

August 2026 QUARTERLY MEETING

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88907259975?pwd=aL5Q3emKcrEvGKbqJiFDtfctgGgBdn.1>

CERP SESSION

10:00 - 11:00 CERP (Melanie)

- Welcome to our August CERP session!
- Explain that anyone who has purchased a \$40 Add-On, or registered as a FREE Student Add-On will receive a CERP for the session. Also, share what do attendees need to do to verify their attendance and how they will receive their CERP certificate? Renewal emails will go out each month to those whose add-on is expiring. If you would like to check on the date of your renewal please email info@nebreastfeeding.org.
- Please view our 2025 - 2026 CERP Policy if you have not had the chance. [CE Policy](#)
- **Introduce Brooke West**
 - Brooke grew up in Hastings, Nebraska. She completed her undergraduate studies at Hastings College in 2004, where she received her B.A. in Elementary Education. Brooke received her Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology in 2010 at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. She began her career in Speech Pathology in outpatient pediatrics. Brooke has been employed at Mary Lanning Healthcare since October 2013, primarily in our outpatient pediatric clinic, where she is also the clinic coordinator. Brooke is certified in Beckman Oral Motor, VitalStim Therapy, and FEES with specialized training in the SOS Approach to Feeding, Interactive Metronome, PROMPT, functional assessment and treatment of tethered oral tissues, and myofunctional therapy. She is a member of the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition, and the National Association of Neonatal Therapists (NANT). Brooke and her husband, Sean, live in Hastings. They have 3 sons and a granddaughter.
- Presentation by Brooke
- After presentation, if time: Are there any questions?
- Thank you, Brooke
- Brooke's Presentation :
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1KoWmxhvtsQUZOb49faCSG96QvXejGacV/edit?usp=sharing&oid=113650881262821170506&rtpof=true&sd=true>

MEMBER MEETING

11:15 – 11:30 Introductions (Melanie)

- Welcome to our August Quarterly Meeting!
- Call on each member present via zoom and ask them to share their name, community, organization & their title or role. Ask anyone who is able/would like to introduce themselves to turn on their camera.
- If you are a leadership member please identify yourself during your introduction.

11:30 – 11:50 Highlight 1: Alison Leininger (Angie)

- Intro: Alison Leininger started Mom Talk-Kearney over 3 years ago. Modeling the group after Milkworks' motherhood support group, it quickly filled a much needed void within the Kearney community. Mom Talk provides all-inclusive support to mothers of babies and toddlers. They strive to meet moms where they are at, providing resources and connection as we navigate motherhood together.
- Alison's presentation.
- If time, questions for Alison.
- Thank you, Alison!
- Notes: Allison presented on Mom Talk Kearney, a support group she founded over three years ago for mothers of infants and toddlers, describing its growth from a small initial meeting to a vibrant community offering resources and connection. Allison explained that the group meets biweekly at the Kearney Public Library and is supported by local professionals including lactation consultants and doulas, with activities ranging from weigh stations to field trips and swap meets. When asked about funding, Allison clarified that the group operates on a volunteer basis with minimal costs, primarily using personal funds for materials and occasional treats. <https://www.facebook.com/p/Mom-Talk-Kearney-100092561439260/>

11:50 – 12:10 Highlight 2 : Deanne Birkestrand (Melanie)

- **Our second highlight is Deanne Birkestrand an RN, IBCLC from CHI Health Good Samaritan in Kearney**
- Intro: Deanne Birkestrand has worked as a registered nurse at CHI Good Samaritan hospital since 2000, where she spent time in Early Development Network, NICU & OB before earning her IBCLC certification in 2003. "I have learned so much from the mothers & babies that I have worked with over the past 26 years! I feel privileged to continue to be a part of helping women overcome struggles and define their own success when breastfeeding their infants."
 - Deanne's presentation.
- If time, does anyone have any questions for Deanne?
- Thank you, Deanne!
- Notes: Deanne Birkestrand reflected on her 26-year career as a registered nurse at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital, highlighting her work in early development, NICU, and OB, as well as her IBCLC certification in 2003. She discussed her personal experiences with premature twins and struggles with milk supply, which motivated her to support other mothers facing similar challenges. Deanne emphasized the importance of perinatal mental health and providing resources to all parents, while also noting recent advancements in understanding tongue tie and oral restrictions. She praised the collaborative efforts in Hastings, including the work of Liz Weber and Leslie Baumgart, in creating a supportive triangle for addressing feeding issues.

12:10 – 12:35 NE BFC Projects/Updates/Financial Report

Financial Report (Tami)

- Fiscal Year: July 2025-June 2026
- Amount of revenue this fiscal year: \$20,900
 - Primarily 1:1 Donor Campaign Contributions and add-ons
- Amount spent this fiscal year: \$16,003.47
 - Primarily on Admin/Program contractor, technology, and marketing materials
- Balance as of 6/30/26: \$34,194.19

1:1 Campaign Update (Melanie)

- We are grateful to Mary Lanning Healthcare for their generous support of the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition. Their contribution helps sustain our work to support breastfeeding families and providers across Nebraska.

IBCLC 407 Work Group / Licensure Initiative (share knowledge briefs) (Angie)

The group discussed their efforts to advance IBCLC licensure through the 407 process, which will take approximately 9 months and likely result in legislation by 2028.

<https://nebreastfeeding.org/news-events/resources/for-lactation-professionals.html>

Governor's Proclamation (Alexis)

The ceremony will be held at 9:00AM Tuesday, August 11th in the Warner Chamber at the State Capitol.

- Please have your group gathered and seated before the start of the ceremony.
- When the ceremony starts, the Governor will call your spokesperson to the front of the room to give remarks about your proclamation – your entire group should join the Governor and your speaker at the front of the room. (The NE BFC will provide remarks)
- Out of respect for the other groups, we ask you to stay for the entire ceremony, which is scheduled to conclude at 10:00 a.m.
- Send Doodle link in chat
<https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/2977c789-77be-41d6-81f6-ef33093c8629/select>

Committee Update (Angie / Melanie if chair is not present)

- Advocacy & Impact (Angela)
 - The advocacy & impact committee remains focused on advancing policies and initiatives that improve access to breastfeeding support and lactation care throughout Nebraska. Members are collaborating with partners and evaluating opportunities to support the coalition's advocacy priorities. More information will be shared as work progresses.
- Awareness & Education (Liz)
 - The Awareness & Education Committee has been focused on developing educational initiatives for National Breastfeeding Month. Members are identifying evidence-based resources, educational topics, and continuing education opportunities to share with healthcare professionals and coalition members. The committee is also working to expand the Coalition's professional resource library by collecting trusted clinical resources and reviewing materials that can support providers across Nebraska.
- Representation & Inclusion (Sayward)
 - The Representation & Inclusion Committee continues to strengthen the Coalition's efforts to improve engagement and representation across Nebraska. Current priorities include expanding and updating the Lactation Support Map by identifying underrepresented regions and providers, enhancing the Mentorship Program through resource and process improvements, and exploring new ways to connect members with

Coalition programs and volunteer opportunities. (Sayward - do support groups make sense for this map? I assume so but wanted to make a note of it) - AC

- Connection & Collaboration (Karina)
 - The Connection & Collaboration Committee has made significant progress in developing the Coalition's new Organizational Partnership Program. The committee finalized the proposed partnership structure, member benefits, and recognition levels while ensuring the program will provide meaningful value to organizations across Nebraska. Members also discussed how the Breastfeeding Friendly Business Program will complement the partnership program and identified potential community partners for future outreach. The committee's next steps include developing application and recruitment materials in preparation for launching the new partnership program.

12:35 – 12:45 Catch up/sharing/closing comments (Melanie)

Share: What is happening personally in your role or your organization/community that you would like to share?

SEE ZOOM CHAT BELOW:

Zoom Chat Highlights

Attendance

Participants joined virtually throughout the meeting. Those who identified themselves in the chat included:

- Cheri Sahm
- Tiffany Keller
- Abigail Shipp
- Carly Shapiro
- Pam Jacobsen
- Leah James
- Kaiya Mears
- Deanna Stoffel
- Sara Torres
- Lesley Cook
- Carolyn Tubrick
- Ashley Neesen
- Melanie Horstman
- Daina Cepure Sain
- Chelsea Larmeu
- Dionna Schmidt
- Deanne Birkestrand

Coalition Announcements

- Participants seeking CERP credit were asked to enter their first and last name in the chat.

- Attendees were informed that the presentation, notes, and resource links would be included with the meeting evaluation and posted on the Nebraska Breastfeeding Coalition website.

Presentation Feedback

- Tiffany Keller shared appreciation for the presentation and noted she would email additional questions after leaving for another appointment.
- Shannon Stellato thanked the presenter for the proactive approach and shared appreciation for the work being done in Nebraska.

Participant Introductions

Additional introductions shared later in the meeting:

- Chelsea Larmeu – CLC, Beatrice Community Hospital
- Sara Torres – Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, WIC
- Krista Stevens – IBCLC, CHI Health Bergan

Contact Information Shared

- Deanne Birkestrand
 - Email: deanne.birkestrand@commonspirit.org
 - Phone: 308-865-7689

Resources Shared

- Lactation Professionals Resource Page: <https://nebreastfeeding.org/news-events/resources/for-lactation-professionals.html>
- Capitol Day Sign-Up (Doodle): <https://doodle.com/sign-up-sheet/participate/2977c789-77be-41d6-81f6-ef33093c8629/select>
- Nebraska Lactation Professionals Map: <https://nebreastfeeding.org/lactation-professionals-map/>
- MilkWorks 25th Birthday Celebration: <https://milkworks.org/25th-birthday-celebration.html>

Upcoming Community Events Shared

- **Lincoln WIC Community Baby Shower**
 - August 15
 - Auld Pavilion, 1650 Memorial Drive
 - 1:30–3:00 p.m.
- **Fairbury Community Baby Shower**
 - September 3
 - On The Bricks
 - 4:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Kearney WIC – Meet Your WIC Peer Counselor**
 - August 5
- **Lexington WIC – Meet Your IBCLC**
 - August 26

- 12:00–1:00 p.m.
 - WIC is also hiring a Peer Counselor (10 hours/week).
- **Hastings WIC – Meet Your WIC Peer Counselor**
 - August 4
- **Family Service Lincoln Breastfeeding Celebration**
 - August 7
 - 12:30–2:30 p.m.
 - 51 Commons (52nd & Holdrege Streets), Lincoln
 - Snacks, water, giveaways, and family activities.
- **A Mother's Love Community Baby Shower/Back-to-School Event (Omaha)**
 - August 8
 - 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
- **MCH Summit**
 - November 19
 - Lincoln