Breastfeeding Integration Plan Overview

Introduction

This Breastfeeding Integration Plan and associated toolkit has been created through the work of state and local partners with a shared interest in providing coordinated and comprehensive services to women before, during and after pregnancy. Significant contributions have been made by the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. (KBC) who partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Family Health (BFH) to develop statewide evidence-based breastfeeding education and strategies.

Plan Steps

1. Agency staff will receive education and training on evidence-based breastfeeding practices. Education will occur during position/job orientation as well as on an ongoing basis, per agency determined intervals, to keep staff current with evidence-based recommendations. Education and certification level may vary based on position description and degree of patient/client interaction and support provided. See guidance and resources for varying levels of Lactation Support Providers in accompanying toolkit.

2. Patient/Client education will be provided on evidence-based breastfeeding practices and recommendations through consistent, repeat messaging. All clients will receive breastfeeding education throughout the prenatal and postpartum periods at agency determined intervals and touch-points. This includes, but is not limited to, the in-patient clinical setting, out-patient clinical setting, prenatal education programs and home visiting services.

3. Staff will screen and assess all clients’ breastfeeding status at agency determined intervals and touch-points. Those individuals identified through screening or voicing desired support should be referred to local breastfeeding support, such as a WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor (BPC), Internationally Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), or other lactation support providers (see Lactation Support Provider Descriptor Table), local breastfeeding clinics or support groups, etc.

4. Agency will establish policy and procedures that support staff education, universal patient education, screening and referral for breastfeeding support.