





# 2020 Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings

## Overview

MIBFN began hosting Quarterly Network Meetings in 2016 as an effort to bring local, regional, and statewide collaborators together around our common efforts as we work towards becoming a more breastfeeding-supportive state. With support from the Michigan WIC Division, these meetings have grown over the past 3 years to become an opportunity to learn, share, and connect among local and regional breastfeeding supporters. As we move forward in Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, initially published in our Letter to Breastfeeding Supporters, we restructured our Quarterly Network Meetings in alignment with our commitment to “listen.”

**In light of COVID-19, and in an effort to be responsive to the changing landscape of breastfeeding support services, these meetings have moved online, are held monthly, and are open to breastfeeding supporters from across the state.**

## Meeting Dates and Topics

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER
COVID-19	COVID-19 + August 2020 Breastfeeding Awareness Month	August 2020 Breastfeeding Awareness Month	Advocacy	Breastfeeding and birth justice	Education
					

## Who Participated

MIBFN collaborates with organizations and individuals to bring about actionable, system-level changes that are centered on the diverse experiences of Michigan families with young children.



**"We need to listen and amplify the voices of families** as a collective advocacy group."

- Jennifer Day, IBCLC

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## Main Themes

### COVID-19

**Centering Black and Indigenous Breastfeeding families** as they continue to receive breastfeeding support during COVID-19

### August 2020 Breastfeeding Awareness Month

**Honoring and celebrating breastfeeding families** who overcome obstacles to breastfeeding success + **amplifying and advocating in solidarity** with local breastfeeding supporters for systemic changes to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding for every family



### Advocacy

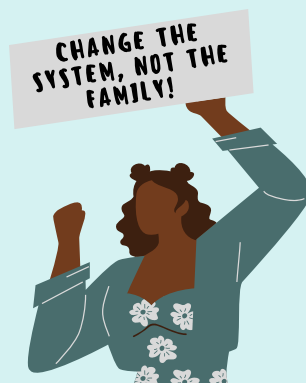
Lifting everyone's voices + taking action

### Breastfeeding and Birth Justice

Birth and breastfeeding supporters **reflecting and representing families they serve** + **dismantling white supremacy, capitalism, and patriarchy** as the drivers of health care and public health systems

### Education

Providing **culturally-relevant** and **individualized** breastfeeding education



"This space has been valuable for motivating efforts to advocate for families and **we must continue to do the work and show that Black moms breastfeed.**"

- Bonita Agee, BS, CLC

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## Success So Far

Learn more about successes so far, access links, and more at [mibreastfeeding.org/local-meetings](http://mibreastfeeding.org/local-meetings).

## Advocacy

- Successfully **advocated for doulas** to be allowed into hospitals to support birthing families
- Worked with Governor Whitmer to **proclaim August 2020 Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Michigan**

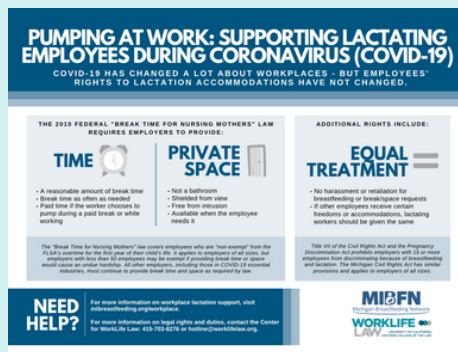
## Collaboration

- In partnership with Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color, **hosted a fundraiser** to provide PPE, equitable compensation for skilled lactation support, and lactation support supplies
- **Submitted funding proposals** in partnership with LactPower; Learn, Play, Grow; YOLO Breastfeeding, and Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color, Oakland County Breastfeeding Coalition
- **Supported Bridging the Breastfeeding Gap – Our Stories event** hosted by Oakland Breastfeeding Coalition and Learn, Lactate, Grow and sponsored by Blue Cross Complete
- **Submitted comment** to MDHHS in support of their Title V Block Grant Proposal



## Resources and Webpages

- Created a **resource webpage for COVID-19**
- Created a **resource webpage for August Breastfeeding Awareness celebrations**
- In partnership with Tameka Jackson-Dyer, IBCLC, CHW of Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color, **recorded and published a bonus Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinar**, "Pushing Through: Community Breastfeeding Support in a Pandemic"
- Created and published a Child Care and COVID-19 resource for child care providers.
- Created and published a **Workplace and COVID-19 resource** for employers in collaboration with Center for WorkLife Law.
- In partnership with Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color, created and published a **letter to pediatric medical providers**.



## Technology

- **Opened access to participate in local coalition meetings virtually** using MIBFN GoToMeeting account and technical support

....and much more!

## What Is Next?



Host **monthly, virtual Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings** in 2021.



Create and publish **actionable meeting reports** to guide MIBFN and MDHHS efforts.