

WASHOE COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT

ENHANCING QUALITY OF LIFE

Proclamation

WHEREAS, public health experts acknowledge the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for children and their mothers, and public health leaders in Nevada and throughout the Nation promote and support breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding through nutrition programs such as the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children; and

WHEREAS, the Healthy People initiative consistently identifies breastfeeding as a national health priority; and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends “exclusive breastfeeding for approximately 6 months, with continuation of breastfeeding for 2 years or longer as mutually desired by mother and child, a recommendation concurred to by the World Health Organization and the Institute of Medicine”; and

WHEREAS, scientific data indicates breastfeeding and providing young children with human milk optimally enhances child and maternal health outcomes and is a key disease prevention strategy for various conditions, including breast and ovarian cancers, serious viral infections, including COVID-19, sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, autoimmune conditions, obesity, type 2 diabetes, and leukemia – many of which disproportionately impact Black, Brown and Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increased risk for a variety of negative health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, National Breastfeeding Month, consisting of World Breastfeeding Week, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week and Black Breastfeeding Week, provide important opportunities to address barriers to the use of human milk faced by families across the United States and around the world; and

WHEREAS, the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show that this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends across the country and many times over for families, employers, and the government; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding support is a valuable resource for every family, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, education level, socioeconomic status, or any other factor that makes every family and community unique;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Washoe County District Board of Health does hereby proclaim the month of August 2022 as

BREASTFEEDING AWARENESS MONTH

ADOPTED, this 25th day of August, 2022

Oscar Delgado, Chairman
Washoe County District Board of Health