnings hosted this luncheon last year at the KCHD and childcare was provided. Certificates were given to mothers for meeting certain milestones.
 - ii. **August- World Breastfeeding Month:**
 1. Zoo days: first Friday in August. Discussed having tents outside zoo entrance along with Strong Beginnings, as we have done in the past
 2. Latch-on: first Saturday in August. Last year was at a school in Comstock Park and was planned by Kathy Oakes. This year she will be organizing it again and there will be an opportunity to purchase a table for the mom-to-mom sale, to sell t-shirts and have coalition display set up. Idea was brought up to have the Latch-On be brought locally, and have multiple different sites (Kentwood, Grand Rapids, etc.) in order to raise different amounts of awareness. This would require registering on “the big latch on” website, and would require someone at each location to facilitate. Could possibly partner with HUGS on this.
 - iii. **Artprize:** September-October 2015. Would like to have a list of willing venues to be “breastfeeding friendly” and put on the artprize official map. Discussed possibility of e mailing Artprize headquarters in order to see how we should go about contact all of the venues to see if they would like to participate. We can start contacting the venues and then have a list so that we will be ready in time for artprize to print their official map.

VII. Member Sharing:

- a. Movie showing: *Raising of America- Early Childhood & the Future of Our Nation* at Celebration Cinema South on April 16, 2015 @11:30am & 6:30pm. Panel discussion following the movie showing. Strong Beginnings and Healthy Kent are sponsors. Lunch is provided at afternoon showing, free pop and popcorn are provided at both showings. The event is free but registration is required.

- b. Healthier Communities Inservice on April 8, 2015 from 9:00am-11:30am at Eastern Avenue CRC. This will be a facilitated discussion on a segment of *Raising of America*.
- c. Health Equity Social Justice Dialogues: May 14 & 24 at the KCHD. There will be more dates as well in the coming year. Registration is available online.
- d. A doula training will be held March 30- April 1, 2015 at the KCHD (Lake Huron Room). Contact Sara Binkley-Tow at moms bloom for further information.
- e. HUGS is working toward occupying a new space in the DHS building on Franklin. They are doing a re-launch and are attempting to better meet the needs of their population. Additionally, they are looking to create a referral system for HUG with the WIC clinic at DHS. They will be implementing a “get your hugs” incentive program in which women get stamps for keeping their WIC appointments and this will help families to help stay involved with WIC. They are inviting WIC to make updates so they can stay engaged with HUGS.
- f. “remembering the fatherless” event on March 20-21 at Kentwood Community Church. Led by John Sowers of the mentoring project. There is a great need for mentors for kids who don’t have a father figure in their life. Cost is \$10 to register.

VIII. Adjournment: meeting adjourned at 12:54pm.

Next Meeting: March 23, 2015; 11:30-1:00, Kent County Health Dept, Lake Superior Conference Room

Minutes recorded by: Kelli Damstra, HKBC chair