



COALITION OF OKLAHOMA
BREASTFEEDING ADVOCATES

Pride Month Position Statement

June 18, 2020, rev. June 1, 2024

The month of June has been chosen as Pride month in memory of the Stonewall Uprising that took place in June 1969. Within six months of these riots, gay activist organizations were formed that paved the way for newspapers, parades, celebrations, and other organizations that brought support for LGBTQ+ rights to the forefront. The Coalition of Oklahoma Breastfeeding Advocates (COBA) stands with our fellow organizations as an ally in our community, seeking inclusion and equity for all.

COBA acknowledges the rights of all families to be supported through inclusive lactation care. Begin by becoming familiar with your community. **L**- Lesbian; **G**- Gay; **B**- Bisexual; **T**- Transgender; **Q**- Queer; **I**- Intersex; **A**- Asexual/Ally; "+"/plus to represent the ever-growing list of ways to identify with terminology expanding to be more inclusive. As Ludwig Wittgenstein has stated, "The limits of my language are the limits of my world." We encourage all who work with families in any capacity to ask how a person identifies as not all breastfeeding parents identify as mothers.

COBA also encourages all lactation providers and supporters to increase their knowledge of induced lactation, and transgender and non-binary breast or chestfeeding. Canadian La Leche League Leader and transgender dad Trevor MacDonald says "It is equally important to note that some trans people experience severe gender dysphoria when breast or chestfeeding, and that they may decide not to nurse their babies for mental health reasons. Trans parents choosing to breast or chestfeed and those choosing to suppress lactation and bottle feed may require the support of breastfeeding counsellors or lactation professionals."

Listed below are social media and Oklahoma resources of information and support:

[Birthing and Breast or Chestfeeding Trans People and Allies](#) Facebook group

[Transgender parents and chest/breastfeeding](#) Additional information and discussion with Trevor MacDonald.

[Freedom Oklahoma](#) Works to secure lived equality and legal protection for lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and queer people through advocacy, public education, coalition building, and empowerment in the civic process.

[Free Mom Hugs](#) Dedicated to educating families, church and civic leaders, encouraging them to both celebrate and affirm the value of the LGBTQ+ community.

[Oklahomans for Equality](#) Seeks equal rights for LGBTQ+ individuals and families through intersectional advocacy, education, programs, alliances, and the operation of the Dennis R. Neill Equality Center.

[PFLAG](#). Mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates.

[Dad's Hug Too](#). Envisions doing what all dads should do: emotionally supporting and teaching LGBTQ+ people the skills needed to succeed in life.

In addition, here are resources that will aid lactation care providers with caring for LGBTQIA+ families:

[LBTQIA+ Equity](#) Multiple resources for health care and lactation providers from the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition

[Support for Transgender & Non-binary Parents](#) from La Leche League International

Position statement and protocol from the Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine:

[ABM Clinical Protocol #33: Lactation Care for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Plus Patients](#)

[Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine Position Statement and Guideline: Infant Feeding and Lactation-Related Language and Gender](#)

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