A mother with her newborn daughter meets representatives from two agencies to learn about their programs.

1st Annual Breastfeeding Summit

The 1st Annual Breastfeeding Summit was held on August 22, 2013, hosted by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Wayne County along with sponsors Wayne County Rural Health Network and the Finger Lakes Breastfeeding Partnership.

The Summit theme followed World Breastfeeding Week: “Breastfeeding Support: Close to Mothers” which highlighted “Five Circles of Local Support for Mothers and Children” with women as the focus.

Twelve local organizations and agencies set up displays to show how they support local mothers and children. Several mothers and a father attended with their babies and children.

A meet and greet was followed by short presentations representing the Circles of Support. A mother who breastfed three children shared how local support helped her as a new mother. The results of three breakout groups were compiled to help with future planning and program development.

A grant from the New York State Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. supplied funding for 200 “Breastfeeding Welcomed Here” decals that were distributed throughout four counties to physicians’ offices and local businesses to promote breastfeeding.

A grant from Wayne County Rural Health Network supplied funding for additional items and advertising for the event. Newark-Wayne Community Hospital supplied food trays.

It was a great opportunity for all of those who attended to share with each other and highlight how Wayne County supports breastfeeding moms and families.

Impact of the Summit

Representatives agreed to put up signs in their workplaces, churches, and distribute to businesses and other locations to promote breastfeeding and “increase coordination with other agencies that support breastfeeding”.

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continued….

A mom who attended said “I feel I will try to nurse my next children longer than last time”.

A representative who also breastfed her children said that she would “continue to reach out to other mothers with new resources I know about now.”

Impact of the Breastfeeding Classes

A startup grant was received in 2010 from the Finger Lakes Perinatal Forum to fund materials, advertising, and equipment to teach breastfeeding classes with the Cornell Breastfeeding pilot curriculum.

Initiation rates for the 30+ moms who have graduated from breastfeeding classes since 2010 is 97% with only one teen mom deciding not to try.

Duration has ranged from a few weeks to over three years. One set of twins breastfed for 19 months and another for longer. Three premature babies were able to be 100% breastfed once they were home. A fourth premature baby is being fed 100% breastmilk even though she is not able to breastfeed effectively on her own.

Several moms have been referred by local agencies, physicians, and moms who were part of the program for assistance with breastfeeding challenges and support.