

JUNE 2020

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

NORTH CAROLINA



BREASTFEEDING COALITION

Message from the Chair



Hello NCBC Community,

I hope that each of you have been able to take care of yourself and loved ones as we continue to navigate a global health crisis and national social unrest.

We cannot be afraid to discuss the impact of racism that is inherit in the foundation of our nation— grounded in white supremacy, and the abhorrent inequity that persists in the Black community due to the nation's structure (systems) and gatekeepers. The danger in not having the conversation, not acknowledging our past, is ever so apparent in the every day experience of African Americans. It's also apparent in our health data when we look at disparities. We, as a nation, are witnessing senseless violence and persistent oppression aimed at Black lives resulting in lives being ended too soon- and often without recourse. We are watching as mothers lose their children. We must denounce the atrocities we have witnessed, have conversations in safe spaces about our past to understand and address the present, no matter how imperfect, and work together to build a better future for the Mothers and Babies (families) of North Carolina. Our part, NCBC community, is to acknowledge the feelings of grief, anger, frustration, fear, and hopelessness; among other feelings. It is imperative that each of us seek education, make changes, and take action in an effort to work towards building an equitable future.

I look forward to seeing more babies thrive as we work together to ensure all families have equitable access to the "Great Equalizer", the First Food.

Connie McLendon, MSN, MBA, RN, IBCLC, LCCE
Chair of North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition



"George Floyd, an unarmed Black man, died face down and handcuffed, after being pinned down by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States.

Among his last words were a call to his mother.

As mothers, and as those that support mothers and breastfeeding and chestfeeding families, we at ILCA join in mourning his death and this tragic loss. And we join in raising our voices against the systems of oppression in the United States that led to the loss of his life and so many others.

Starting with pregnancy and birth care and continuing throughout the lifespan of Black Americans, systemic racism affects every aspect of life, from housing to health care to criminal justice to education to employment.

We believe that access to maternal and infant health care, including lactation care – and opportunities to enter the profession – are fundamental to a just start in life. As Michael Lu, physician and Associate Administrator of Maternal and Child Health at the United States Department of Health and Human Services, says: "We can't all be created equal if we can't get an equal start in life."

ILCA stands in support of efforts to dismantle systems of oppression in the United States.

ILCA stands in support of Black mothers and birthing people in the United States and celebrates their deep and loving care for their families, despite inadequate systems of support.

ILCA stands in support of Black lactation consultants in the United States, and celebrates their tireless care for their communities, despite inadequate systems of support.

ILCA calls on our members and partners to join us in standing in support of our community, and to advocate now for the change needed to ensure a just start in life for Black families."

NCBC believes in and supports this statement, and has joined ILCA as a signatory organization to this statement.

PARENT ADVOCACY CORNER

The North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition (NCBC) is committed to creating an environment of genuine breastfeeding support for all families. Parents are at the center of this work. If you are passionate about breastfeeding and interested in volunteering in your community, we welcome you to join our organization as a Parent Advocate! We live in an incredibly diverse state and each community is unique. We know that a person who lives, works, volunteers, or supports parents in their community would have a better understanding of the needs in that area. Our parent advocate members identify education and resource needs of parents in their community, pinpoint areas that are working well for breastfeeding families when interacting with systems of care in their communities, and define ways to improve lactation care and support for families who are providing human milk to their babies. If you're interested in getting involved in the Parent Advocacy Group, contact Love Anderson at ncbcparent@gmail.com



PHOTO CREDIT: FACEBOOK IMAGE OF AUTUMN GAINES, PHOTO TAKEN BY HER WIFE JANIA GAINES

NCBC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Donating Milk During A Pandemic

Human milk donation has long played an important role in saving the lives of infants, many of whom are preterm or otherwise medically fragile. This need remains during the COVID-19 pandemic, and organizations such as the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) are working closely with both the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to ensure that the milk donation process is safe and that the donor milk supply remains available as well as safe...If you would like to continue reading this story visit [La Leche League USA](#)



Call for Submissions: Do you know someone who is a rockstar breastfeeding advocate, IBCLC, or provider? Share their story and have them featured in our newsletter! Photos or graphics are always appreciated, if you have photo release permission.

TELEHEALTH DIRECTORY

Amidst COVID-19, NCBC would like to create a directory of online/telehealth breastfeeding resources across the state. Are you providing services for families during this time? Please [complete this form](#) so we can list it on our website.

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Like us on [Facebook](#). Doing so will keep you up-to-date with state and national news, new research, NCBC grants and news, and other important information related to breastfeeding. You can also visit our website for reliable sources of information, tips, laws, policy and more.



Join NCBC & Volunteer!

Interested in getting involved in NCBC?

Our members are the heartbeat of the North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition (NCBC) as they believe in the vision to have vibrant communities where breastfeeding and human milk feeding is a part of the fabric of life. Some are lactation consultants and nurses, others are academics and government workers, still others are parents, midwives, childbirth educators, doulas, massage therapists, physicians, and public health professionals. The energy of our diverse membership is the foundation for all the work we do to advance our mission. You can find our members actively participating in collaborative community work, creating environments of genuine breastfeeding support for families through areas like education and advocacy wherever they live in North Carolina. They take their commitment one step further to engage with people just like them across the state to make the vision a reality.

What areas are NCBC members currently impacting?

- Creating a space for parents to share experiences and connect with other parents across the state
- Growing the field of lactation experts by offering IBCLC Scholarships
- Hosting an annual educational lactation conference; bringing parents, advocates, and professionals from across the state together
- Pioneering programs that center community support for breastfeeding families by training peer counselors in their own communities and connecting them to medical clinics who serve mothers and babies
- Sponsoring 3 prestigious awards that compel outpatient medical clinics, inpatient birthing facilities, and businesses across NC to implement best practice that support and welcome breastfeeding

When you [become a member](#) you are saying yes to normalizing breastfeeding in North Carolina.

Are you passionate about breastfeeding? Interested in volunteering with us? We welcome your participation; your dedication and passion will help more babies breastfeed in North Carolina. Become a member!

Are you interested in engaging in professional development and leadership opportunities with the North Carolina Breastfeeding Coalition? Become a member!

All are welcome to attend [NCBC meetings](#).

Meet Our Team

Board of Directors

Connie McLendon



Chair

Ellen Chetwynd



Outgoing Chair

Colette Waddill



Treasurer

Brittany Brown



Secretary

Chiara Phillips



State Ex-Officio

At-Large Board Members

Machelle Williams



Executive Assistant

Love Anderson



Parent Advocacy Group
Liaison

Laura Sinai



Membership
Coordinator

Nicola Singletary



Regional Map
Coordinator

Jenny Jensen



NCLCA Chair

NCLCA CALL FOR SCIENCE FAIR PARTICIPANTS

We are finalizing plans for the NCLCA Annual Summit! Have you created a new technique that your clients rave about, new format for lactation services in the hospital, an amazing way to teach lactation to the future IBCLCs or new research and policy everyone must know about? **Sign up for the virtual lactation science fair by July 1st!**

Updates will be posted to the NCLCA Summit Website: <https://www.ncbfc.org/nclca-summit>. In the meantime, please mark your calendars for August 18. Thank you for your flexibility, and we look forward to seeing you there!

**Region V
Meeting
June 29th!**

click [here](#) for
details



**Happy
Pride
Month**

FROM NCBC