

The Alberta Breastfeeding Committee Annual Report – June 16, 2006

1. The ABC Board

- **Board meetings**

The Board met face to face on the following dates: September 23, 2005; June 15, 2006 and the Board has met monthly by teleconference eight times over the past year

- **Terms of Reference**

Revised and approved November 24, 2005.

- **Strategic Plan**

Reviewed and revised July 16, 2005. Priority areas of focus for ABC work highlighted and include:

- establishing the ABC as a sustainable non profit society
- facilitating consistent breastfeeding data collection in the province of Alberta using established national breastfeeding definitions
- continuing the work from the initial data collection workshop in Red Deer in May, 2005.
- Working with the ABC Data Collection Committee and the Education Committee
- Continuing to build strong provincial partnerships in the support, promotion, and protection of breastfeeding as the norm in the province of Alberta

Data Committee Marilyn Young, Chair:

Membership of about 20 regional representatives who work with data collection

Purpose to facilitate the collection of breastfeeding data at the regional and provincial level by:

- a. reaching consensus on the data elements to be used based on the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada national definitions for breastfeeding data collection
- b. reviewing and sharing strategies for the implementation of breastfeeding data collection at the regional level
- c. working with Alberta Perinatal Health Program and Alberta Health & Wellness to integrate regional data into relevant provincial database(s) report(s)

Met by teleconference on the following dates: January 17, 2006, February 14, 2006, March 21, 2006 (next meeting June 26)

Education Committee, Janie Tyrrell, Chair:

Six members who are independent expert members or regional reps on the ABC

Facilitate availability of consistent education materials for professionals; the ABC is providing consultation to the AHP in the development of an obstetric education program including a breastfeeding module for health professionals (STORC program).

- **ABC Board and Committee Membership**

- a. continues to encourage active participation from all health regions across the province
- b. encourages participation and membership from the Alberta Perinatal Health Program (APHP), Alberta Health & Wellness, Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Projects (CPNP), community/interest groups and professional groups
- c. merged with Regional Young Family Wellness members who are now currently represented on the ABC Board.
- d. Official APHP representative now on the ABC Board
- e. Continue to encourage representation from all professional associations, with scope of practice relevant to maternal/child care

2. Communication

- a. ABC Website developed and available at www.breastfeedingalberta.ca
- b. 4 listservs available through Health in Action
 - ABC Board listserv, closed
 - ABC data collection listserv:, closed

Alberta Breastfeeding Network listserv:

[albertabreastfeedingnetwork-subscribe @mailman.srv.ualberta.ca](mailto:albertabreastfeedingnetwork-subscribe@mailman.srv.ualberta.ca)

This listserv is available to anyone interested in breastfeeding in Alberta, by sending an email to the above address

Subscribers can share breastfeeding related information relevant to Albertans.

3. Partnerships

Alberta Health and Wellness

- a. Ongoing partnership with Alberta Health & Wellness; Irene Mazurenko is the Alberta Health & Wellness Liaison
- b. Financial support from AH&W to fund Maureen Fjeld's ABC Board Secretariat role until August 2005.
- c. A grant proposal submitted by the ABC in October 2005, was approved by AH&W in March 2006. This funding will support a shared Breastfeeding Coordinator position to facilitate the work of the ABC. The Co- Coordinators are Maureen Fjeld from Calgary and Lisa Loepky from Red Deer. They have been hired on a one year contract (May 2006-May 2007) and will work collaboratively in this role.

Alberta Perinatal Health Program

Ongoing partnership with the Alberta Perinatal Health Program in the facilitation of provincial breastfeeding data collection and in the development of provincial education materials for health care professionals.

4. Provincial/Territorial Committee (P/T) of the Breastfeeding Committee for Canada:

- Marilyn Young has represented the ABC on the P/T Committee and has participated in conference calls
- Canadian breastfeeding definitions were completed in spring 2004 but are currently being implemented in Alberta, and the P/T algorithm for > 6 months has been revised by the ABC Data Committee and will be presented to the next P/T conference call on June 12th.

On behalf of everyone involved with the Alberta Breastfeeding Committee I would like to thank:

All those Regional Health Authorities who have supported the monthly ABC Board teleconference meetings, Capital Health, David Thompson, Aspen, and Calgary Health.

The Alberta Perinatal Health Program for supporting the monthly teleconference meetings

David Thompson Health Region for providing space for the ABC Board meetings

Edmonton Breastfeeding Interest Group, Calgary Breastfeeding Matters Group and the 'Babies First' mothers group in Cold Lake for providing funds for the development and maintenance of the ABC website and listservs

Alberta Health & Wellness for providing the grant funding to support the on-going work of the ABC

Marilyn Young for her work both with the P/T Committee and for chairing the Data Committee over the past year and to all the members of this data committee

And to all of the ABC board members who give so generously of their time, sharing their passion and expertise and for continuing to provide their support over the past year,

Submitted by Janie Tyrrell, RN, BScN, IBCLC
Chair, Alberta Breastfeeding Committee Board

Annual General Meeting held Friday June 16, 2006 in Calgary, Alberta