Board Membership Information

Updated October 28, 2026

What does NMBTF do?

The New Mexico Breastfeeding Task Force (NMBTF) is a membership organization with many members engaged through Chapters. The mission of NMBTF is to create supportive environments in which lactation is the cultural norm and human milk is available to all infants and children. NMBTF's vision is a world without barriers to lactation.

The values of NMBTF include evidence-based practice, respect for all, consistent messaging, support, all voices heard, diversity, inclusion, and transparency. The purpose of NMBTF is to bridge the gap in lactation disparities by ensuring all families have the support they need to reach their breastfeeding/chestfeeding goals. A breastfeeding/chestfeeding culture includes all forms of human milk feeding, including pumping, donor milk feeding, and milk sharing.

Who are NMBTF's members?

NMBTF membership is open to anyone willing to serve New Mexico families in the promotion, protection, advocacy and support of lactation. The membership reflects the diversity of New Mexico and members must comply with the World Health Organization Code of Marketing Breastmilk Substitutes (the WHO Code). Annual membership is granted following completion of the membership application and dues. Members have voting privileges for all matters to be determined by the membership, including the election of NMBTF Board members and officers.

Chapters of NMBTF are formed within local communities in collaboration with the NMBTF staff and Board. Chapters include NMBTF members and visitors working to fulfill the mission of NMBTF while addressing the needs of their local community.

In order to accomplish the NMBTF mission, members, volunteers, contractors, staff, and Board are nurtured through collegial relationships that respect their individual values and the adversities and biases they have overcome in obtaining health for themselves and their communities. NMBTF is committed to attaining equity, diversity, and inclusion to honor, advocate, and strengthen diversity through training, peer-education, relationship building, open dialogue, evaluation and uplifting the voices of those most impacted by racism and barriers.

What does the NMBTF Board do?

The Board of Directors supports the entire membership and Chapters by

- Determining the mission and purpose, overall strategies, policies and priorities;
- Overseeing compliance with laws and regulations and fulfillment of contractual obligations;
- Selecting, monitoring, evaluating, and terminating the executive director;
- Monitoring program performance and impact;
- Providing financial oversight, including management of funds, safeguarding assets from misuse and ensuring maximum use of resources; and
- Approving a fundraising strategy and monitoring its effectiveness.

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NMBTF has three standing Board committees and may appoint additional, ad hoc, or temporary committees:

1. The *Executive Committee* includes the Board Chair, the Board Secretary, and the Board Treasurer and may include other Board members as decided by the Committee.
2. The *Finance Committee* includes the Board Treasurer as Chair, the NMBTF Executive Director, the NMBTF staff or contract accountant, and at least one other Board member.
3. The *Medical Advisory Committee* provides medical oversight for NMBTF. The Board's Medical Liaison serves as Chair of this Committee, which includes volunteers invited by the Medical Liaison and Board.

What are the requirements of NMBTF Board members?

All Board members must be a NMBTF member in good standing throughout their term of service. Board members and officers must attend at least three quarterly meetings each year and must regularly respond to and participate in electronic or other communication. The dates and locations of Board meetings align with the quarterly NMBTF Membership meetings.

Board members spend about 10 hours per quarter on NMBTF business, with board officers spending a further 5 more each quarter to accomplish their specific duties. There are three officers of the NMBTF Board: Board Chair, Board Secretary, and Board Treasurer. Board members and officers are elected to serve one three-year term and are eligible for no more than two consecutive terms in the same office. Former Board officers may only run for the same office they previously held following a two-term hiatus from that office; they may hold a different board position during that hiatus.

Who can serve on the NMBTF Board?

Every effort is made to ensure the NMBTF Board reflects the diversity of New Mexico. Board members may not be NMBTF employees or contractors. The NMBTF Board shall include when possible the following members. (One member may fulfill more than one role.)

- Representation from each region of New Mexico
- Tribal Representative and Liaison
- Finance Specialist
- Medical Liaison, a MD or DO healthcare provider serving breastfeeding families
- Communications Specialist
- Licensed Independent Lactation Healthcare Provider or International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC)
- Community Health Work (CHW), Promotora, Home Visitor, or community outreach worker

How can someone serve on the NMBTF Board?

Board members and officers are elected at the March quarterly meeting. Nominations for the board are accepted by the Board Secretary and include the nomination questionnaire, intent to run statement, bio, résumé/CV, and letter of recommendation from a current NMBTF Member. The nomination form is available at https://breastfeedingnm.org/board-of-directors/. Once received by NMBTF, the form and documents are submitted to the Board for review.

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For other questions, please contact Executive Director Monica Esparza at monica@breastfeedingnm.org