
SECTION: BREASTFEEDING

SUBJECT: Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program

ITEM: Training Requirements

Policy

All Breastfeeding Peer Counseling (BPC) Program staff shall receive initial and ongoing training on breastfeeding, job related aspects of peer counseling, documentation, and referrals. The Local Agency (LA) is responsible for planning and overseeing staff breastfeeding training. All trainings shall be documented as described in *WPM 190-00 (Staff Training)*.

Required Procedures

- I. The LA is responsible for planning and overseeing BPC staff breastfeeding training.
- II. The LA shall ensure that the PC Supervisor / International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) receives training regarding:
 - A. how to manage BPC Programs using the *California WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program Administrative Manual*; and
 - B. how to use and obtain reports from the Peer Counselor Data Base (PCDB) and Extranet.
- III. The LA shall provide the following trainings to Peer Counselors (PCs):
 - A. These initial trainings are required before PCs are allowed to counsel participants:
 1. complete contents, including activities, of the *California WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Program Manual*. This may be augmented by the instructor with additional pertinent information or activities;
 2. procedures for documenting participant contacts including use of the PCDB;
 3. local WIC orientation including breast pump policies; and
 4. at least eight opportunities (a minimum of 4 hours total) to shadow or observe an PC Supervisor / IBCLC, WIC nutritionist, or experienced PC, providing breastfeeding counseling.
 - B. Monthly PCs shall:

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1. attend regularly scheduled staff meetings for in-services on breastfeeding topics or case study reviews and discussion led by a PC Supervisor / IBCLC, BF Coordinator, or an IBCLC; and
 2. have the opportunity to attend all regular WIC staff meetings.
- C. Annually PCs shall:
1. have opportunities to shadow or observe a PC Supervisor / IBCLC, WIC nutritionist or experienced PC providing breastfeeding counseling; and
 2. review the California WIC Program Manual (*WPM*) 630 Program Policies.
- IV. All LA BPC Program staff shall:
- A. have opportunities for continuing education through attendance at breastfeeding conferences, seminars, and/or independent study;
 - B. use adult learning strategies and provide participant-centered services; and
 - C. attend Biannual BPC Program staff trainings.

Authority

Loving Support C Through Peer Counseling: A journey Together – For WIC Managers, November, 2011

Loving Support Frequently Asked Questions 2011

Loving Support Model for a Successful Peer Counseling Program

Allowable Costs for Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Funds, USDA November 2011.