

FY 2021

***MIBFN AND LOCAL
BREASTFEEDING
SUPPORTERS FUND***

R E P O R T

LETTER FROM MIBFN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

September 30, 2021

Dear Michigan WIC,

It is with immense gratitude and hope for the future that we publish this report on the FY 2021 MIBFN & Local Breastfeeding Supporters Fund. Thank you for your consistent financial support - from our first humble project kickoff in 2016 at a conference room at Sparrow Hospital for the Quarterly Regional Networking Meeting to our current efforts today.

This year has been extraordinarily difficult for so many reasons, from the state murders of unarmed Black people, the white supremacist violence against Asian American and Pacific Islanders, the insurrection at our nation's capital, and, most recently, the beginning of a long process of bringing home the Indigenous children whose very lives were stolen after they were forcefully removed from their homes and sent to state-sanctioned boarding schools. This, all against the backdrop of COVID-19, at times has been almost too much to bear. And yet, here we are.

We all keep showing up and trying to do things right by the families we serve. We lead with our hearts, and we are heartened by the growth in the movement to build systemic support for breastfeeding. In the last 12 months, we have been able to leverage your support to bring more than \$500,000 to Local Breastfeeding Supporters and organizations. At the guidance of local supporters, we've also widened our advocacy campaigns to include mental health, birth justice, health care, foster, and education systems in addition to our established campaigns.

As we navigate this new era of breastfeeding support, we do not want to go backward. We stand firm in our commitment to serving in solidarity with marginalized families across Michigan. And, we appreciate Michigan WIC as a partner in this work. Your mobilization of supplies to Local Breastfeeding Supporters in urgent need as well as your investment in our work, in organizations like Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color, Panoramic Doula, Nizhoni Sol, and Sage and Rebozos, speak to your understanding that we must all do better by the families across our state who suffer under the weight of oppressive systems.

Through this report, we hope that you will see how the monthly meetings and recap reports are integral to the broader work that happens in between the meetings. We appreciate your FY2022 support to continue breaking down barriers together and building a truly breastfeeding-supportive culture that centers our most marginalized families.

In service,



Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC
Executive Director, Michigan Breastfeeding Network

MEETINGS AT A GLANCE

These meetings are intended as a space for MIBFN, Local Breastfeeding Supporters, and statewide partners to share, listen, and learn alongside each other as a way of informing each of our statewide and local breastfeeding support strategies. Our meeting model is based on networking, incubating ideas, taking action, and achieving outcomes.

Meetings are open to breastfeeding supporters in Michigan – we are continuously working to widen our circle, with a focus on centering marginalized families.

The Local Breastfeeding Supporter Meetings are a brave space for the MIBFN team and those who participate. We honor the work being done in these monthly calls and in the time in between. We are so grateful for everything shared and feel very accountable for both transparency and action in support of the needs identified within the space.



MEETING MODEL

NETWORK
INCUBATE IDEAS
TAKE ACTION
ACHIEVE OUTCOMES

“THE MIBFN & LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS ARE VALUABLE TO ME AS A WIC IBCLC FOR NUMEROUS REASONS. IT’S IMPORTANT TO KNOW MIBFN FACILITATES THESE MEETINGS WITH THEIR MISSION AND VISION IN ACTION - THE AGENDA AND CONVERSATION ARE SHAPED BY THE COMMUNITY AND ALWAYS CENTER BIPOC FAMILIES. THE MONTHLY MEETINGS PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH OTHER WIC COLLEAGUES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO REFER TO LIKE MILK LIKE MINE! WE CONNECT, DISCUSS RELEVANT TOPICS, IDENTIFY CHALLENGES FOR OURSELVES AND BREASTFEEDING FAMILIES AND THEN WE THINK THROUGH SOLUTIONS. EVERYONE IS BRILLIANT AND PASSIONATE WITH SO MUCH TO OFFER EACH OTHER. I LEAVE EACH MEETING FEELING REJUVENATED AND MOTIVATED EVEN THOUGH THE WORK CAN BE HEAVY. I ALSO APPRECIATE THE MEETINGS ARE WELL SUPPORTED WITH GREAT NOTE-TAKING TO REFER BACK TO INCLUDING HELPFUL LINKS. IN MANY WAYS, THE MONTHLY MEETING FEELS LIKE A ONE-STOP RESOURCE FOR ME TO BETTER SERVE FAMILIES. OFTEN WHEN DISCUSSING CHALLENGES, WE ARE REMINDED, ‘THERE IS TOOLKIT FOR THAT!’ FOR EXAMPLE, I RECENTLY USED THE MIBFN CHILD CARE AND WORKPLACE TOOLKITS BECAUSE I WAS REMINDED ABOUT IT IN A MEETING! THIS COMMUNITY CONNECTION HAS BEEN INVALUABLE DURING THE PANDEMIC AND WE HAVE CREATED A STRONG FOUNDATION TO CONTINUE BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT IN MICHIGAN.”

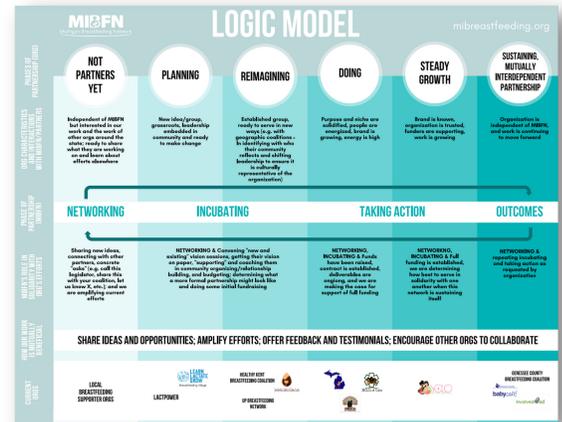
MISTEL DE VARONA, IBCLC
Breastfeeding Coordinator, Berrien County WIC
Chair, Berrien County Breastfeeding Coalition
Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Dowagiac, Michigan

HOW WE LEVERAGE THESE MEETINGS TO CATALYZE AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORTS

"I AM DEEPLY HUMBLLED AND GRATEFUL TO WORK FOR AN ORGANIZATION THAT SERVES ALONGSIDE SO MANY INSPIRING AND TRAILBLAZING LEADERS IN MICHIGAN. TO WAKE UP AND KNOW THAT NOT ONLY ARE OUR EFFORTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE, THE ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE SERVING FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES ARE LITERALLY SAVING LIVES, SPECIFICALLY THE LIVES OF BLACK AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF COLOR, EVERY DAY. BIPOC FOLX HAVE ALWAYS HAD THE SOLUTIONS FOR OUR COMMUNITIES. IT IS THE ACCESS TO RESOURCES THAT HAS BEEN THE BARRIER. WHEN YOU INVEST IN MIBFN, YOU ARE INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITIES BEING SERVED BY FOLX THAT REFLECT THE COMMUNITIES BY WHICH THEY SERVE. THIS IS HOW YOU LISTEN, TRUST, AND INVEST, BY DISRUPTING THE COLONIAL SYSTEMS THAT OPPRESS AND BY REMOVING BARRIERS TO ACCESS!"

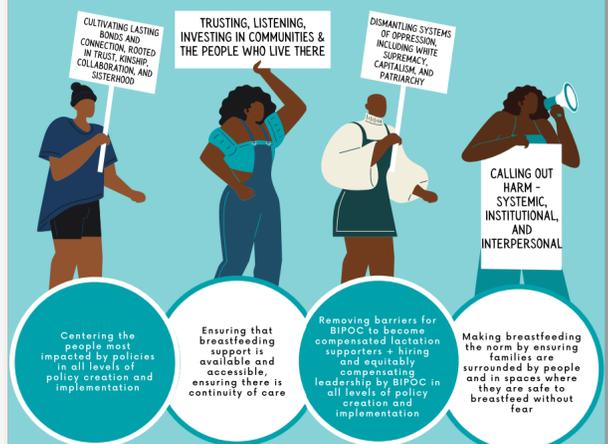
JENNIFER DAY, IBCLC
 Community Building Project Manager, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
 Co-Founder, Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color
 Co-Chair, Oakland County Breastfeeding Coalition
 Proprietor, IBCLC, Birth Doula, and Childbirth Educator, Feed The Babes
 Board of Director, International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners
 Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Farmington Hills, Michigan

In October 2020, we received this Community Building guidance and have followed it to establish a clear evaluation model that aligns with our commitment to networking, incubating, taking action, and making changes.



WHAT DOES BREASTFEEDING COMMUNITY BUILDING MEAN TO YOU?

"I believe in kinship, particularly for Black women where it has been lost for many generations... Kinship is communicated between people so more people feel connected to breastfeeding as part of Black history to build connections across the community." - Janeé M.



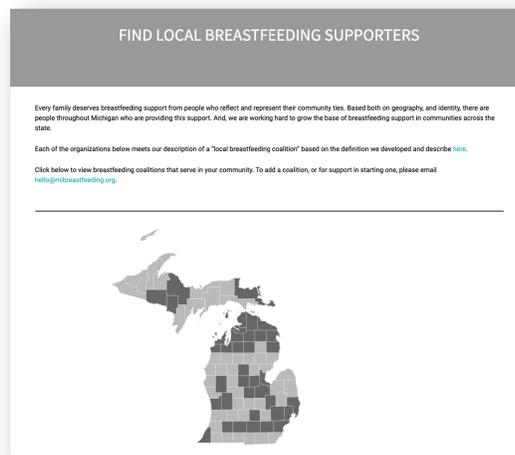
MIBFN
 THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE OCTOBER 15, 2020 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS.

We continue to grow our coalitions webpage and resources for coalition building at mibreastfeeding.org/coalition-building.

As of this report:

- 40 organizations are represented on the page and 37 counties are represented
- And, we are excited to announce we have just begun supporting the establishment of a new coalition in Clare county

Over one year into the pandemic, we were so honored to have been a small part of the successes shared among Local Breastfeeding Supporters who continue responding to their communities' needs throughout these difficult times. Showing Up to Support Families During COVID-19 in March 2021 was a clear demonstration of the unrelenting growth in their determination and efforts to save lives.



SHOWING UP TO SUPPORT FAMILIES DURING COVID-19

Local breastfeeding supporters continue to serve families before, during, and after the pandemic.

- Breastfeeding supporters throughout Battle Creek successfully advocated for a full-time IBCLC position at Bronson Battle Creek that recognizes the IBCLC as a stand-alone credential and does not require other certifications such as RN or RD.
- Family South-Central Women's Center with Greater Whitehouse joined March 2021 MIBFN's Breastfeeding Support Group. During January-February of 2021, Governor Whitmer's executive order gave us just what we needed. They have got us on the level of the governor and legislature to help us get the support we need. Way to go!
- Sakhia Heathlye Mabin has been invited to Eat, Pray, Doula In Belt and will be attending in May 2021.
- Milk Like Mine is now providing doula services for families in addition to breastfeeding support.
- Breastfeeding and Mental Health Working Group met with WCS and successfully advocated for breastfeeding supportive messaging and education to be distributed to all family practice physicians participating in their program.

As COVID-19 restrictions lessen, local public health departments and birthing hospitals must follow the lead of community-based breastfeeding support organizations by:

- Centering families
- Collaborating and demonstrating mutual respect for birth and breastfeeding

MIBFN

THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE MARCH 18, 2021 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS.

"WITHIN SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN IBCLCS OF COLOR (SEMI), WE ARE RESPONSIVE TO OUR COMMUNITY, AND RIGHT NOW WE ARE STRETCHED MORE THAN EVER. WHAT I REALLY APPRECIATE ABOUT WORKING WITH MIBFN IS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JUMP IN, AND FILL IN THE GAPS WHERE WE NEED SUPPORT. A PERFECT EXAMPLE IS OUR 'HOLDING SPACE' VIRTUAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT GROUP. WE HAD THE IDEA, WE PUT IT TOGETHER, AND WE HAVE EXPERT MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS, IBCLCS, AND FACILITATORS. WE NEEDED PROJECT MANAGEMENT, OUTREACH SUPPORT, AND FUNDING. MIBFN LISTENED, SNAPPED INTO ACTION, AND NOW WE HAVE ALL THREE. WE ARE ON TRACK AND ORGANIZED. OUR NEW FLYERS ARE BEAUTIFUL, VERSATILE, EASY TO USE, AND CAPTURE WHAT WE WANT TO CONVEY. AND, THEIR COMMITMENT TO ENSURING OUR WORK IS COMPENSATED IS SEEN AND APPRECIATED. THEY DON'T TELL US WHAT WE NEED - WE KNOW WHAT WE NEED. THEY LISTEN, THEY TRUST US, AND THEY HELP US GET WHAT WE NEED SO WE CAN DO THE WORK."

TAMEKA JACKSON-DYER, BASC, IBCLC, CHW, CLE, CLS, CLC
 Co-Founder, Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color
 Chair, Metro Detroit/Wayne County Breastfeeding Coalition
 Manager of Community Collaboration, Collective, LLC
 Proprietor, IBCLC, CrazyMilkLady Lactation Services, LLC
 Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Detroit, Michigan



THIS FISCAL YEAR, WE HAVE LEVERAGED THE \$25,000 FROM MICHIGAN WIC TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH FUNDING PARTNERS IN COMMUNITIES ACROSS MICHIGAN TO BRING MORE THAN \$422,052.11 DIRECTLY TO LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS IN BATTLE CREEK, BENTON HARBOR, FLINT, DETROIT, LANSING, PONTIAC, SAULT STE MARIE, GRAND RAPIDS, SAGINAW, AND YPSILANTI AND WE ARE JUST GETTING STARTED!

Highlights include:

- Establishing the first-ever “Pay It Forward” awards of \$2500 each to Lindsey McGahey, Micaela Eldridge, and Mariah McHenry as part of the #ReclaimIndigenousBreastfeeding fundraiser in solidarity with Lindsey McGahey
- Partnering on grant projects with Local Breastfeeding Supporters with financial support from WK Kellogg Foundation, Michigan Health Endowment Fund, Flint Kids Fund, United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region, and MDHHS Maternal Infant Health Division
- Forming the COVID-19 Racial Equity (“CORE”) Cohort of 12 organizations - and growing! - across Michigan who are led-by and serve BIPOC families
- Re-launching the MIBFN store by holding 2 merchandise fundraisers in solidarity with Milk Like Mine and YOLO
- Operationalizing 3 types of formal partnerships - contractual partnerships, fiscal sponsorships, and pass-through cash donations - to quickly accept and disseminate funds in solidarity with Local Breastfeeding Supporters and organizations from funders, donors, and sponsors in ways that best meet the needs of each organization with whom we partner

In solidarity with our - currently 17 - partner Local Breastfeeding Supporters and organizations, MIBFN provides:

- Project Management support/continuous communication, support, and connection with breastfeeding supporters across Michigan, work plans, updates for and meetings with program officers, and periodic reporting
- Fund development support/budget development, organizational overview creation, meetings with potential funding partners, writing and submitting grant applications, collecting donations, developing merchandise and joint sales on our online store
- Operational support/fiscal sponsorship, bookkeeping, purchasing supplies, providing monthly financial reports, sharing budget forecasting, and making payments
- Advocacy support/co-creating and co-branding advocacy tools and publishing them on our social media and website, and amplifying local concerns to statewide and federal policy-makers
- Decolonized Data and Communications support/gathering qualitative and quantitative data, creating reports and 1-pagers for use by the local organization and their community, amplifying and co-creating social media, and providing general graphic design support
- Increasing Local Breastfeeding Supporter organizational visibility through sharing bonus webinars on the Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars

“TO SERVE ALONGSIDE LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS ENHANCES EVERY PART OF MY WORK AT MIBFN AND BEYOND INTO MY LOCAL COMMUNITY AS WELL. TO LISTEN, TO LEARN, AND THEN TO EMULATE THE BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING WORK THAT IS DONE THROUGHOUT THE STATE, ESPECIALLY AS IT CENTERS MARGINALIZED FAMILIES, HAS HELPED TO REFINE THE FOCUS OF MY WORK IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE. IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE A PART OF THIS WORK, NOT ONLY FOR THE PROFESSIONAL CONNECTION, BUT ALSO FOR THE PERSONAL CONNECTIONS THAT HAVE DEVELOPED.”

VICKI WOOD, CLC, CLS

Education Project Manager, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, Marquette County WIC
Co-Chair, Marquette County Breastfeeding Coalition
Co-Chair, Upper Peninsula Breastfeeding Network
Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Marquette, Michigan

“OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH MIBFN HAS BEEN ONE THAT WE CHERISH. THE LEVEL OF SISTERHOOD IS ONE THAT I NEVER IMAGINED POSSIBLE. ALL THAT THEY DO FOR US ALLOWS US TO GROW. BUT THEY AREN’T JUST GOING OFF AND DOING THINGS - WHETHER IT’S GRANT PROPOSALS, BUDGETING PLANNING OR WHATEVER WE MAY NEED - THEY INCLUDE US, TEACHING US AND ALLOWING US TO BE A PART OF ALL THAT THEY DO FOR US. THEY ENSURE THAT WE ARE WALKING ON THE PATH WITH THEM SO WE CAN LEARN. I LOVE THAT THEY HAVE ALWAYS MADE SURE WE KNOW THAT OUR PARTNERSHIP WILL ONE DAY ALLOW US TO FLY ON OUR OWN. THEY ARE GIVING US ALL THE TOOLS TO DO SO. BUT IN THE MEANTIME IT’S BEEN SO PEACEFUL AND ENCOURAGING TO JUST BE ABLE TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY KNOWING THAT THEY HAVE OUR BACKS AND BEST INTEREST AT HEART.”

RICKESHIA WILLIAMS, BD, CBE, CLE
Co-Founder, Milk Like Mine

Co-Facilitator, Sistah 2 Sistah Breastfeeding Support Group
Co-Facilitator, Holding Space Virtual Breastfeeding Support Group
Member, Breastfeeding Coalition of Calhoun County
Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Battle Creek, Michigan

HOW WE LEVERAGE THESE MEETINGS TO BUILD TRUST, VIA OUR COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORMS

We have published 4 newsletters, announcing and recapping the growth in our Education, Advocacy, and Community Building efforts over the quarter.

- Winter
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

We've also established a separate "Local Breastfeeding Supporters" listserv to expand the reach of MDHHS messaging and calls for engagement. We use this listserv to announce events, training, opportunities for public comment, scholarships, and more, when they are shared with us by MDHHS and Local Breastfeeding Supporters. This listserv is available to all meeting attendees and so far, in addition to the full MIBFN and MDHHS breastfeeding staff,

- 78 organizations are represented
- 38 counties are represented

We also published our first-ever annual report at mibreastfeeding.org/annual-report.

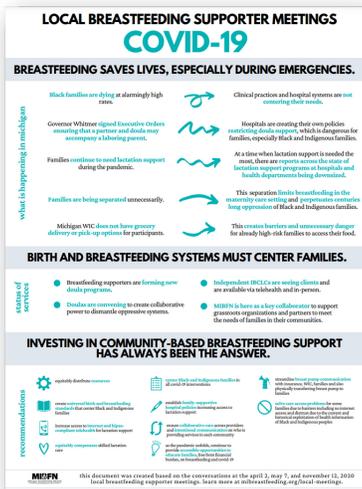


MIBFN CORE VALUES

**RESPECT
DIVERSITY
LISTENING
PLANNING
TRANSPARENCY
COMMUNITY-BUILDING**

HOW WE LEVERAGE THESE MEETINGS TO PROPEL OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

In further following the guidance received during FY 2020, in July, regarding Breastfeeding Advocacy, we have worked hard to balance “amplifying voices” and “taking action” while working diligently to build breastfeeding-supportive systems. This guidance was further solidified in December 2020 with the COVID-19 Birth and Breastfeeding Justice and Serving Incarcerated Families discussion.

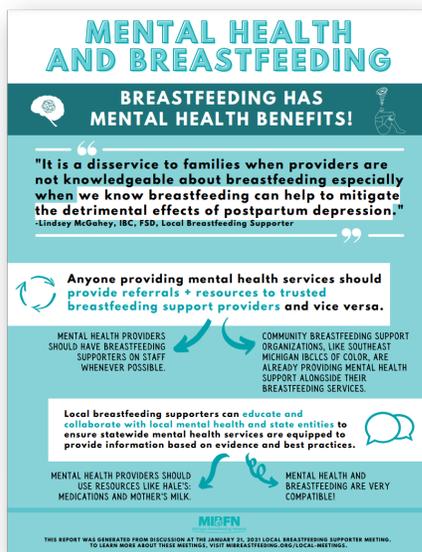


In November 2020, we received many COVID-19 community updates that catalyzed the formation of the COVID-19 working group, which has since transitioned into the “Breastfeeding and Emergencies Working Group.” This group vetted tools for and supported the development of a web page with new tools for child care, incarceration, workplace, and outpatient providers and supported the development of the MIBFN 2021-2022 Policy Priorities (mibreastfeeding.org/policy-priorities) as well as the consolidation of all the campaign-related tools to a new, easier-to-navigate webpage, mibreastfeeding.org/tools.

“ONE THING I APPRECIATE SO MUCH ABOUT THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM MDHHS WIC IS THAT WE RELY HEAVILY ON RESTRICTED GRANT FUNDS TO SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY-BUILDING EFFORTS, AND THEREFORE, WE ARE OFTEN LIMITED IN OUR ABILITY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DIRECT ADVOCACY NEEDS THAT ARE SHARED BY LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS. WITH THESE FUNDS, WE ARE ABLE TO BE RESPONSIVE AND AMPLIFY THE CONCERNS WE ARE HEARING AND TO ENSURE OTHER ENTITIES WITH STATEWIDE IMPACT ARE HEARING THE NEEDS OF BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS WHO ARE FOCUSED ON PROVIDING DIRECT SERVICES TO FAMILIES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.”

SHANNON MCKENNEY SHUBERT, MPH, CLC
 Executive Director, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
 Fund Development & Advocacy Teams Lead, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
 Chair Emeritus, Wayne County Breastfeeding Coalition
 Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Dearborn, Michigan

BREASTFEEDING SAVES LIVES, ESPECIALLY IN EMERGENCIES.



In January 2021, we received guidance on Mental Health and Breastfeeding and determined the need to form a separate Mental Health working group. This group is made up of 9 breastfeeding supporters from across Michigan who work together to amplify the need for breastfeeding supportive mental health services. We have held meetings with MC3 to support changing their guidance on breastfeeding, participated in a panel discussion, and published guidance for mental health providers.

Perhaps, most importantly, this group is working towards reshaping the way we approach breastfeeding, especially in light of the increase in climate change-related emergencies we are facing. The group makes clear that Black families have been in crisis since they were stolen from their homelands and brought here on slave ships, and Indigenous people have been in crisis since colonization began. Black and Indigenous families have been forcefully separated, women and children murdered, and traditions purposefully taken away from them by force. So, while COVID-19 has impacted all of us, it is not the first crisis, nor will it be the last, that breastfeeding and the reclamation of traditional breastfeeding practices mitigates. From behavioral health to immunizations, to reproductive health, etc. culturally congruent, systemic breastfeeding support will improve outcomes.

"I HAVE BEEN IN THIS WORK A LONG TIME, AND WITH THIS GROUP, IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING IS ACTUALLY GETTING DONE. IT HAS REALLY INVIGORATED ME TO KEEP GOING, AND TO KEEP WORKING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF LACTATION SUPPORTERS. WE NEED TO MAKE CHANGES, AND I AM MORE HOPEFUL NOW THAN I HAVE BEEN IN A LONG TIME."

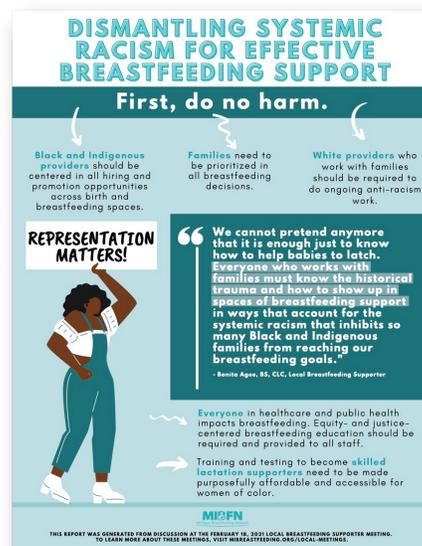
ROSA GARDINER, RN, IBCLC
Chair, Breastfeeding Education and Support Team, Chippewa County
Home Visitor and Lactation Supporter, Chippewa County Health Department and WIC Program
Local Breastfeeding Supporter in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan

DIRECT ADVOCACY: WE WERE INFORMED OF TWO MOTHERS OF EXCLUSIVELY BREASTFED CHILDREN AND ADVOCATED FOR THEM TO HAVE LIGHTER SENTENCES IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 AND PUBLISHED TEMPLATE LETTER AT [MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/TOOLS](https://mibreastfeeding.org/tools).

Informed by the guidance on Dismantling Systemic Racism for Effective Breastfeeding Support in February 2021, we shared Statements and Open Letters:

- [January 2021 Statement in opposition to white supremacist attacks on the US Capitol on January 6th](#)
- [March 2021 Statement in solidarity with Asian Americans after white supremacist attack in Georgia](#)
- [May 2021 MIBFN: Open Letter Regarding Updated COVID-19 Masking Recommendations](#)
- [June 2021 Statement in solidarity with Indigenous families](#)
- [August 2021 Statement in Solidarity with Sysha Mercado](#)

The meetings and time between also served as great opportunities to collaborate and amplify World Doula Week and the celebrations of Breastfeeding throughout August. We amplified World Doula Week posts on social media and created/published Black doula support in solidarity with Mi Milk Collective. Empowered by the guidance in April 2021 that reaffirmed our Commitment to August Breastfeeding Awareness from 2020, we are planning for Breastfeeding Awareness Month 2021 with a focus on World Breastfeeding Week, Native Breastfeeding Week, Black Breastfeeding Week, and Asian American and Pacific Islanders Breastfeeding Week. We submitted a draft Proclamation for August Breastfeeding Month, worked with Mi Milk Collective to submit a draft Proclamation for Black Breastfeeding Week, and we are working with 6 Indigenous Breastfeeding Supporters on a draft Proclamation Native Breastfeeding Week. We also launched the new Outpatient Provider Awards Program at mibreastfeeding.org/awards.



WHAT'S NEXT IN FY 2022?

INVESTING IN LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS

Guidance from May 2021

WHEN YOU INVEST IN LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTERS:

✓ THEY GET THE WORK DONE.

Southeast Michigan IBCLCs of Color has been in talks with Senator Celise about two bills around pregnant people who are incarcerated

Local Breastfeeding Supporters participated in advisory efforts to inform breastfeeding Medicaid policy regarding doula reimbursement and in the first ever State of Michigan advisory group to guide efforts to implement the recently released Breastfeeding Plan

Kiana Beason, CD, CLC, and Lindsey McGahey, IBCLC, IFSD are collaborating with Michigan Organizations on Adolescent Sexual Health to support programs for pregnant and parenting teens

Tameka Jackson-Oyer, IBCLC, CHW is participating on a panel discussion with mental health providers and physicians to discuss best practices in mental health and breastfeeding support

Lindsey McGahey, IBCLC, IFSD expanded her postpartum services to indigenous families in and around Sault St. Marie

Day One Doula Collective trained nine Black birthworkers as doulas and these newly certified doulas will soon be serving families across greater Grand Rapids

Black Mothers' Breastfeeding Association continues offering WIC peer counselor services and a warm line for Black breastfeeding families

Mik Liza Mine secured a space in Battle Creek to offer consultations

♥ THEY INVEST IN EACH OTHER.

"I really feel for new moms. Sometimes I have to talk myself down, like 'I took the exam, I passed the exam, but my baby didn't.'"
-Tameka White, CLS, Local Breastfeeding Supporter

"I keep thinking about all the moms who don't have all the connections and resources I have. My first three months of breastfeeding were so hard and without you all, I never would have made it. I am so grateful for each of you, this space, and the work you are doing."
-Lauren Cody, RD, IBCLC, Local Breastfeeding Supporter



MIBFN

THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE MAY 20, 2021 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS.

CREATING NEW WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

MEETING FAMILIES WHERE THEY ARE TO MEET ALL THE NEEDS OF FAMILIES



"In the community we are working, it feels like we are fixing what was broken, before we had a chance to touch it when it wasn't broken. It's so frustrating."
- Bianca Nash-Miot, CLC, Local Breastfeeding Supporter

building differently

"How do we creatively create new ways to gather that meet families where they are to meet all the needs of families?"
- Jennifer Day, IBCLC, MIBFN Community Building Project Manager

We must:

- center Black, Indigenous, and other marginalized folk
- use creativity in how funding is utilized
- think innovatively about how we convene and gather
- return to our nature as women, mothers, families, and communities to emerge from this pandemic

MIBFN

THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE JUNE 17, 2021 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS.

CREATING NEW WAYS TO BUILD COMMUNITY

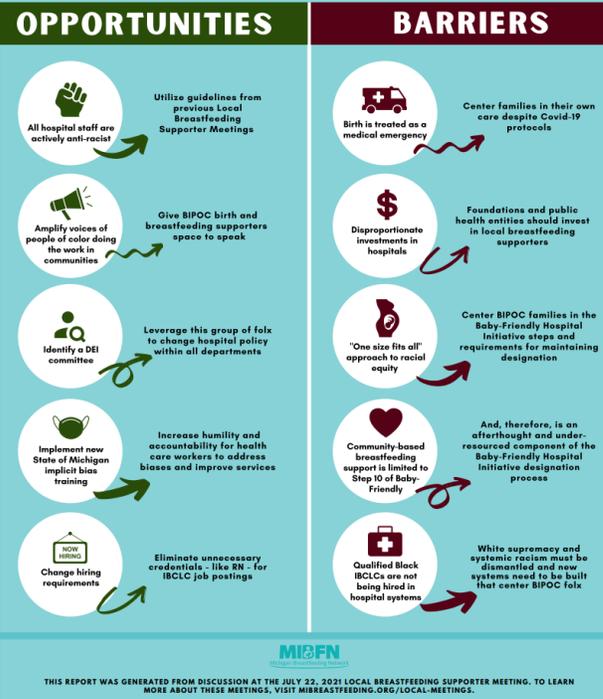
Guidance from June 2021

CENTERING FAMILIES IN BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING SYSTEMS

Guidance from July 2021



CENTERING FAMILIES IN BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING SYSTEMS



PROVIDING LACTATION CARE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH CARE, AND HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

WE AGREE THAT:

- Reclaiming chest/breastfeeding is vital to achieving both health and racial equity
- Skilled lactation care is crucial to the public health, health care, and hospital systems
- Warm hand-offs from health care providers to lactation care providers must be normalized
- Power must be returned to lactation care providers who reflect their own communities
- Lactation care providers at all levels - IBC, CLC, CLS, IBCLC, IFSD, CBE, CHW, and so many more - deserve compensation that is both equitable and sustainable



"WHO PAYS FOR BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT MATTERS. CHEST/BREASTFEEDING TRADITIONS WERE INTENTIONALLY STOLEN FROM BLACK AND INDIGENOUS FAMILIES THROUGH STATE-SANCTIONED SLAVERY, GENOCIDE, AND FORCED SEPARATION. AS SUCH, RECLAIMING THESE TRADITIONS SHOULD NOT BE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF INDIVIDUAL BIRTHING FAMILIES - IT SHOULD BE PAID FOR COLLECTIVELY BY THE GOVERNMENT AND THE FOLKS WHO FINANCIALLY BENEFITED FROM THIS VIOLENCE."

-Shannon McKenney Shubert, MPH, CLC, MIBFN Executive Director

"THERE'S A GROSS HIERARCHY IN THESE SYSTEMS WHERE NUMBERS MATTER MORE THAN PEOPLE AND I'VE HAD MANY MOMS OPEN UP TO ME LATELY THAT THEY FEEL LIKE THEY ARE JUST A NUMBER."

-Lindsey McGahey, IBC, IFSD, BE, Local Breastfeeding Supporter

MIBFN
MICHIGAN INSTITUTE OF BREASTFEEDING NURSES

THIS REPORT WAS GENERATED FROM DISCUSSION AT THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2021 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETING. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE MEETINGS, VISIT [MIBREASTFEEDING.ORG/LOCAL-MEETINGS](https://mibreastfeeding.org/local-meetings).



PROVIDING LACTATION CARE IN THE PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH CARE, AND HOSPITAL SYSTEMS

Guidance from June 2021

“THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE INFRASTRUCTURES OF THIS COUNTRY WERE BUILT BY BRUTAL FORCE, ON STOLEN LAND, WITH STOLEN LABOR. NOT ONLY SHOULD ENTITIES INVEST IN BLACK AND INDIGENOUS BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING WORKERS, THEY OWE IT TO US. BLACK AND INDIGENOUS BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES HAVE BEEN COLONIZED AND OUR COMMUNITIES ARE OWED THE RESOURCES IT WILL TAKE TO REPAIR WHAT WAS INTENTIONALLY BROKEN.”

GI'ANNA CHEAIRS, BS

Operations Manager, Michigan Breastfeeding Network
Local breastfeeding supporter in West Bloomfield, Michigan

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF
MIBFN & LOCAL BREASTFEEDING
SUPPORTERS - WE LOOK FORWARD TO
CONTINUED COLLABORATION IN FY 2022!***