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## Annual Report 2018-2019

The Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition (CBC) has framed its work around the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding since its inception in 2011. CBC's Board of Directors serve as liaisons to six sector committees (Mothers and Their Families, Communities, Health Care, Employment, Public Health Infrastructure, and Research and Surveillance) and calls on health care providers, employers, insurers, policymakers, researchers, and the community at large to take steps to support mothers in reaching their breastfeeding goals. The information that follows the CBC Mission and Goals, outlines CBC achievements made this year.

**Our Mission** is to improve Connecticut's health by working collaboratively to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding.

**Our Goals** are:

- To assure access to comprehensive, current, and culturally appropriate lactation care and service for all women, children and families.
- To ensure that breastfeeding is recognized as the normal and preferred method of feeding infants and young children.
- To ensure that all Federal, State, and local laws relating to child welfare and family law recognize and support the importance and practice of breastfeeding.
- To increase protection, promotion, and support for breastfeeding mothers in the workforce.

We currently have 14 Board of Directors.

Directors (**Executive Officers in bold**):

- **Monica Belyea, MPH, RD (term ends 2021) Chair-Elect**
- Brianna Chaput (term ends 2021), Member at-large
- **Chris Chase, ASA, MAAA (term ends 2020) Treasurer**
- Monika Costa, MSN, IBCLC (term ends 2021), Communities Sector Liaison
- **Lori DiPietro, MPH (term ends 2020) Secretary**
- Rachel Jackson (term ends 2020), Membership
- Megan Jalbert, MS candidate (term ends 2021), Social Media & Website
- **Chandra Kelsey, MPH (term ends 2019), Co-Chair (Past-Chair until 2020)**
- Marilyn Lonczak, MEd, RD, CLC (term ends 2021), Public Health Infrastructure Sector Liaison
- Lisa MacLeod, (term ends 2021), Member at-large
- Kathy Mason, MS, RNC, IBCLC (term ends 2020), Health Care Sector Liaison
- Jacqui Penda (term ends 2021), Member at-large
- Francie Penny, PhD, MPH, MSN, RN, IBCLC (term ends 2021), Research & Surveillance Sector Liaison
- **Michele Vancour, PhD, MPH (term ends 2019), Co-Chair (Past-Chair until 2020)**

## **Summary List of Our 2018-2019 Initiatives**

(Some items may fit under more than one Sector but are only noted once.)

### **Mothers and Their Families Sector, contact: Chandra Kelsey**

- Maintained ZipmilkCT and added six providers to the support listings.
- Continued partnership with the Dept. of Public Health and the “It’s Worth It” (IWI) campaign, including upload of final version of the video encompassing all five themes. Also, created two-minute quick videos to support IWI showcasing Jennifer Vinci
- Provided testimony in support of *An Act to Exempt Breastfeeding Equipment and Supplies for the Sales and Use of Taxes.*
- Supported *An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave.*

### **Communities Sector, contact: Monika Costa**

- Finalized the breastfeeding-friendly child care center recognition, application and toolkit.
- Created new format for the breastfeeding-friendly campus application.
- Implemented a new award, the CT Moms Community Champion award.
- Provided breastfeeding education to OB and Pedi residents and information on the baby friendly initiative via LINKs so it can reach them at multiple locations (UConn, THOCC, HH).
- Developed partnerships with AWHONN and CHA.
- Created breastfeeding-friendly office materials. Once approved by the Board, an electronic application will be developed.
- Developing standardized breastfeeding Curriculum for Nursing Schools that utilizes the USBC Core Competencies in breastfeeding care and services for all health professionals.

### **Health Care Sector, contact: Kathy Mason**

- Facilitated monthly Ten Step Collaborative meetings that addressed important topics including marijuana use during pregnancy and lactation, and relative guidelines that exist throughout the State.
- Provided continued support to Backus and Windham Hospitals as they entered the final stages of the BFHI.
- Collaborated with the Dept. of Public Health on a maternity care nurse survey of hospital breastfeeding practices to inform a future project.
- Working on breastfeeding-friendly practice recognition, materials and presentation for pediatricians.
- Provided testimony in support of *An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage for Donor Breast Milk.*

### **Employment Sector, contact: Monica Belyea**

- Recognized new businesses as breastfeeding-friendly bringing the total to 30 employers with 24 locations.
- Created a new format for our breastfeeding-friendly worksite application.
- Provided testimony in support of *An Act Concerning Breastfeeding in the Workplace.*

**Public Health Infrastructure, contact: Marilyn Lonczak**

- Continued to work with the CT Department of Public Health on the “It’s Worth It” campaign and video to engage public health and other stakeholders in supporting breastfeeding. See details under Mothers and Their Families.
- Worked to reduce health disparities by increasing the diversity of Certified Lactation Consultants in CT.

**Research and Surveillance, contact: Francie Penny**

- Facilitated opportunities for researchers to share their work with the Coalition at membership meetings and via Facebook.

### Our Business Update

**Budget and Changes to Membership**

Our Financial Report, submitted by Chris Chase, Treasurer, serves as a supplement to this report.

**Bylaws**

CBC Board of Directors revised their bylaws in April 2019.

**Communications and Social Media**

Megan Jalbert has been supporting our Facebook page since 2017 and website since 2018 with additional help from the BOD and interns. During this time, the visibility of our Facebook page increased to 1,474 likes and 1636 followers. The goal is to reach 2,000 followers by the end of 2019!

**Meeting Structure**

During 2018-2019, CBC continued new meeting structure that consisted of alternating virtual and in-person meetings.

**Membership**

Beginning in 2019, CBC implemented a no-cost membership that can be accessed from our website at: [www.breastfeedingct.org/join.html](http://www.breastfeedingct.org/join.html).

**Organizational/Professional Development**

CBC Board of Directors participated in activities that enhance the organization’s development as well as their professional advancement.

**Sustainability**

CBC continues to recruit new members and future additions to our Board of Directors. We welcome newcomers to our meetings and hope new members who are interested in the mission and work of the CBC will join our efforts.

**U.S. Breastfeeding Committee (USBC)**

Effective May 28, 2019, CBC became an “active” member for the next 5 years (until 12/31/2024) of the USBC. This new paid membership format provides increased visibility,

capacity building support, opportunities for national leadership, discounts on USBC conference registrations, and access to resources, including webinars, toolkits, and a clearinghouse.

This year's National Breastfeeding Conference & Convening is focused on the theme: "Taking Equity from Theory to Practice: Advancing Inclusive and Collaborative Breastfeeding Support." It's scheduled for June 14-15 in Bethesda, MD. Monica Belyea and Megan Jalbert will represent CBC at this event, as well as the membership orientation (June 4) and membership meeting (June 13).

***Additional Items:***

At the time of this report, we were aware of the following legislative actions related to breastfeeding in Connecticut:

- Effective October 1, 2018, *An Act Concerning Fair Treatment of Incarcerated Women*, will include provisions and policy for inmate mother to pump and store breast milk for their babies.
- *An Act to Exempt Breastfeeding Equipment and Supplies for the Sales and Use of Taxes* is pending.
- *An Act Concerning Breastfeeding in the Workplace* passed the House.
- *An Act Concerning Medicaid Coverage for Donor Breast Milk* passed the House and the Senate.
- *An Act Concerning Paid Family Medical Leave* passed the House and the Senate.

Respectfully submitted,



Michele L. Vancour, PhD, MPH  
Co-Chair, Connecticut Breastfeeding Coalition  
June 6, 2019