



County of Sonoma

State of California

Date: July 22, 2025

Item Number: _____

Resolution Number: _____

☐ 4/5 Vote Required

Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California,

Acknowledging The Importance Of Breastfeeding Awareness And Support

Whereas, breast milk is widely acknowledged as optimal nutrition for infants;

Whereas, breastfeeding is a proven primary prevention strategy, building a foundation for life-long health and wellness by protecting both infants and mothers from a host of chronic and acute diseases and conditions, including protection from sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS);

Whereas, the nutrients exclusive to human milk are vital to the growth, development, and maintenance of the human brain and cannot be manufactured;

Whereas, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine, and the World Health Organization recommend that babies be exclusively breastfed for the first six months of age and continue to be breastfed until two years of age or longer as mutually desired;

Whereas, recent research estimates that upwards of \$18.5 billion in health care and premature death-related expenses could be saved each year if 90 percent of women were to meet breastfeeding recommendations;

Whereas, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disasters and emergency situations, such as the recent Covid-19 pandemic;

Whereas, employers that provide workplace lactation support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health care costs, absenteeism, and job satisfaction; and

Whereas, Department of Health Services Women Infants and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC) operates a USDA award winning Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program which has collaborated with community partners and the Sonoma County Breastfeeding Coalition to dramatically increase the exclusivity and duration rates of breastfeeding in the County's most vulnerable population;

Whereas, the Department of Health Services Healthy Apple Program provides training, resources, and recognition for early childhood providers to create breastfeeding-friendly spaces.

Whereas, the Department of Health Services Maternal-Child Home Visiting Programs (Nurse-Family Partnership, Teen Parent Connections, and Trauma-Informed Approach in Public Health Nursing) play a significant role in promoting breastfeeding among enrolled clients. With support from public health nurses, social workers, and community health workers, participants in home visiting programs are able to meet and exceed their breastfeeding goals.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors recognizes the unique health, economic, and societal benefits that breastfeeding provides to babies, mothers, families, and the community as a whole and affirms that the County of Sonoma should work to ensure that barriers to initiation and continuation of breastfeeding are removed especially for BIPOC individuals who carry the added burden of structural racism; and

Be It Further Resolved that, in recognition of World Breastfeeding Week, the Board of Supervisors encourages the County Department of Health Services, employers, the Sonoma County Breastfeeding Coalition, and other stakeholders to work together to explore ways to improve women's access to breastfeeding support services in medical, social, and employment settings; to facilitate increased awareness and education about breastfeeding; to explore and encourage the use of breastfeeding supports including extended bonding time for new mothers; and, to improve the availability of equitable and effective breastfeeding resources and community support services.

Supervisors:

Hermosillo: Rabbitt: Coursey: Gore: Hopkins:

Ayes: Noes: Absent: Abstain:

So Ordered.