



Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Supporting breastfeeding today for a healthier Kansas tomorrow

Invitation to join the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC):
Membership year is February to February. Dues are \$10. Please complete the attached membership form and send check for \$10 made out to Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition to: Barb Beier, Shawnee County Health Dept, 1615 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66606-1633

The coalition meets the 2nd Friday of even months in various locations around KS. See www.ksbreastfeeding.org for details.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition current projects:

Business Case for Breastfeeding – workshops around Kansas train interested persons to assist employers in setting up lactation support for their employees who are breastfeeding. A United Methodist Health Ministry Foundation of Hutchinson, KS grant allows the KBC to promote, enhance and support this project through free workshops, promotion of the project, employer grants, and employer recognition.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition mission and objectives:

Exclusive breastfeeding during early infancy has been shown to reduce childhood illnesses, hospitalizations for those illnesses, and maternal risk for breast and endometrial cancer. Moreover, infants who are breastfed are significantly less likely to become obese in childhood and adolescence. Both obesity and illnesses cost taxpayer dollars. Exclusive breastfeeding through six months of age, defined as an infant's consumption of human milk with no supplementation of any type (no nonhuman milk, juice, water, or foods) except for vitamins, minerals, and medications, is the gold standard recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Health Resources and Services Administration, and Office on Women's Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Kansas has good breastfeeding initiation rates but many mothers quit breastfeeding too early in their child's life. Breastfeeding mothers need assistance and support to continue to breastfeed. We need to come together and act now to insure that every Kansas mother who desires to do so can give her child the best possible start in life by breastfeeding.

We believe you will make a vital contribution to discussion of critical priorities and practical realities as we work together to improve the health of children and mothers by increasing breastfeeding rates in Kansas. The objectives of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition are:

1. To increase public acceptance of breastfeeding, increase public awareness of the benefits, and promote behavioral change that results in increased rates of breastfeeding initiation and longer duration.
2. To increase acceptance and support for breastfeeding in schools and work sites.
3. To promote public policies that support breastfeeding and compliance with the WHO Code.
4. To advocate for policies and practices that promote and support breastfeeding in all sectors of the health care system.
5. To educate health care providers about breastfeeding and its benefits.
6. To increase services and support to families who are breastfeeding.

In the interest of exchanging ideas and developing strategies to improve breastfeeding support in our community, this coalition aims to bring together healthcare providers, public health officials, lactation consultants, businessmen, school officials and educators, child care center directors, civic organizers and policy makers to discuss what is working and what needs to be improved. We believe that together, we can develop a plan to address the specific needs of breastfeeding families in Kansas. We would be honored if you or a designated representative from your group can join this important community-wide effort.

Membership of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition is open to anyone who is in agreement with the purposes and objectives of the coalition. No person or organization shall be denied membership because of race, sex, religious preference, ethnic considerations, or any other grounds in which it is impermissible to discriminate.

Please complete and mail membership form with \$10 dues to: Barb Beier, Shawnee County Health Dept, 1615 SW 8th, Topeka, KS 66606-1633

Name: _____

Workplace/Job Title: _____

Address: (for any mailings): _____

Email: (most communication is by email)

Phone Number: _____

Thank you!