

Maryland Breastfeeding Coalition Seasonal Newsletter

Fall is around the corner and so is our quarterly coalition meeting:

September 6th

10 am – 12 pm

Location: BCS, Inc 8920 Stephens Rd in Laurel, MD!

What a month we have had!

Congratulations to MBC VP Dana Silver, and others who after several months of conducting research and meetings with MCO representatives finished compiling a **Comprehensive Guide to Medicaid MCO Criteria for Breast Pumps!** The spreadsheet has been distributed to Maryland lactation consultants and hospitals to increase speed and efficiency in getting a pump to mothers with an urgent medical necessity. Case managers and lactation consultants at Maryland Hospitals can now use this spreadsheet to quickly look up each Medicaid MCO's benefits and immediately start the application process to obtain a pump. For a copy of this spreadsheet please contact us at info@mdbfc.org.

Check out what's new on our website (www.mdbfc.org) this month, especially the **Workplace Awards** tab. We are now accepting nominations for the 3rd annual Regional Breastfeeding-Friendly Workplace Awards, sponsored in conjunction with the DC Breastfeeding Coalition. The deadline for nominations is September 15th and the awards will be announced in October. Please help us recognize businesses in our community who are supporting breastfeeding women.

MBC successfully put on many events in celebration of **Maryland Breastfeeding Month** this August. We had several family fun days and the Baltimore WIC event. We had a lot of fun, but we did miss having more MBC members attend. Next year, we plan to give more notice in advance of upcoming events to encourage a better turnout. Please note that we postponed our film festival event. The new date is TBD.

August 4-6, seven of our members and coalition leaders had the opportunity to attend the **United States Breastfeeding Committee Fourth National Conference of State/Territorial/Tribal Breastfeeding Coalitions** in Arlington, VA. This amazing conference provided us with a lot of food for thought, which we will share with you at our September 6th meeting. Some of the many projects that we were inspired to work on include a letter writing campaign to ban the free discharge formula bags from hospitals, renewed outreach to the African American community, and the development of breastfeeding-related educational materials for Maryland childcare providers. Most importantly, we learned new ways to reach out and collaborate with groups to reach our goals.

We want to hear from YOU about your ideas for the coalition. What kinds of projects would you like to see us take on? What can MBC do to support your interests? In preparation for our coalition meeting, please feel free to send an email with your ideas and thoughts to our Community Rep, Rachel Barmatz, at rkozlow@gmail.com.

Breastfeeding Items of Interest in the Media:

WebMD: "More Moms Breastfeeding"

<http://www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/news/20120801/more-moms-breastfeeding>

Free Screening Online of "The Weight of the Nation" exploring ways to combat America's Obesity Epidemic

<http://theweightofthenation.hbo.com/>

Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition: State Goes Bag Free!

<http://massbreastfeeding.org/index.php/2012/massachusetts-hospitals-eliminate-formula-marketing-becoming-the-nations-second-bag-free-state/>

Public Citizen Infant Formula Marketing Campaign

<http://www.citizen.org/Page.aspx?pid=5378>

The New York Times: "Maternity Ward Swag" op-ed on banning infant formula discharge bags in hospitals

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/11/opinion/maternity-ward-swag.html?_r=3&emc=eta1

United States Breastfeeding Committee: "Supreme Court Upholds Health Care Law: Implementation of Breastfeeding Provisions Continues"

<http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/NewsInfo/NewsRoom/201206SupremeCourtRuling/tabid/269/Default.aspx>