



Welcome to the Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition!

We are health professionals, moms, educators, policy-makers, organizations, businesses and others who promote, protect, and support breastfeeding. We have been assisting breastfeeding families and professionals since 2002. The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition is a member coalition of the United States breastfeeding Committee.

Our Mission

To improve Maryland citizens' health by working collaboratively to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

Our Vision

In order to achieve optimal health, enhance child development, promote knowledgeable and effective parenting, support women in breastfeeding and make optimal use of resources, we envision breastfeeding as the norm for infant and child feeding throughout Maryland.

If you were unable to join us for our quarterly meeting on May 8, 2019, you will find a summary below. If you are interested in working on any of the upcoming or ongoing projects please contact us at:

president@MDBFC.org

Meeting Summary

Nancy McAlduff presented the annual report:

- Breastfeeding Welcome Here Campaign - Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition launched this campaign to create a supportive environment from retailers when mothers breastfeed their babies in public. The aim of the campaign is to build awareness and acceptance of breastfeeding in public. Fifty-eight businesses have signed the pledge. We have a master's degree student promoting the campaign in Southern Maryland this spring.
- Outreach, World Breastfeeding Week/Maryland Breastfeeding Month 2018-19 – MBC members participated in several health fairs throughout the state in a diverse number of settings, forming connections with various health organizations. Our plans for 2019 include collaborating with our community partners and member organizations to promote Black Breastfeeding Week events.
- United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) – Last year MBC sent three people to the USBC Convening in Atlanta, GA. Our delegation included one veteran leader and two emerging leaders from our Board. Our plans for 2019 include sending more Board members as the event will be local.
- Ninth Annual MD/DC Regional Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Awards – Twenty-five area businesses and four Health Care Providers were honored and recognized at our annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. Since 2010 over 120 businesses and Health Care Providers have received the award.

- Supporting Breastfeeding Legislation – Last year MBC members testified on behalf of family leave and lactation accommodation bills. Maryland SB859 guarantees state employees 6 weeks of paid parental leave. Maryland HB 306 guarantees state employees time and place to express milk at work. MBC also wrote a letter in support of lactation accommodations for employees in Baltimore City. Councilwoman Sneed proposed this legislation which was signed by Mayor Pugh on January 14, 2019.
- Breastfeeding Speaking Engagements - MBC members were featured speakers at the Maryland Coalition of Lactation Consultants meeting. Topics included: The Amazing Science of Breastfeeding, Providing Culturally Humble Lactation Care, and Tongue-tie.

Our elections were completed – thank you to our new and continuing Board members!

1. Nancy McAlduff- President
2. Lilliana Simon –Vice president
3. Deb Lang - Secretary
4. Gay Bearzi- Treasurer
5. Kathy Buckley-Web Master
6. Katy Linda – Social Media
7. Ned Bartlett – Health Provider
8. Susan Weyer – LC
9. Danya Benton - WIC
10. Karen Darcy – Western Maryland
11. Rae Mapson – Southern Maryland
12. Dana Silver – At-Large
13. Mayra Pappaterra – At-Large
14. Whitney Dula – At-Large
15. Lashelle Stewart – At-Large

USBC

- Our Coalition is a member coalition of the United States Breastfeeding Committee for a 5-year term, renewable.
- Convening and special events will take place June 12-June 15
 - June 12 Advocacy Day – separate registration, meet with your legislators
 - Please contact us if you are attending so we can coordinate meetings with legislators
 - Rae Mapson will be presenting at USBC on behalf of MBC in the closing plenary session along with representatives from Virginia and DC Breastfeeding Coalitions, sharing local breastfeeding coalition work

Western Maryland

- Karen Dacy announced West Virginia Berkley Birthing Center, achieved Baby Friendly Status

Southern Maryland Breastfeeding Alliance

- Rae Mapson shared they are looking for new representatives
- Lack of DMEs in the region limits access to breast pumps for moms

Treasurer's report

- Gay Bearzi presented budget
- We have over 55 paying members.
- \$1000 earmarked for supporting our representatives to attend USBC Convening.

Outreach supplies and our new logo

- Danya Benton is moving ahead with her design for tee shirts.

Upcoming Outreach Events:

- May 18 Momference
- May 19 Baltimore Birth Festival
- Montgomery County Baby Shower
 - Volunteers from MBC include Dana Silver, Lilliana Simon, Whitney Dula, Mayra Pappaterra

Breast Pump Access:

- Dana Silver spoke with Amerigroup and Maryland Physicians Care on expediting dispensing of breast pumps without the additional documentation.

World Breastfeeding Week

- Susan Weyer volunteering services for photo project
- Looking into Breastfeeding Welcome Here – broader launch in all of State
- Black Breastfeeding Week events
 - Screening Chocolate Milk – Bayview to host? Perhaps with The Bloom Collective – Nancy McAlduff, Lashelle Stewart, and Deb Lang organizing
 - Date needs to be submitted by June 1
 - Baltimore Healthy Start picnic – Lashelle Stewart organizing
 - PG County event – Whitney Dula and Rae Mapson organizing
 - Please contact us at president@mdbfc.org if you are interested in joining the planning groups for these events

Donor Milk Project – need to gather information first, how many NICUs using donor milk, where, etc.

- Listing Milk depots on our website
- Referencing HMBANA donating guidelines on website for families
- Please contact us at president@mdbfc.org if you are interested in joining our work group

Upcoming Educational Events: MCLC June 25 Catherine Watson Genna speaking on the science of neonatal sucking

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey! Please mark your calendars now - Meeting dates for the upcoming year will be:

Results: 60% of respondents selected the second Wednesday for our meetings:

- September 11, 2019
- November 13, 2019
- February 12, 2020
- May 13, 2020

Membership Data:

- 90% female
- 86% White
- 9% Black or African American
- 2% Multiple races
- 5% Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- 2% Cuban

The Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition will continue viewing our work through an equity lens. We will continue to work to diversify our board and our membership. Our last meeting had a much more diverse

population than our membership survey reflects. If you have not yet joined the Coalition, please consider joining and please consider reaching out to fellow breastfeeding advocates and encourage them to join us too!