

Breastfeeding Workgroup

Friday, April 24, 2026
8:30 am-12:30pm

Attendees: Dionne Moore-Smith, Brooke Perry, Julie Lothamer, Danica Howard, Mistel de Varona, Erica Dierkens, Linda Marshall, Micia Eddins, Kristina Doyle, Brooke Long, Bethann McPherson, Jessie Maurer, Laura Brinks, Robin Semelbauer, Margret Fife, Marla McDonnell, Jacky Bowers, Megan Tersigni, Nannette Graham, Remsh Muthanna, Autumn Jurek, Megan Mason, Annalisa Rowles, Susan Olguin, Samantha Meyers, Brie Carlson, Janelle McGinnis, Tiffany Hanson, Anne Bianchi, Alysia Biehl, Barb Krzysanski, Ora Rosenfeld, Lindsey McGahey, Colleen Unsal, Stephanie Hicks, Diane Shelton, Amanda Vagts, Jessica Sova, Nathan Reed, Lynn Kuligowski, Duaa Cannon, Erika Chanderraj, Kathy Bartels, Rachael Shilman, Sierra Kintigh, Jennifer Fox, Porlai Lor, Lucy Rosenberg, Erica Leyton, Lisa Rankine, Jolene Spencer, Hannah Lundquist, Renae Sutton, Heather Sanders, Jessica Tollefson, Kamryn Fox, Chelsea Schanz



Directories and Online Sharing Docs



BFC Workgroup Sharing Notes

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18Ek7vAeaHC5qUzzCMi10oXrFUEVaAIWMmsU_bHf0PQM/edit#gid=0



Collaborative Folder

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q5mFL2IbV2_VmbU_PM7pB3BX3u4FFQj5?usp=sharing



[Directories](#)

Peer Counselor with Peer Manager

Level 3 and 4 Staff

BF Coordinator

Agenda

8:30am-10:15am

- **State Staffing Updates: New State Peer Counselor Coordinator and WIC Indigenous Breastfeeding Liaison**
- **Trainings:**
 - **FY26 OA grant-funded trainings registration is open!**
 - **OA grant trainings to replace Annual WIC Conference for peers**
 - **MWR Peer Counselor Collaborative Virtual Conference**
 - **Engagement of staff**
 - **Possible replacement for HUGS training: Baby behavior focused training**
- **Website Updates: Accessibility/Revision of documents**
- **Guidance Documents:**
 - **Wearable Pumps/Silicone Collection Device**
- **Peer Counselor Topics:**
 - Recognitions: National BF Month (possible webcast)**
 - **BFAE**
 - **Peer of the Year Kick Off**
 - **10 Yr Peer**
 - After Hours Policy: peer phone use/management evaluation tool**
- **Breast Pumps and Supplies**
 - **Annual Order**
 - **Pump Pilot Status**
 - **Zomee Pump Trial local agencies/survey**
 - **Pumps as a WIC Benefit – eventual change in policy**
- **National BF Month Plans**
 - **Campaign and other thoughts**
 - **Community Engagement Funding**
- **Brief BF Rate Discussion**

Quick Mentions: PC Allocation letters, IBCLC Support Group, Ohio WIC IBCLC Support Group meeting dates, Milk Expression Training (possible additional milk expression training), Hospital PC Toolkit update, BF Connections Spring Edition 2025, 2026 Latina BF Support Group dates. Jan Tedder video. Lactation Program Check-ins. ACLS. MIBFN Removing Barriers Resources

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 10:15-10:30 am | Break |
| 10:30-11:30 am | <p>Local Agency Sharing</p> <p>Each local agency is welcome to share ideas, tools and resources. Sharing is limited to 3 minutes to allow time for everyone to participate. Enter your sharing notes here</p> |
| 11:30-12:30pm | Focused Discussion |

Breastfeeding Team Staff Updates



- Welcome to Brooke Perry, MPH, RD, IBCLC, the new Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Coordinator!
- Brooke is so excited to work more closely with the breastfeeding team while continuing to fulfill her previous PAL area during this transition period.
- She has a daughter (8) and a son (5) who she breastfed until ages 2 ½ and 4.
- Outside of work, you'll find Brooke exploring a new hiking trail with her family or practicing at the dance studio.



WELCOMING LINDSEY MCGAHEY WIC INDIGENOUS BREASTFEEDING LIASION

Lindsey is an Indigenous Lactation Counselor, Doula and Birth Educator from Sault Ste. Marie now based in Manistique. An enrolled member of the Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians, Lindsey specializes in traditional lactation and birth care grounded in Indigenous systems and evidence-based practice.

Lindsey started as a peer in 2018 and continued to strengthen her role in community by:

- Co-founding the Sacred Waters Collective, a non-profit in Michigan returning traditional knowledge of birth and breastfeeding to communities.
- Partnering with the Michigan Breastfeeding Network, working on community-based projects and receiving awards to build framework that centers cultural, relationship-based care.
- Most recently, accepting the role of WIC Indigenous Breastfeeding Liasion



Trainings



OA Grant-Funded Trainings

- Starting in June and go through September
- [MWR OA Grant-Funded Breastfeeding Trainings](#)
 - Registration is now open!
 - Pay close attention to Eligibility Information
 - Eligibility based on role
 - Eligibility based on state
- CLS training is offered this year
 - Available for appropriate staff who offer lactation support to clients (clerks/techs are ineligible)
- [CERP Guidance Document](#) under Continuing Education tab has been updated for 2026 trainings.
 - Full Circle trainings do not have CERPs listed yet. Updating soon.

Spring PC Training Replacement Options (OA Grant Trainings)

*Peers are required to take at least one to replace WIC Conference (more if desired)

1. Lasting Latch: Encouraging BF Duration (Full Circle)
2. Tiny Fighters, Strong Families (NICU topic) (Birth Queens/Milk Queens)
3. Lactation Pain Management (LactaLearning)
4. Exclusive Pumping: Beyond the Basics (IABLE)

Mid-West Breastfeeding Pe er Collaborative Virtual Conference

- Registration opening soon
- Replacing the Peer Update (Required Training)
- Featuring Peers from across the 6 Midwestern Region States
- Only for breastfeeding peers this year. **No WIC or BF Coordinators.**
- Theme: Support. Empower. Thrive
- **When: Tuesday, 9/22 from 9am-3pm**
- Agenda Topics: Mental Health, Navigating fetal/infant loss, peer panel discussion (engaging client conversations)

- Regional Peer Counselor Training
 - Website updated with dates/locations for each region
 - Peers can attend any region's training, doesn't have to be their own
 - 1 of 4 required Peer trainings
 - Assist your Peers with preparations (travel request, adjusting clinic schedule, etc.)
- Advanced Clinical Lactation Skills
 - Currently at capacity
 - If you were hoping to attend, please still register for the waitlist. The more interest, the more likely we will offer in 2027.
 - Lodging Plans (under Registration Information) – **deadline of 5/15/26**

Other Training Topics

- [2026 WIC Trainings CERP Guidance](#)
- Staff Engagement
 - Make sure staff who are signed up for a training are not working in clinic simultaneously. Communicate to all staff to not disturb co-workers during trainings.
 - They should be fully engaged, especially if a training is required or offers continuing education.
- HUGS training
 - Still available at this time for new hires.
 - Possibly replacing with another baby behavior course.
 - BF team is researching a replacement.
 - E-notice will be sent on any changes in the future.
- Annual WIC Conference speaker/topic ideas
 - Infant fetal loss
 - There is also this archived webcast about pregnant and infant loss: <https://mediasite.mihealth.org/Mediasite/Channel/wic/watch/65de2d610d444cd48bd318c2490652621d>
 - "Code to Compassion: Harnessing the Power of AI for Good in Birthing and Breastfeeding" (Nekisha Killings)
 - Anne Eglash
 - Vanessa Flood
 - Jeanette Mesite-Frem/Babies in Common

Other Training Topics

- Accessibility
 - State requirement changes coming soon
 - After thorough review of all documents, websites, etc. you may notice changes in color, font, etc. (ex – [Regional LC Map](#))
- Website Updates
 - Peer Counselor Survey to be sent for alternative to Kellymom.com (website is not being updated – contains outdated information)
 - Revision of Documents
 - Different look to some policies



Guidance Documents

- Feeding Device Guidance Documents updated to include:
- Silicone Collection Device (Lasinoh) Consent form: discussion about whether or not to scan into system if used. BF team will work on more guidance for use of this guidance document. Working to transition other feeding aid guidance documents to include a consent form.
- [Wearable Pump Guidance](#)
 - Staff can use Wearable Pump Guidance information as talking points when educating clients about the Zomee pumps that are wearables. Some local agencies are trialing these pumps. BF team to work on educational handout for clients.
- These documents will be added to the MDHHS WIC website once finalized.

Peer Counselor Program



wric

MICHIGAN

WELCOME



Opportunities to recognize Peer Programs/Peers and Networking:

Possible webcast during National Breastfeeding Month

- Breastfeeding Award of Excellence
- Peer of the Year
- Ten Year Peers

Peer Sharing Meetings

- Occur monthly for each region (started a few years ago)
- Opportunity for Peers to network/share best practices with other Peers
- Optional
- Reach out to your Regional LC if you have questions

Peer Counselor Development Task Force

- Peer Counselor/Hospital Collaboration Toolkit
 - Goal is to assist with building relationships with hospitals and help hospitals understand the benefits of Peer services
 - Note: it is not a requirement to have a Peer in your local hospital
 - Meetings have started back but may go on summer hiatus.
 - Delay in full roll out of toolkit – hope to have draft by July BF Wrkgroup
 - Starting to post some resources in toolkit on breastfeeding section of website:
[Hospital/PC Collaboration Toolkit: The Peer Counselor Difference](#)
 - Available now: sample MOUs, PC in the hospital job description, PC in the hospital scope of practice

Peer-of-the-Year Nominations



- Send nominations to your agency's Regional LC starting today!
 - South Central Region: Erica Dierkens DierkensE@michigan.gov
 - Mid-Central Region: Kristina Doyle DoyleK5@michigan.gov
 - Northern Michigan Region: Danica Howard HowardD7@michigan.gov
 - Upper Peninsula Region: Linda Marshall marshall13@michigan.gov
 - South West Region: Mistel de Varona deVaronaM@michigan.gov
 - Metropolitan Detroit Region: Micia Eddins EddinsM2@michigan.gov
- Surveys will also be sent out in an E-notice for staff to submit nominations. **Deadline to complete the survey is May 29th**
 - [Peer of the Year Survey 2026](#)


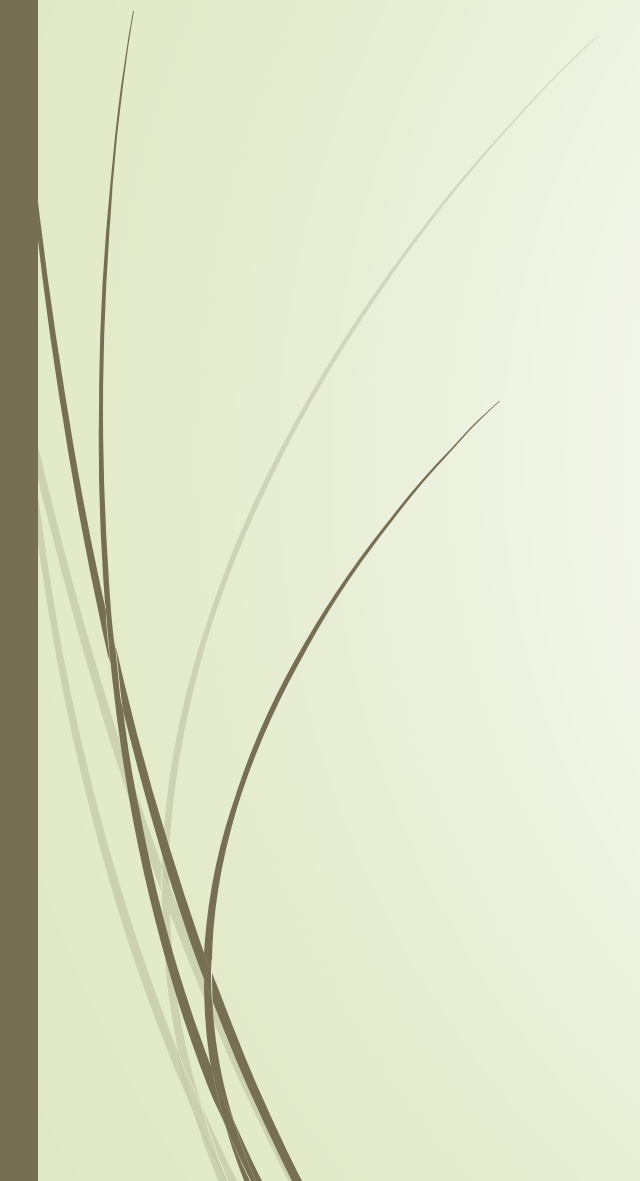
Lift up our Rock Star Peers this year!

After Hours Policy

- New ME Indicator Peer Phone Use – phones used by peers must be LA purchased or will be a citation. Personal phones are an issue with...
 - Confidentiality
 - Subject to FOIA
 - Potential HIPPA violation if Peer resigns and clients still reach out after resignation
 - LAs offering reimbursement for use of personal phone will not be an allowable alternative
- Focused Discussion Topic Resources for today's meeting:
 - [After Hours Policy](#)
 - [2026 ME tool](#)

Breast Pumps & Supplies




- 
- 
- Annual Order
 - Deadline was this past Monday (April 20, 2026)
 - Items will be ordered through J&B
 - Direct shipments like last year to local agency. May start seeing items arrive in June and may come in intervals based on size of agency or vendor. This will help avoid shipment delays for Pump Pilot and invoice reconciliation.
 - Google Doc will be sent out again to confirm your agency has received shipments.
 - Discussion on pump order quantities. Some agencies voiced they needed more than the max orderable.
 - Status of pump pilot
 - Zomee pump trial (local agencies)

Pump Pilot Status

- Have added a few more agencies
- Continuing to have periodic meetings with pilot agencies, next meeting in June
- Survey sent out to staff to assess pilot/plans to send out survey to clients



Zomee Pump Trial Agencies

- Survey was sent out for agencies to complete when Zomee pumps are given out.
 - Ordered some multi-user kits and other accessories.
 - Guidance for wearable pumps was shared.
 - Requesting to have clients sign hard copy of release forms and scan in so you have a record of providing and in client's chart. Will assist with follow-up also.
 - Track client experience after they receive their pump.
- 

Pumps as a WIC Program Benefit (2024 Food Package Final Rule)

What does this mean?

- Policy updates may be required by State agencies.
- Breast pumps provided through WIC are now considered a Program benefit when they are purchased with Program funds and provided to participants.
- Breast pumps are covered in the regulatory definition of *participant violation*. As such, loaned pumps must be returned because retaining them for personal use constitutes a misuse of Program benefits under federal regulations.

\$1,000 claim threshold: We have no pumps that meet this amount so disqualification from program will not be enforced. Not a sanctionable offense. Though this could change in the future if pumps exceed \$1,000.

- Some changes to some policy/documents that you may see in future to reflect that pumps are a program benefit:
 - Compliance Policy
 - Client Agreement
 - Breastfeeding Policies 4.05 or 4.04 (Issuance and Documentation and/or Ordering, Inventory, Retrieval....)

The background is a solid dark orange color. On the left, there is a large, lighter orange arrow pointing to the right. The text "National Breastfeeding Month" is written in white, sans-serif font inside this arrow. On the right side of the image, there are several thin, curved lines in a lighter shade of orange, creating a sense of movement and design.

National Breastfeeding Month

2026

**National
Breastfeeding
Month**



2026-2027
Campaign
Design



Rooting for YOU

Support from the Ground UP



In Progress

**Bulletin Board
Posters
Press Release
Proclamation**

Swag

Seed packets Stickers





Cue Video

Thank you for
your submissions!

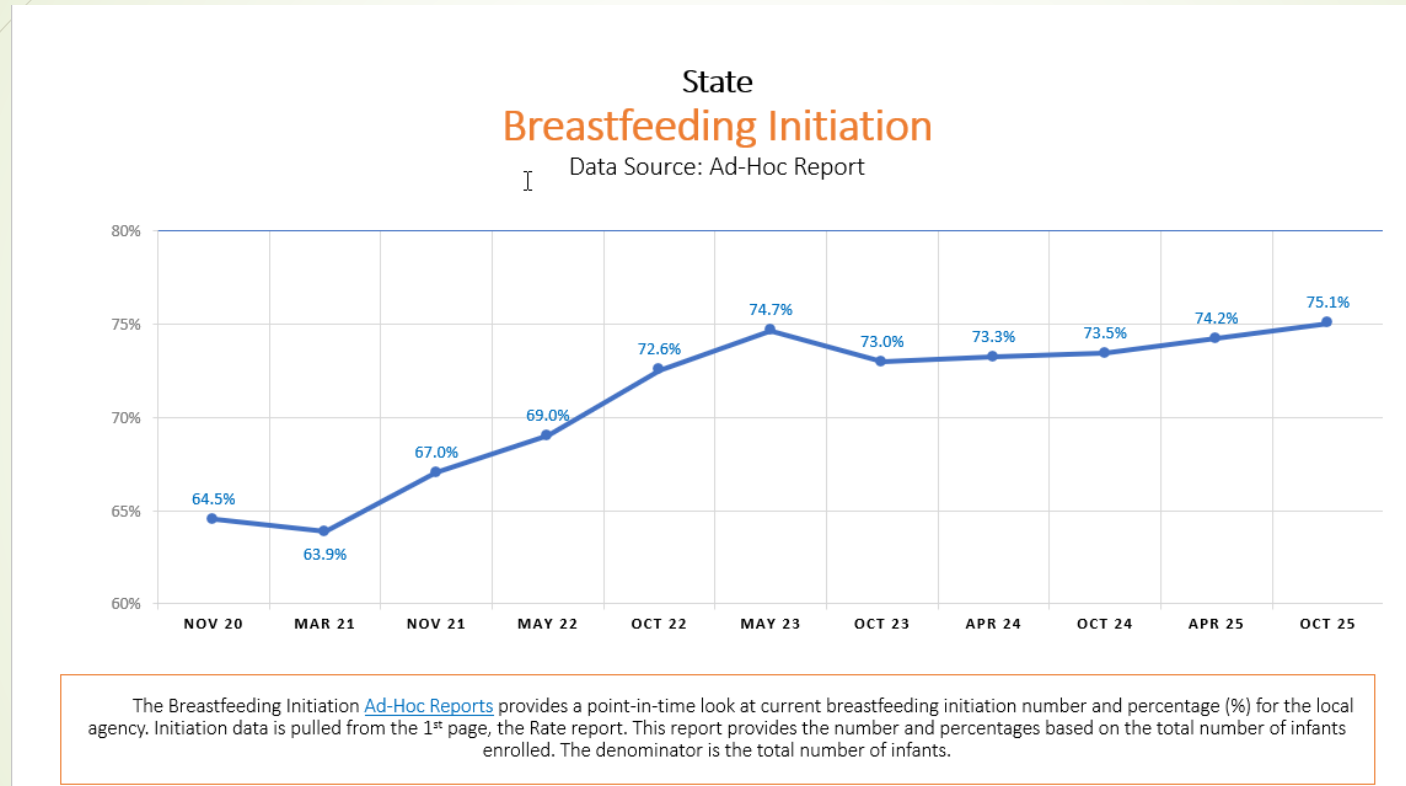
Coming Up

Digital materials
May order form
July shipment

Community Engagement Funding

Working on requests in May

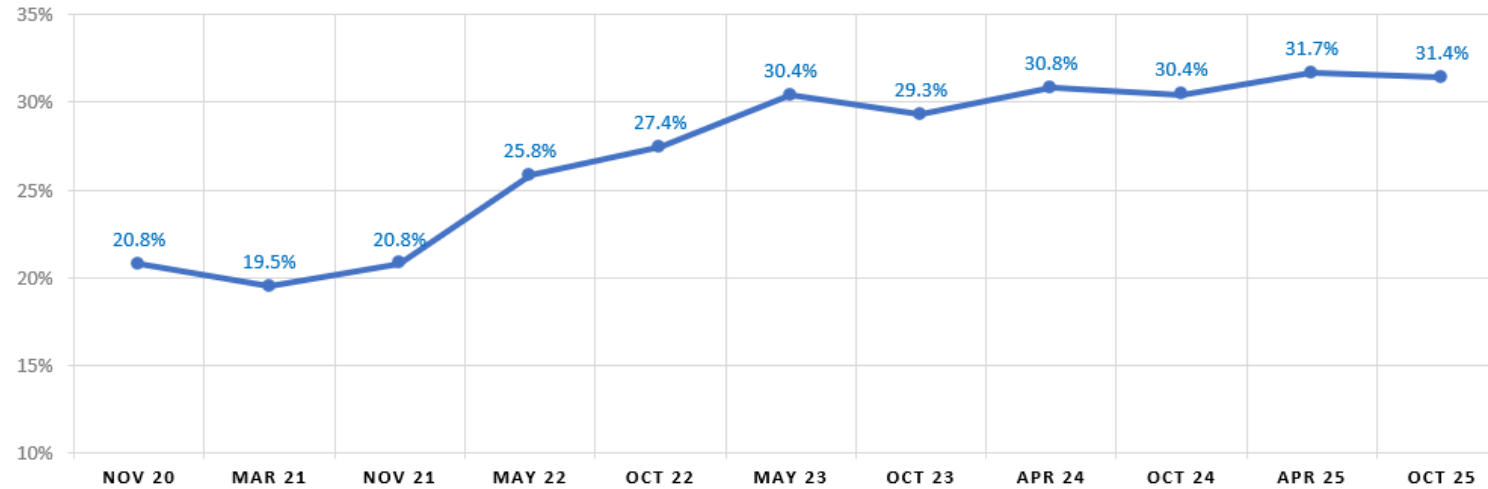
Breastfeeding Rates Monitoring



Neither Spring Adhoc nor 2025 PNSS/PedNSS data available yet.

State 6 Month Duration

Data Source: Ad-Hoc Report



The Breastfeeding Duration [Ad-Hoc Reports](#) provides a point-in-time look at current breastfeeding duration number and percentage (%) for the LA at 1 week, 2 weeks, 4 weeks, 6 weeks, 2 months, 6 months and 11+ months. Duration data is pulled from the 2nd page, the Duration report This report provides the number and % based on infants who initiated breastfeeding, *not* the total number of infants in WIC. The denominator is the # of infants that initiated breastfeeding.

Slight decrease in duration in the fall. Consider how you can make a difference with our duration rates.

Michigan WIC IBCLC Support Group

- Meetings started in March 2026
- Planning on 2nd Wednesday of the Month, every 2 months
- More information about this group is being created and made available on the website
- Created an IBCLC chat on What's App. Informal space for networking, sharing resources, and case study scenarios.
- Keep the [Level 3 and 4 Directory](#) up to date so staff can receive communication
- Reach out to [Autumn Jurek](#) if you have any questions
- **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 5/20/26 11am-12 noon
 - **Topic:** Flange Fitting
 - **Join:** [here](#)

IBCLC Resources

Ohio WIC IBCLC Support Group (Exam Prep): 2026 dates

May 21, 2026

June 18, 2026

July 16, 2026

August 20, 2026

***September 3, 2026 (last minute study
advice focus)**

Meeting Information:

Meeting ID: 292 518 054 568 70

Passcode: MC2W2go2

Dial in by phone

[+1 614-721-2972](tel:+16147212972), [112625390#](tel:+112625390) United States, Columbus

[Find a local number](#)

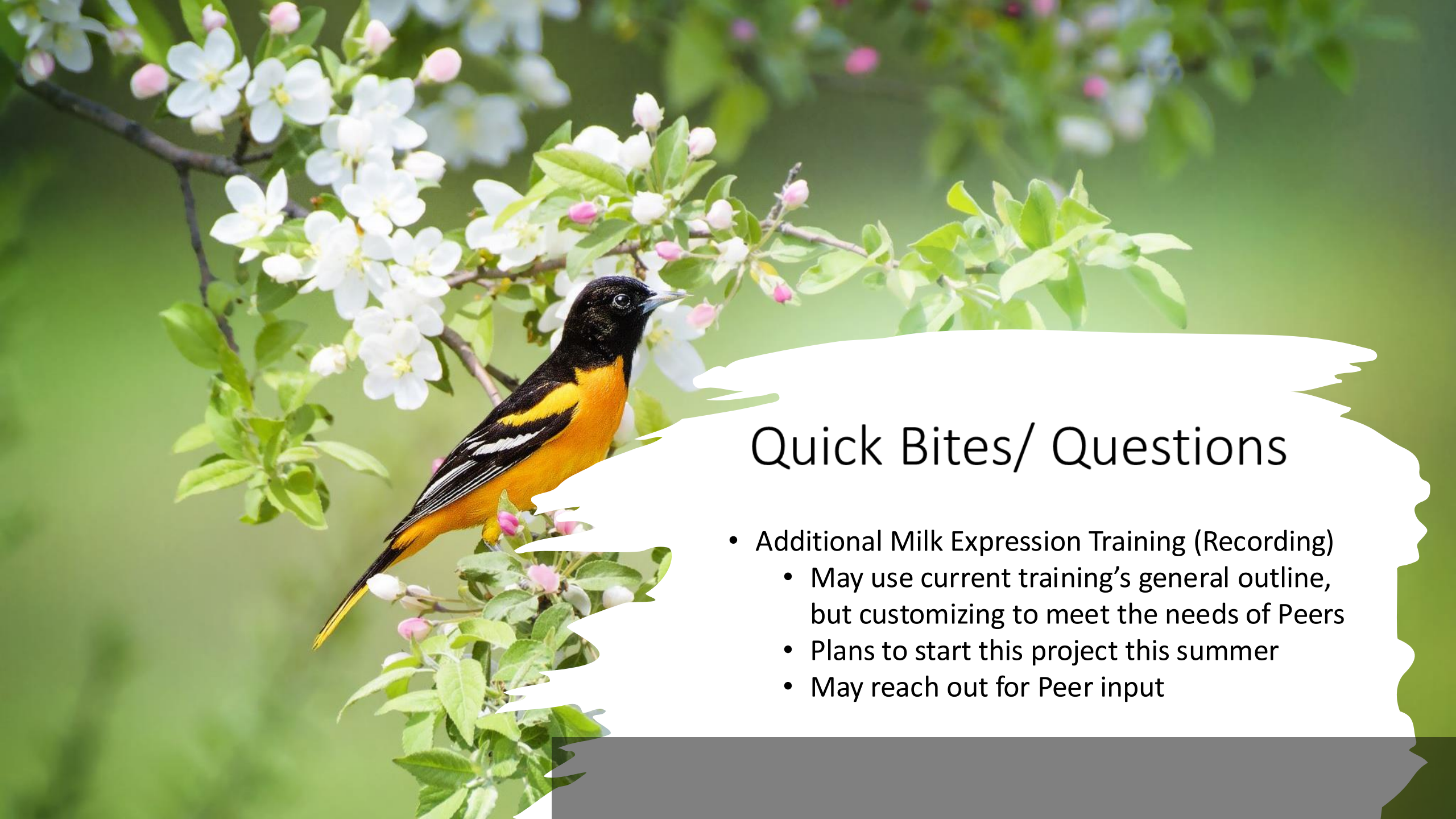
Phone conference ID: 112 625 390#

* Michigan WIC also has IBCLC exam study material.
Email Dionne for details.



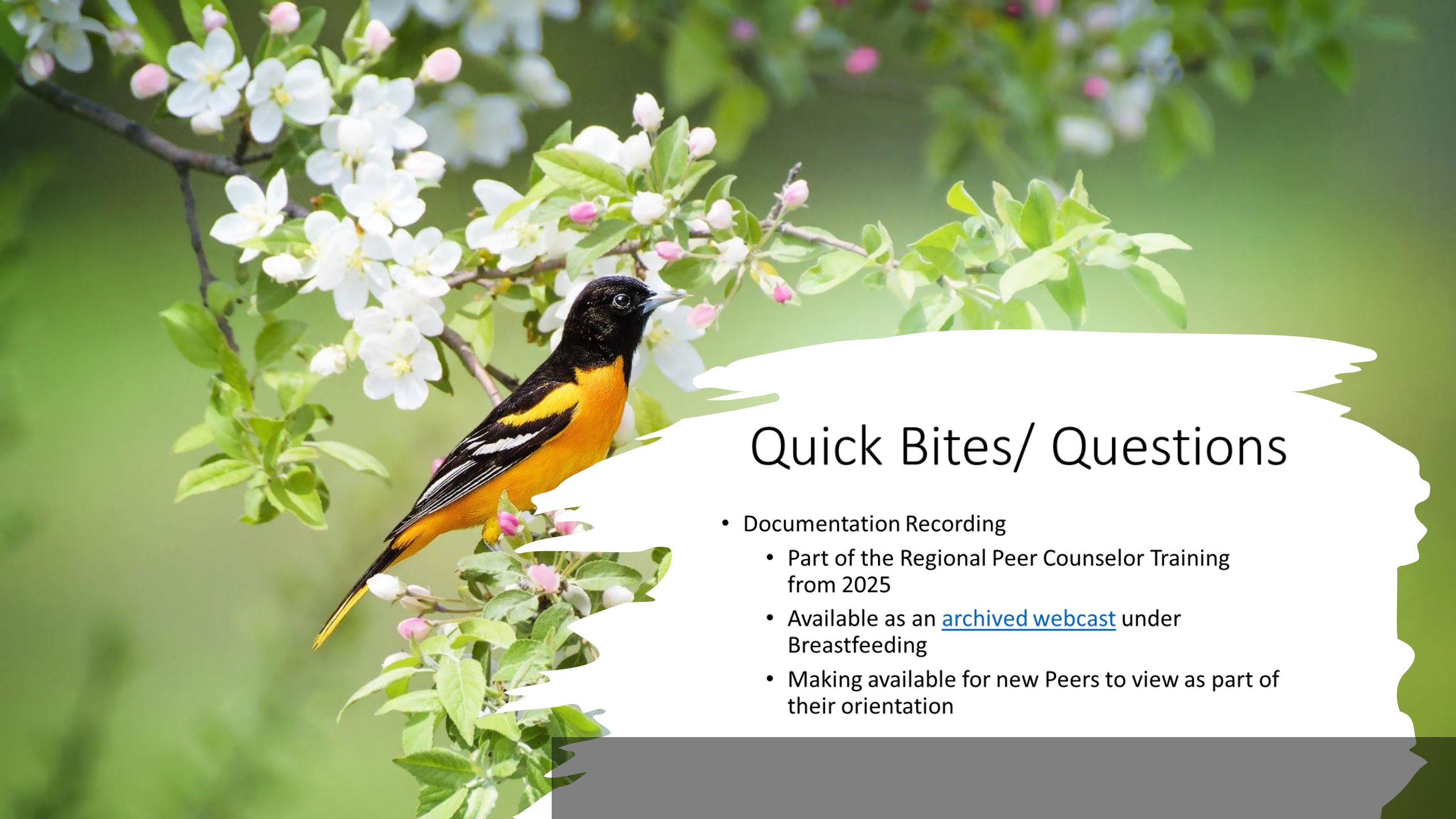
Quick Bites/ Questions

- PC Allocation Letters
 - Sent out early next month
 - FTE requirement removed/will not be included
 - Will include general funding information



Quick Bites/ Questions

- Additional Milk Expression Training (Recording)
 - May use current training's general outline, but customizing to meet the needs of Peers
 - Plans to start this project this summer
 - May reach out for Peer input



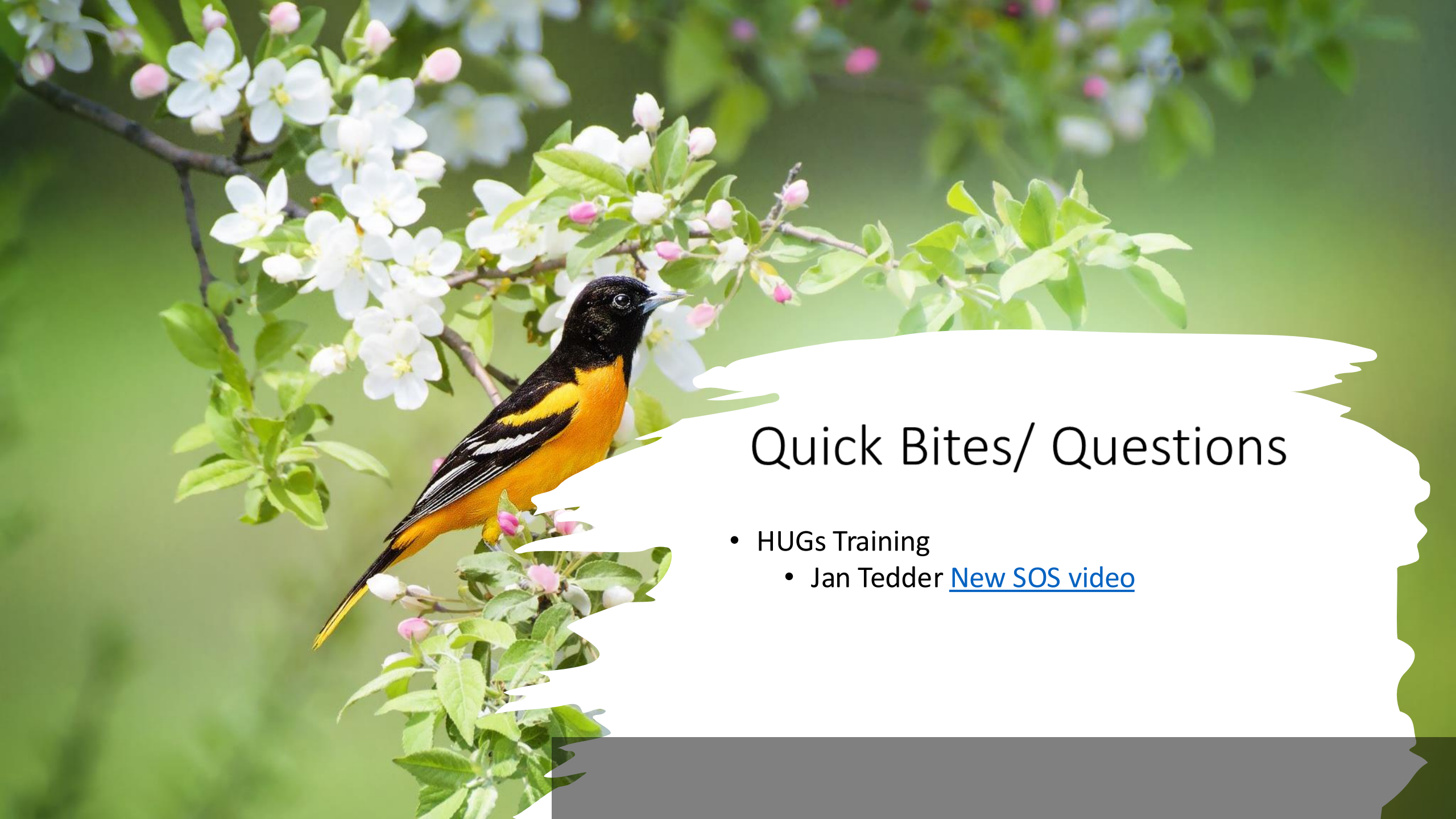
Quick Bites/ Questions

- Documentation Recording
 - Part of the Regional Peer Counselor Training from 2025
 - Available as an [archived webcast](#) under Breastfeeding
 - Making available for new Peers to view as part of their orientation



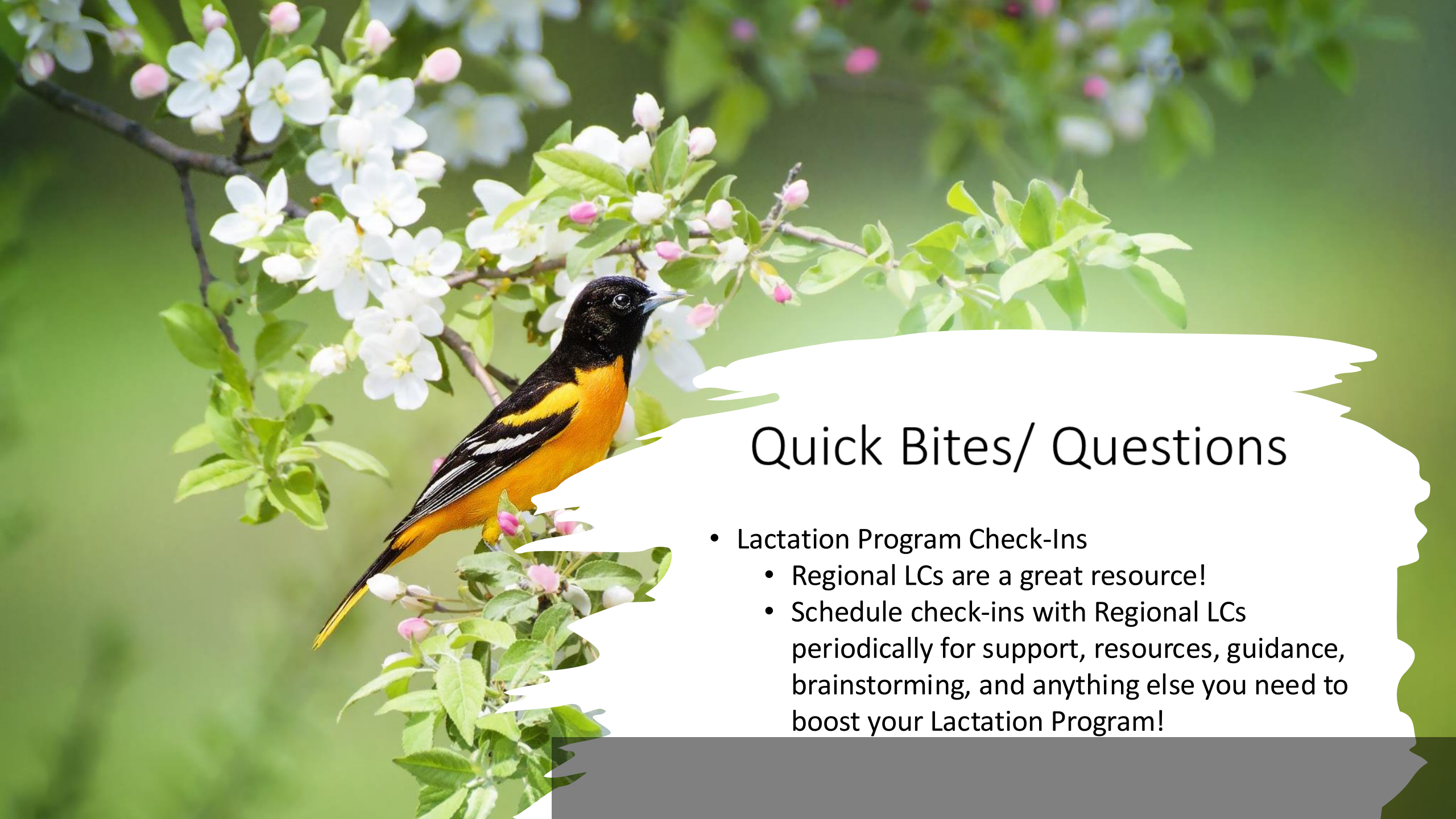
Quick Bites/ Questions

- BF Connections Spring Edition
 - Planning for May release
 - Thank you for those who contributed an article!
 - Layout changes for accessibility
 - Expanding training section



Quick Bites/ Questions

- HUGs Training
 - Jan Tedder [New SOS video](#)



Quick Bites/ Questions

- Lactation Program Check-Ins
 - Regional LCs are a great resource!
 - Schedule check-ins with Regional LCs periodically for support, resources, guidance, brainstorming, and anything else you need to boost your Lactation Program!



Quick Bites/ Questions

- [MIBFN Removing Barriers Webinar Series](#) and Playbook
 - MIBFN created a series of 3 webinars to identify how WIC can support families and better connect with community partners.
 - Playbook contains resources and ideas. Will start promoting playbook in different ways (Coordinator Connection Calls, E-Notices, etc.)

2027 Breastfeeding Work Group Meeting Times

- Would you like 1 in person meeting in April, the rest virtual? Or all virtual?
 - 1 in person: 5 of 34
 - All virtual: 29 of 34
- If in person, do you prefer 9am or 10am start time?
 - 9am: 10 of 22 votes
 - 10am: 12 of 22 votes



Reminders

- Spanish Breastfeeding Support Group
 - Ama Mantando
 - Washtenaw County
- Arabic Breastfeeding Class
 - Wayne County
- Dionne working on updating the website to include these resources

Breastfeeding Support Group For Latina Moms!

Ama Mantando

Are you breastfeeding or pregnant and thinking about breastfeeding? Join our virtual support group!

Scan the QR code to join.



<https://washtenawcountv.zoom.us/j/86964192799>

2026 Dates

- Friday January 9, 2026 11 AM
- Friday April 10, 2026 11 AM
- Friday July 10, 2026 11 AM
- Friday October 9, 2026 11 AM

For questions, more information or to register contact: Sheila Harris 734-531-7840 harrish@washtenaw.org

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



¡Grupo de apoyo a la lactancia para mamás latinas!

Ama Mantando

¿Estás amamantando o estás embarazada y estás pensando en amamantar? Únete a nuestro grupo de apoyo virtual!

Escanea el código QR para unirse a la sesión.



<https://washtenawcountv.zoom.us/j/86964192799>

Fechas de 2026

- Viernes 9 de enero de 2026 11 a.m.
- Viernes 10 de abril de 2026 11 a.m.
- Viernes 10 de julio de 2026 11 a.m.
- Viernes 9 de octubre de 2026 11 a.m.

Para preguntas, más información o registrarse, póngase en contacto con: Sheila Harris 734-531-7840 harrish@washtenaw.org

Esta institución brinda igualdad de oportunidades.




WIC MICHIGAN


In person-Arabic Breastfeeding Class

The 4th Thursday of each Month from 1pm - 2pm

With LAVAL
Phone #: 313-607-6182
Address: 6450 Maple St. Dearborn, MI 48126

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER






WIC MICHIGAN

صف تعليمي للرضاعة الطبيعية

حضورى - باللغة العربية

كل رابع خميس من كل شهر من الساعة 1:00pm - 2:00pm

مع لبال
Phone #: 313-607-6182
Address: 6450 Maple St. Dearborn, MI 48126

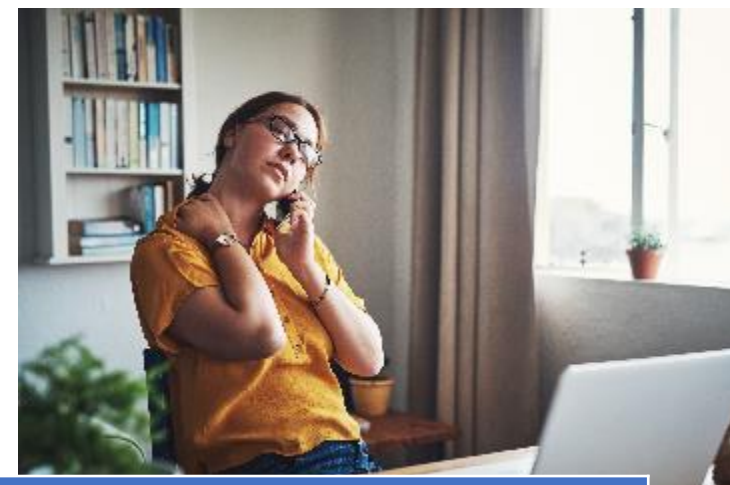
هذه المؤسسة توفر فرصاً متساوية للجميع






Q: Who Ya' Gonna' Call?

A: Both for now (in transition mode)



| Dionne | Brooke |
|---|---|
| Breastfeeding Policies | BF Food Package Issues |
| Website Questions and Suggestions | MI-WIC Issues |
| OA Grant-Funded Trainings | Breast Pumps & Equipment |
| LC Contractors | Breast Pump Policies |
| IBCLC Support Group | Peer Counselors |
| Breastfeeding Supporters of Color Network | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regional meetings and Peer Update |
| Breastfeeding Work Group | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation |
| Pump Pilot | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allowable Costs |
| | |

Local Agency Sharing

BFC Work Group Sharing Notes

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/18Ek7vAeaHC5qUzzCMi10oXrFUEVaAIWMmsU_bHf0PQM/edit?gid=2021980916#gid=2021980916





Focused Discussion: After Hours Availability of Peers

- After Hours Policy
- Your local agency policy should include the days of the week/time frame for your Peers
- How does your agency comply with policy? What are the struggles?
 - Peers have their own warmline (cell phone). Peers may not be full time or go on vacation/extended leave. Other staff help fill in, but this causes additional strain. Plus sharing the password with another staff member is the LA's concern.
 - Peers have strict timeframe (Ex: 8am-8pm) .
 - Union and remote work policies have strict guidelines, may be required to pay for being on call when they are expected to be available or pay at a higher rate after hours.
 - Texting is tricky. Discussion on time spent texting and time spent waiting for client response.
 - Many agencies allow Peers to flex for time spent after hours.
 - Agencies are grateful policy is flexible vs. specific hours.
 - More clients prefer to text.
 - Triageing calls. Do you train your Peer on issues that need an immediate response vs. wait until the following day?
 - Some agencies pay Peers for actual time spent and for other agencies, their Peers are on call.
 - Peers rotate being on call for after hours. Hours are flexed if over on time. Receive monthly on call stipend.
 - Peers use a text forwarding app when on leave called SMS Forwarding App



Focused Discussion: After Hours Availability of Peers

- How do agencies monitor contacts and warmline use?
 - Peers continue paper logs and note when it's an after hours call.
 - Monthly PC contacts logged with a spreadsheet.
 - No timestamp to monitor the time contacts were logged if tracking after hours
 - Periodic chart reviews completed
 - Peer keeps a tally of their after hours calls
 - Many agencies felt call volumes are fairly light after hours



Focused Discussion: Future Topics

- Budgeting for travel for in person conferences
- 2 day follow up on pumps does not always work with the pump pilot
- Support group/classes – what are others doing to improve attendance
- Helping to ensure peers try to have conversations with families versus ok you have no concerns and that's all the contact is
- Balancing enough support without becoming annoying
- What the FTE breakdown is in other agencies for peers, IBCLC and BF Coordinator
- Provider education
- Ideas for successful outreach to Dr. Office's, OBs, and more, and highlighting that we have wonderful lactation support for them.



Next Meeting (Virtual)

Friday, 7/17/26
8:30am-12:30pm