

Minutes for Tuesday 11-13-07
Ruth Sweet, WALC secretary

Host: Meriter Hospital, Madison
Thanks to Meriter and Kathy Russell for hosting.

Other educational events upcoming

- The Lactation Counselor Certificate Training Program will be held at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison December 10 - 14, 2007. Sponsored by The Center for Breastfeeding, Cost: \$645
- Learn to Teach the 18 Hour Course" on March 3 - 7, 2008 at Meriter Hospital in Madison, sponsored by The Center for Breastfeeding.
- WIC conference in Appleton June 23-25, 08

Educational Content: Presentation from two members of the Cleft team at UW Childrens' Hospital, Madison, Shannon Theis and Janiece Pritchard, RN. The following synopsis was submitted by Shannon: Cleft lip and/or palate is one of the most common birth defects found in newborn babies. Every year in the United States, over 5000 babies are born with clefts, which is approximately one newborn baby in every 700 live births. Children born with a cleft lip and/or palate can face many medical problems, including early feeding difficulties, chronic otitis media, hearing loss, dental and orthodontic abnormalities, speech and resonance difficulties, and numerous surgeries. A baby born with a cleft of the palate will require modifications in feeding techniques and supplies, as well as positioning. Review of palatal anatomy/function and associated feeding difficulties in a child born with a cleft was presented.

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Business Meeting Called to order by Becky Krumwiede

The previous minutes were accepted as written. Whenever you notice problems with the published minutes, please notify the secretary, Ruth Sweet, or one of the other officers.

Treasurer's Report: Kathy Russell reports that we have about \$10,000 in our account.

New Officers for next year: Please contact Carol Cox if you are willing to consider a WALC position. Secretary and President will be elected; we currently have one candidate for each position.

Program Committee: Donna Bisbee

Next meeting: January 18, 2008 in Milwaukee. The topic will probably be Breastfeeding after bariatric surgery. Please look for updates at our web site: www.walc.net
Donna is planning the program for our Clinic Day in May. Please contact Donna with your suggestions.

Conference Committee: Pat Gima

- Pink flyers to for posting were available at the meeting. Contact Pat Gima for more. The tickler postcard was mailed last month, the brochure will be mailed in early January but will be on the web site sooner. Tell your colleagues about the wonderful conference that WALC presents each year.
- The conference committee has a member in charge of volunteers: Janet Godshall. Please contact her to find out how you can help.
- STOMP will be performing in Appleton March 11 – 16. Info and tickets are at www.foxcitiespac.com

Membership Committee: Sandy Testin

We now have 171 members.

Scholarships Committee: Winnie Mading

There are scholarship funds available for those interested in taking a lactation course in preparation for eventually becoming an IBCLC, to sit for their first IBLCE exam, and for those planning to recertify. Please see the website for the application forms.

Mothers' Milk Association of Wisconsin (MMAW): Ruth Sweet

The Mothers' Milk Association of Wisconsin (MMAW) has applied for a planning grant that will help develop a human milk bank in Wisconsin. Milwaukee Children's is working with MMAW on this. Donated milk is shipped to Ohio every month by Angel Flight.

USLCA: Winnie Mading

This new affiliate is already providing benefits for US ILCA members; we are automatically members of USLCA when we pay dues to ILCA. This group already developed a less expensive source for liability insurance. They are currently looking at the possibility of LC's having a formal license which would simplify some issues for LC's who do not have other licensure. They are also working on standardized staffing recommendations.

USLCA is conducting a survey on reimbursement. You can link to this from the September newsletter: <http://www.ilca.org/uslca/news/September2007.pdf>

The ILCA conference is July 23 – 28, 2008 in Las Vegas and November in Vienna. The IBLCE exam will be on July 28, 2008.

Legislation: Anne Altshuler

There are two versions of The Right to Breastfeed Act, which are identical. In the State Assembly the bill is called AB 104. The Committee Chair, Leah Vukmir, RN, Republican of Wauwatosa, (the 14th Assembly District), does not personally favor this bill and therefore has not allowed it to be voted on in her committee. In the State Senate the Right to Breastfeed Act is called SB 30 and it has been passed by the full Senate.

Because Rep. Vukmir, the legislator responsible for holding up the bill in committee, is a Republican, we need every Republican member of the Assembly to receive an AVALANCHE of letters, emails, faxes and phone calls from their constituents with one simple message: Ask Representative Vukmir to hold a committee vote on AB 104, The Right to Breastfeed Act! Winnie pointed out that when contacting our legislators, it's important that we note that it is the **baby's** right to breastfeed, not talk about the mother's right to breastfeed.

Find your legislator and their contact information at <http://waml.legis.state.wi.us/>
Contact Anne Altshuler, dsulman@wisc.edu or look at the WALC list serve for more information.

New Business:

We again discussed the cost of mailing minutes and where we can avoid wasting money. The people who benefit most from the mailings are those who may not have a voice in these decisions. We need all of you to contact a board member, if our changes are a problem for you. We will continue to use the postal service to mail paper copies to those who prefer this service. But any lengthy materials, such as the reports from ILCA that comprise our September meetings every year will only be available on the website. If you have internet access, please help us save the WALC funds for breastfeeding promotion and provide your email address to WALC and Sandy.

We will continue to send out Invites to the WALC list serve, but you could access it directly also. You will need to establish a Yahoo identity, and I must be able to identify you as legitimate. Every so often, some stranger manages to get on our list serve, probably expecting something interesting to happen. Go to <http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/WALC>

This is the policy that was proposed by Sandy Testin and all attending the meeting voted to accept:
“Minutes of WALC business meetings will be transmitted to all members via the WALC web site or by surface mail as requested by the member. Members will be notified by email when minutes have been posted to the web site. If there is an indication that they have not received this notice, their minutes will be surface mailed. All notes from the educational portion of the WALC meetings will be posted on the Web Site only.”

Milwaukee Breastfeeding Coalition has received a planning grant to look at barriers to breastfeeding for low income women.

Nils Bergmann, The kangaroo care guy, has been traveling in the US. We are likely to be able to have him speak at a WALC or other Wisconsin event sometime next year. Please contact Donna Bisbee or another WALC board member if you can help arrange this. We would especially like to have him present Grand Rounds at some Wisconsin hospitals. Breastfeeding success improves when mothers and babies are routinely kept skin to skin. We need to find ways to inform physicians and neonatologists about the value of skin to skin care.

Anne Altshuler told us about a web site done by a Loma Linda hospital that gives good information about using skin to skin. <http://www.llu.edu/llumc/psn/soft.html>