

2024 LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS RELAUNCH

ABOUT THE MEETINGS



WHO PARTICIPATES

MIBFN and Local Breastfeeding Supporter 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**. We hold one another accountable for ensuring that this, and all breastfeeding spaces, are safe for the families and breastfeeding supporters who are most marginalized by our current systems.

“I’M SO HAPPY THESE ARE RESTARTING. IT’S SO IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE IMPORTANT WORK THAT IS BEING DONE ACROSS THE STATE SO WE CAN HELP MOVE THE NEEDLE TOGETHER.”

- Lauren Cody, RD, IBCLC, Local Breastfeeding Supporter

- This is a BRAVE space
- Listen from the inside out, or listen from the bottom up (a feeling in your gut matters)
- Microaggressions, white optics, and co-opting of ideas will be called out immediately by white facilitators during the call
- We address issues - especially white violence - as it happens in the meeting and discuss it on the next call
- Intellectual property that is shared on calls is shared for the purpose of informing folks of what is happening throughout Michigan. If you wish to implement something similar in your own community, it is expected you will consult with the person who shared their idea on the call
- W.A.I.T. - Why Am I Talking?
- Make Space, Take Space
- Confidentiality - take the lessons, leave the details
- Be open to learning
- Be open to someone else speaking your truth
- Building, not selling - when you speak, converse, don't pitch
- Yes/and, both/and
- Value the process as much as, if not more than, you value the outcomes
- Assume best intent, attend to impact
- Self care and community care - pay attention to your bladder, pay attention to your neighbors

These group norms were adapted from Emergent Strategy by adrienne maree brown.



GROUP NORMS



WE'RE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE FEEDBACK FROM PARTICIPANTS BOTH ON THE PRE-MEETING SURVEY AND IN THE MEETING.

KEY FINDINGS

Data gathered through survey (n=38)
Data gathered through meeting (n=45)

HOW DO YOU DESCRIBE THE MIBFN & LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS?



WHAT DO YOU VALUE ABOUT THE MEETINGS YOU HAVE ATTENDED?



KEY FINDINGS (CTD)

WHAT DO YOU WISH COULD HAVE GONE DIFFERENTLY?

Meeting monthly without pause

Sustained funding

Access to lactation care

Having a time keeper

Participation from every community

More focused conversations

More participation from lactation supports, like WIC

Ideas not being stolen and branded



IF YOU COULD WAVE A MAGIC WAND, HOW WOULD YOU ORGANIZE AND USE THIS TIME TOGETHER?



Supporting Black and Indigenous folk to become IBCLCs

Communicating a vision

Ensuring access to equity-centered services for Michigan families

Discussing current hot topics

Obtaining grant funding

Giving technical assistance to become 501c3 organizations

Setting clear goals

Establishing workplace protection

Sharing training opportunities

Creating statewide campaign for Breastfeeding Month

Publishing statewide resources

Connecting and networking

MIBFN

Michigan Breastfeeding Network