



Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington

A Program of WithinReach

The Mission of the Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington is to promote, protect and support breastfeeding as vital to the health of our communities.

A Year in Review

In 2016, the Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington (BCW) continued to build upon the foundation of 2015's work. This year the BCW...

- **Welcomed 2 new Coordinating Team members:** Kristine Brewer from Spokane Regional Health District & Stacy Hackenmueller from Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic
- **Created engaging & informative breastfeeding equity trainings :**
 - Facilitated 3 webinars: [Challenging Implicit Bias to Achieve Equity & Justice](#), [Challenging Bias in Hiring](#), and [Breastfeeding and Partnerships: Improving African American Breastfeeding Rates](#)
 - Hosted the stakeholder's breakfast, **Building a Breastfeeding Friendly King County: Our Collective Responsibility**, which addressed African American health disparities and outcomes and how breastfeeding is the ultimate prevention tool. (*More on pg.2*)
 - **Engaged with community coalitions around sustainability and capacity building** (*Read more on pg.3*):
 - Re-established the Yakima Valley Breastfeeding Coalition
 - Assisted Pierce County Breastfeeding Alliance with their 1st annual Breastfeeding Olympic Conference and hosted an Open House to increase membership.
 - Helped Mahogany Moms increase capacity. Mahogany Moms is a community-based coalition focused on educating and supporting African American women to breastfeed their infants to ensure survival, protection, and development.
 - **Presented a workshop at the United States Breastfeeding Committee's annual conference in Arlington, VA.** The Breastfeeding Promotion Manager and 3 Washington delegates attended this year's conference which focused on community engagement and racial equity.
 - **Updated the BCW website** with "[Helpful Resources](#)" for providers and community partners.

Coordinating Team

Alex Sosa, MS, IBCLC, Breastfeeding Promotion Manager, WithinReach

Chris Gray, BA, CLE, Outreach & Enrollment Specialist, WithinReach

Delores Baccus, RN, IBCLC, Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program Manager, Public Health Seattle & King County

Jean O'Leary, MPH, RD, WIC Breastfeeding Coordinator, Washington State Department of Health

Kristine Brewer, RD, ICLC, Registered Dietician, Spokane Regional Health District

Liz Jaquette, MPA, Senior Manager of Programs, WithinReach

Stacy Hackenmueller, MS, RD, Coordinator of Special Projects, Yakima Valley Farm Workers Clinic

Washington State Local Breastfeeding Coalitions

Breastfeeding Coalition of Grays Harbor

Breastfeeding Coalition of Lewis County

Breastfeeding Coalition of Snohomish County

Clark County Breastfeeding Coalition

Columbia Gorge Breastfeeding Coalition

Kitsap County Breastfeeding Coalition

Kittitas County Breastfeeding Coalition

Mahogany Moms Breastfeeding Coalition

Moses Lake Breastfeeding Coalition

Native American Breastfeeding Coalition

Okanogan County Breastfeeding Coalition

Pierce County Breastfeeding Alliance

Skagit Valley Breastfeeding Coalition

South Sound Breastfeeding Network

Spokane County Breastfeeding Coalition

Stevens County Lactation Coalition

Wenatchee Breastfeeding Coalition

Whidbey Island Breastfeeding Coalition

Yakima Valley Breastfeeding Coalition

Thank You for making it easier for Washington families to breastfeed!



On November 4th, WithinReach Breastfeeding Promotion Program hosted a community breakfast called “Building a Breastfeeding Friendly King County: Our Collective Responsibility” at the Tukwila Community Center. With support from the Pacific Hospital Preservation & Development Association, Washington State Department of Health and Public Health Seattle King County, the breakfast engaged the King County community to be agents of change in support of African American families and to provide education on how breastfeeding improves health outcomes. More than 60 people listened to WithinReach’s CEO, Kay Knox and director of Public Health—Seattle & King County, Patty Hayes, speak about the importance of this issue and its impact on King County. Dr. Ben Danielson of Odessa Brown

Building a Breastfeeding Friendly King County: Our Collective Responsibility

Children’s Clinic delivered the keynote presentation titled, “Breastfeeding: the Ultimate Prevention Tool”. Maternal-child health specialist and doula, LeAnn Brock shared her personal experience as a breastfeeding African American mother and discussed how historical trauma can influence one’s experience. The day culminated with a group activity presented by Cultures Connecting that focused on cross-cultural engagement, how community partners can have courageous conversations, and how “circles of influence” affect change. The event and the speakers were well received. Attendees were empowered to take action within their communities to support breastfeeding and better health outcomes for African American families. In 2017, the BCW will continue to offer free, quarterly webinars focused on breastfeeding and health inequities for low-income women and women of color.

Community Coalition Building and Increasing Sustainability

One of BCW's priorities for 2016 was to engage with local coalitions to increase capacity and sustainability, particularly focusing on barriers identified by local WIC staff. The BCW worked with Yakima Valley, Pierce County, and Mahogany Moms (a coalition focused on supporting African American mothers) to revitalize coalition efforts.

Yakima Valley

For a number of years the Yakima coalition was inactive. In that time, community members expressed interest in reestablishing a coalition in Yakima Valley. The BCW conducted a Needs Assessment and Engagement Plan in June to identify breastfeeding barriers in the community. The BCW hosted an Open House Kick-Off Meeting on September 29th and invited community

members from across all sectors. The invitation was open to anyone who supports breastfeeding and health communities. The Open House was a big success with almost 40 people in attendance. Stacy Hackenmueller volunteered to lead the Yakima Valley Breastfeeding Coalition and 26 people expressed interest in joining. The coalition recently held their first meeting on January 12, 2017.

Pierce County

2016 has been a year of tremendous growth for the Pierce County Breastfeeding Alliance. On September 13th they hosted their 1st Breastfeeding Olympic Conference at Chamber's Bay. The conference touted an impressive line-up of speakers- Ginna Wall, Cynthia Good Mojab and Dr. Tinneca Fortin, to name a few, who shared their

expertise and resources. In October, the Alliance became a nonprofit organization and registered for 501c3 status. We are excited to see the possibilities that will come about on this path. Lastly, in November the BCW facilitated a presentation at Sea Mar Clinic in Lakewood to engage the Pierce County Community and coalition members in an action plan to develop strategies for community engagement.

Mahogany Moms

The Mahogany Moms Breastfeeding Coalition was reestablished in the fall of 2016. A Kick-Off Open House Meeting will be scheduled for Spring 2017 to engage the community in an action plan to develop strategies to support African American mothers and breastfeeding.

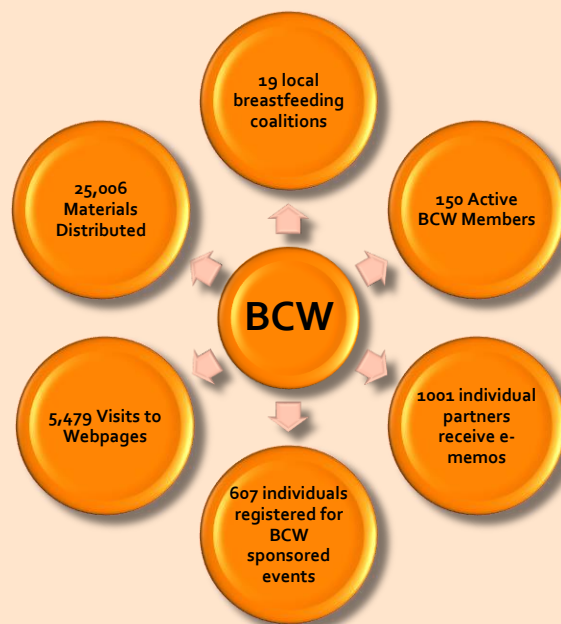


In-Person BCW Meeting
May 6, 2016 | Sunnyside, WA

Looking ahead to 2017

As the final year of the BCW–WithinReach partnership comes to an end, the BCW will...

- Engage stakeholders from across the state in conversations about the future of breastfeeding collaboration. This will be an opportunity to explore and reimagine how to improve breastfeeding support and promotion in Washington.
- Continue to focus on supporting our local breastfeeding coalitions by providing technical support on sustainability and building capacity.
- Continue to work with the WIC State Office to provide virtual community discussions on breastfeeding inequities and eliminating barriers to breastfeeding for women of color.



The Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington is a program of WithinReach, a statewide non-profit organization making the connections Washington families need to be healthy. The Breastfeeding Coalition of Washington is funded by the Washington State Department of Health Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The Washington State WIC Nutrition Program does not discriminate. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.