



GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 11th, 2026 @ 12:00-1:30pm

HRC- 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville. Room E2-32

Attendees: Nicole Urbalonis, Mehreen Akhter, Lori Barber, Kathy O’Grady, Estefania Caceres, Syeda Azra Quddusi, Jamie Dawdy, Sanna Padela, Synuae Diniz, Victoria Greer, Miriam Martin, Victoria Qasim, Anna West, Amanda Deveau, Rafia Saleem

Agenda

Item #	Topic	Discussion	Action
1	Land Acknowledgement		

2	Community Updates	Miriam Martin (Website Coordinator)- and temporarily hand expression kit coordinator – the HBFI emodule course is launched! Sanna Padela- doula in the community, passionate about working with newcomers, refugees, Muslims in particular, Mehreen Akhter (founder of Baby Stop App, patient family partner at Milton Hospital)- app is launched and goal is to make our communities more Baby-Friendly, volunteering to share patient perspective at Milton hospital Lori Barber (Hospital Liaison OTMH)- back up to full staffing compliment, wait time at OTMH breastfeeding clinic is about 2 weeks Milton Hospital- Down to one part time LC. The other part time LC resigned. Joseph Brant- Breastfeeding clinic wait time	
3	E-Module Course Update (Miriam)	Current Status Update: • Launched June 4!!! • Go to education page to get link to registration. Use coupon code Launch to get 15% off until August 31 • Thanks for everyone who helped with Beta Testing and a special thanks to Kathy for all of her hard work Next steps • Promote! Spread the word! • Working group underway- email HBFI	ANYONE: email info@babyfriendlyhalton.ca if you would like to be involved in the promotion working group. Share the course info with anyone you feel might be interested education page

4	HBFI Working Groups (Vicky, Nicole, Miriam, Jamie/Vicky)	There are four working groups under way. The working groups represent projects that HBFI is currently doing. Volunteers communicate over email (and in person if needed) to move plan, make decisions, share updates and project components forward. Status of working groups are then reported back at HBFI general meetings. The current working groups are: <u>Health Care Provider Education</u> • Explore how we can improve prenatal breastfeeding education by HCPs • Explore expanding Breastfeeding Basics into the prenatal periods • Look into education opportunities for physicians (would they take an HBFI education course that was geared to them?) <u>Accessible IBCLC Care/Advocacy</u> • Explore if there are groups that are advocating for IBCLCs to be covered by OHIP and/or extended health care benefits • Look into options for support through the LHINs (doula care is often covered) • Explore bringing local IBCLCs working with physicians together to streamline how IBCLCs work with physicians to provide OHIP covered support	ANYONE: email info@babyfriendlyhalton.ca if you would like to be involved in any of the working groups.
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		<u>E-Module Promotion</u> • Once the e-modules are complete, there will need to be a plan for local, provincial, national and global promotion. • Organization of a campaign for each. • Communication with nursing organization, LC organizations and BFIs around the country <u>Baby-Friendly Public Spaces</u> • Looking at past initiative and how it can support the work of Baby-Stop We need one executive member to head up each working group to be the point of contact, and then we can also reach out to community members to join the specific working groups (see table below).	
5	Breastfeeding Support in Hospital	Discussed the need for more support for new parents in hospital/soon after birth. Discussed the Breastfeeding Buddies model of volunteers providing beside breastfeeding encouragement in hospitals. Plan to inquire about the possibility of Breastfeeding Buddies coming to speak at an HBFI GM about their model to see if we could do something like that in Halton Region.	Jamie: to reach out to Breastfeeding Buddies to see if they could present at an upcoming HBFI GM

6	Volunteer Positions	Open executive committee volunteer positions: There are several open positions (need to determine which we want to fill) - Co-chair: YES- but want experience with HBFI first - Event Manager: ON HOLD until further planning - Hand Expression Kit Coordinator: YES ASAP - Social Media Co-coordinator: YES ASAP - Volunteer Coordinator: YES ASAP Job descriptions: Volunteers HBFI	ANYONE: email info@babyfriendlyhalton.ca if you are interested in taking on any of the open executive positions or if you have any questions
7	Next Meeting	Schedule for 2026/27 is: Thursday, September 10th, 2026, at 12-1:30pm Thursday, November 12th, 2026, at 12-1:30pm Thursday, January 14th, 2027, at 12-1:30pm Thursday, March 11th, 2027, at 12-1:30pm Thursday, May 13th, 2027, at 12-1:30pm Can register for this events now at https://www.babyfriendlyhalton.ca/hbfi-events	

Working Group Volunteers

	HCP Education	IBCLC Advocacy	E-Module Promotion
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HBFI Executive Leader	Vicky Greer	Nicole Urbalonis	Miriam Martin
Members	Truc Nguyen Jamie Dawdy	Victoria Qasim	Vicky Greer Lori Barber Nicole Urbalonis Jamie Dawdy