

## **Public Health Department Breastfeeding Policy**

**Carlton County**

**Policy #**

**Date Issued**

**Date(s) Reviewed/Revised**

### **Breastfeeding Policy**

The Carlton County Public Health Department supports breastfeeding as the preferred feeding option for infants. Public Health will collaborate with community partners to identify and remove barriers for mothers who breastfeed, educate parents and community partners about the benefits of long term breastfeeding, incorporate breastfeeding messages into Public Health messaging about nutrition, provide training of public health staff about the advantages of breastfeeding and how to effectively communicate the information to clients.

#### **Purpose:**

To ensure Carlton County Public Health Department meets the 10 steps for successful Breastfeeding health department. The department will comply with breastfeeding laws and acts to increase the impact of broad population-based approaches to improve health in our communities. The Carlton County Public Health Department will actively promote, support and protect breastfeeding at individual, community and systems levels; provide information on the benefits and risks in decision making, to support optimal outcomes associated with breastfeeding; provide education and information to the community on the importance of breastfeeding and the health benefits it provides; and provide opportunities to increase community knowledge about infant feeding methods in order to dispel incorrect assumptions.

#### **Procedure / Definitions**

All Public Health staff will:

\*Receive & review information about the state and federal laws & statutes supporting breastfeeding.

\*Provide information on community resources that support breastfeeding families during service encounters or at client request,

\*Assure materials created and distributed by Carlton County Public Health Department will be free of references to and images of infant formula and images of baby bottles. Purchased material will be assessed by approving supervisory staff so it provides informed decision-making when discussing infant feeding practices.

\*Receive orientation that includes review of the breastfeeding policy and program –specific practice information for supporting breastfeeding (including volunteers, contract staff, and students).

\*Communicate and reinforce the written policy on breastfeeding promotion on an annual basis.

**Policy Statements:**

As a Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department, the Carlton County Public Health Department will:

1. Establish a designated individual/group to manage the following tasks including policy review, development, staff orientation and education.
2. Have a written breastfeeding policy that is routinely reviewed with department staff and meets the following criteria including addressing all BFHD 10 steps.
3. Coordinate breastfeeding support and promotion with other programs in the health department, private and public health care systems, and community organizations to establish breastfeeding as the “norm” in the community.
4. Collaborate with community partners to assure access to breastfeeding classes for prenatal women.
5. Educate the community on breastfeeding support.
6. Encourage racially and ethnically diverse resources within the community.
7. Support mothers in initiating and maintain breastfeeding up to 12 months and beyond.
8. Through community partners, encourage local public places to provide a breastfeeding friendly environment for families.
9. Select businesses each year and provide worksite lactation support training.
10. Facilitate access to information and training for local childcare centers/providers/schools on how to support a breastfeeding mother.

MN Statutes 617.23, 145.905, 181.939

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590, 111<sup>th</sup> Congress (2010).

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U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Surgeon General’s Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2011

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Bartick, M., and Reinhold, A. The burden of suboptimal breastfeeding in the United States: a pediatric cost analysis, *Pediatrics* 2010; 125:e1048-e1056, April 5,2010.

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<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/113/5/e435.full.html>

Distribution:

Approval by:



Approval Date:

3/23/10

Date of Information: