Model Breastfeeding Policies

Health Departments, Clinics, and Other Settings
Medical Clinic Policies

• Partners in Dakota County SHIP Initiative developed policies to guide breastfeeding practice

• Hospitals referenced Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine (ABM) Protocol #7, Model breastfeeding policy

• Medical Clinics referenced revised ABM model breastfeeding policy
Medical Clinic A

• Includes training expectations for providers and nurses
• Outlines community organizations and clinical care available for breastfeeding support
• Prohibits distributing formula samples & items from formula companies
• Establishes timeline for breastfeeding follow up
• Addresses maintaining environment supportive of breastfeeding
Medical Clinic B (network of clinics)

• Requires each clinic to designate a staff member as the ‘go to’ individual for breastfeeding questions & support
• Describes how breastfeeding will be actively and passively promoted
• Outlines continuity of care expectations post-discharge
• Includes expectation that clinics will provide referrals and resources to mothers
• Establishes expectation that clinics will provide a supportive breastfeeding environment
Applying Model Policies to Public Health and Community Programs
APHA Breastfeeding Policy

• Recognize that breastfeeding is appropriately viewed as a public health issue and insist that maternal/child and comprehensive public health policies include attention to breastfeeding protection, education, promotion, and support, with particular attention to exclusive breastfeeding, early breastfeeding initiation, and disparities in breastfeeding rates.

A Call to Action on Breastfeeding: A Fundamental Public Health Issue
APHA Breastfeeding Policy

- APHA calls on legislators, policymakers, communities, and health care institutions to act to implement all 20 Action Steps recommended by the Surgeon General in the Call to Action.
Policy Development & Implementation

• Successes
• Challenges
• Lessons Learned