

Proclamation

WHEREAS, the many physical and mental health benefits of breastfeeding for children and their mothers are acknowledged by public health leaders at Washoe County Health District, the State of Nevada and throughout the Nation, and breastfeeding is promoted and supported as the optimal method of infant feeding, including within the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and

WHEREAS, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) concludes that breastfeeding and human milk are the reference normative standards for infant feeding and nutrition, and AAP and other major medical authorities recommend exclusive breastfeeding for six months, with continued breastfeeding for 2 years or longer as mutually desired by mother and child; and

WHEREAS, human milk provides unique nutritional and non-nutritional benefits for an infant's growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease; and protects mothers' and infants' health; and

WHEREAS, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial racial and ethnic disparities in accessing breastfeeding support, resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an associated increased risk for a variety of negative health outcomes which disproportionately impact Black, Brown and Indigenous People; and

WHEREAS, National Breastfeeding Month, consisting of observance weeks for World Breastfeeding, Indigenous Milk Medicine, Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding, Black Breastfeeding, and Semana de La Lactancia Latina, 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 it is an investment that continues to produce measurable dividends 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 2023 as

Breastfeeding Awareness Month

ADOPTED this 24th day of August, 2023.

Kristopher Dahir, Chairman
Washoe County District Board of Health