

OUR MISSION: TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR LACTATION PROFESSIONALS.

OUR VISION: IBCLCS ARE VALUED RECOGNIZED MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH CARE TEAM.



USLCA E-news
August 2008/ Issue 12

**From the President: Glenda Dickerson, RN, MS,
IBCLC**

One Voice

The profession of lactation counseling is growing and maturing. Those that choose to take an active part in our professional organization have the unique opportunity to contribute to decisions that will chart the course for our future. Let's look at who we are as we contemplate who we will become.

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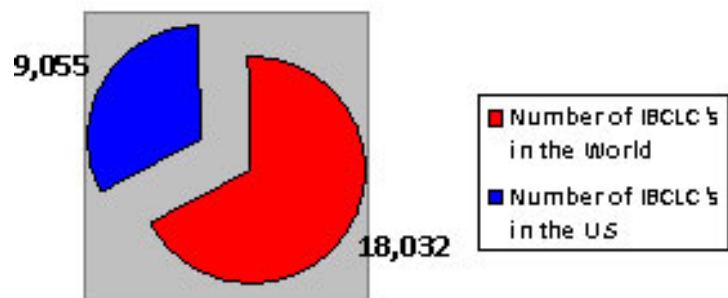
- [ILCA Issues Forum 2008: "IBCLC: Is it a High-](#)



Glenda Dickerson, RN, MS, IBCLC
USLCA BOD President

Number of IBCLC's worldwide 18,032
Number of IBCLC's in the U.S 9,055

Number of IBCLC in the World and U.S.



Licensed Health Care
Professionals

7,429 (82%)

Stakes Credential

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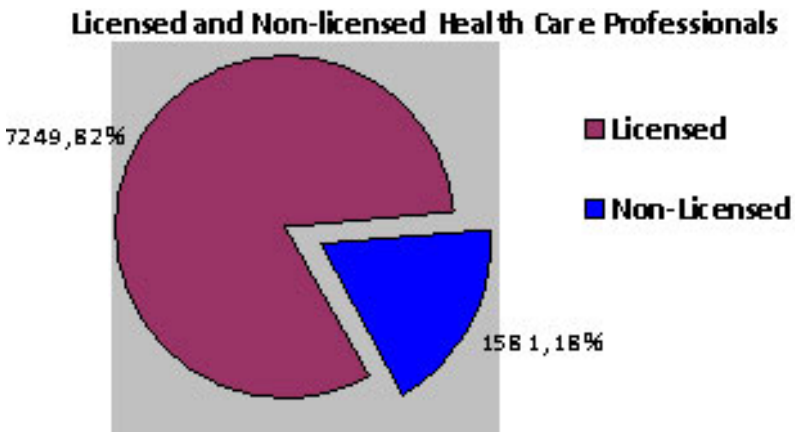
PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES:

- Meet Nikki Lee, RN, BSN, MS, IBCLC, CCE, CIMI

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- Happy World Breastfeeding Week!
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RN's	6,888
RD's	287
MD's	105
Other	149
Non-licensed	1581 (18%)
Certified Mother-to-Mother support	686
CCE, Doulas	190
No certification	705



Over 6,000 of the IBCLC's in the U.S. work in hospitals or birthing centers. These figures reveal that the vast majority of IBCLC's in the U.S. are RN's working in the hospital setting. At this point in time, we are closely identified with the nursing profession. Is this positive or negative? Is this necessarily permanent?

History tells us that other health care professions also have their roots in nursing. The earliest documented origins of physical therapy as a professional group date back to 1894 when nurses in England formed the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. In 1914 this new profession expanded to the United States in response to the needs of the wounded returning from WWI. Nurses with a background in physical education were graduated as the first physical therapist and were call "reconstruction aides." Within a few years, physical therapy became an independent profession, no longer requiring a nursing background.

There are skilled and talented non-RN IBCLC's as well as RN IBCLC's. No one avenue to our profession has "bragging rights" as the best, and no one avenue should be viewed as substandard. That is not the issue. The issue is where do we go as a profession-not where do we stay. Careful thought and consideration is essential before we move forward.

How will our history read? No one knows at this point in time. What is certain is that it is important for those of us who are dedicated to this profession to join our voices together and become One Voice. A strong, sure voice that works to decide the course we will take. Join me as we find and use our Voice.

One Voice!

Glenda Dickerson RN, MS, IBCLC
USLCA Board President

In Case You Missed It! July *USLCA eNews* is on the USLCA Website!

For those of you who might have missed the July issue of the eNews that came out right before we headed to Las Vegas, it is now on the USCLA website. While much of the issue was devoted to conference-specific information, check out the Board of Directors News for committee updates and to meet the newest Board of Directors members, Crystal Stearns and Debbie Costello.

BOARD NEWS

The USLCA Board of Directors met in Las Vegas just before the ILCA/USLCA Conference. Look for an update on this meeting in the September USLCA eNews.

WELCOME TO THE TERRITORIES!

A little geography lesson is in order-We all know that there are 50 states in the US, and we want full participation from each state in order to give our "One Voice& as much strength as possible. There is more to this country than just those 50 states! We have a few official US Territories as well, including the US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa. USLCA would like to officially welcome the US Territories to the USCLA "fold"-we're here for you, too!

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CHAPTER NEWS

USLCA CHAPTER MEETING AT ILCA/USLCA CONFERENCE

Representatives of the various USLCA Chapters (and potential chapters) had an opportunity to meet face-to-face during the recent ILCA/USLCA conference. It was a good sharing of questions, suggestions, and needs—both the Chapter's needs and the needs of USLCA that will help the organization help the Chapters.

ILCA/USLCA CONFERENCE FOLLOWUP

ILCA ISSUES FORUM 2008: "IBCLC: IS IT A HIGH-STAKES CREDENTIAL?"

For the third year in a row, the ILCA Board of Directors held an Issues Forum at the conference last month. This year's hot topic was "IBCLC: Is it a High-Stakes Credential?" From the description in the July 2008 eGlobe:

In recent years the majority of IBLCE exam-takers have come to lactation consultation from another field (nursing or midwifery, most commonly). This is in contrast to the first exam, in 1985, when more than half of the test-takers were from mother-to-mother counseling backgrounds. Has the IBCLC certification become an "add-on" to another, earlier-attained degree or license? Or is it a "stand-alone" credential, whose merit (and marketability) is recognized in maternal-child health circles? Are there youngsters who want to "grow up to be a lactation consultant"?

ILCA President Angela Smith, RN, BA, IBCLC, CM, facilitated the meeting and began by explaining that

Some specifics that USLCA would like from each Chapter include:

- *Chapter representative* to participate in the monthly Chapter calls
- *Legislative representatives* who will keep track of legislative activity in their state that pertains to lactation services
- *Reimbursement representatives* to liaison with Reimbursement Committee
- *Volunteers to investigate their state perinatal regulations* which mandate how perinatal care should be regulated.
- *Share copies of Chapter Newsletters*
- *Share Chapter news and summary stories of Chapter highlights and history for eNews*

Chapters around the country demonstrate many creative ways of getting the work done, and helping to further our profession. It is USLCA's hope that the sharing of this wealth continues.

The next Chapter conference call will be September 1st at 4:00pm EST. For more information, contact Debbie Costello at bmomdeb@bellsouth.net

NEWS YOU CAN USE

NURSING COMPETENCIES IN BREASTFEEDING

"high stakes credential" is not just a term conference planners chose to fit in with the Las Vegas casino scene. This term is well-defined in the credentialing industry and refers to a certification that is recognized and a requirement for specific employment. [read more.](#)

AND WHAT A PARTY IT WAS!

We had music, we had dancing, we had contests, we even had food, and we had fun! Even more importantly, we got lots of work done! The 2008 ILCA/USLCA Bag Stuffing Party was a huge success, thanks largely due to the participation by members of the Nevada Health Center WIC staff. This group of dedicated volunteers, joined by other conference attendees, ILCA and USLCA Board Members, stuffed a thousand bags with 40+ items in record time. "Party goers" were spurred on by a mechanical talking ape head perched at the end of one of the tables. Rousing music from an iPod kept staffers making circle after circle around the tables at a dizzying pace as they collated the items. It was a grand example of how what could have been a never-ending chore for just a handful of people turned into an enjoyable morning. Participants were treated to a box lunch as well.

Those of you who attended the ILCA/USLCA conference this year—every time you peer into your ILCA/USLCA conference bag, think kind thoughts about the hard-working bunch who stuffed it full of conference goodies for you!

By Kathy Medlin, RN, CLC, IBCLC
Jackson, Tennessee

I am an IBCLC and a RN, and I work in a hospital setting. I work mostly on the Mother /Baby floor where most of our babies are considered well babies. But I also help the mothers with babies in our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). I have been to several seminars that Paula Meier, RN, DNSc, FAAN, has taught. I have shared much of the information that she has given in our area of the hospital.

In working with the NICU mothers and babies, our protocols have changed many times when it comes to breastfeeding and breast milk. The Neonatologist prefers the NICU baby to have pumped breast milk if they are not able to breastfeed directly. She decided that these mothers should start pumping within the first six hours after they have delivered. This is still a work in progress. [read more.](#)

And a big thanks to all who helped out!

FROM BILL TO LAW: LEGISLATING FOR THE ROLE OF THE IBCLC IN BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT

Think back to your high school government/civics classes.... How does a bill become a law? Chances are, if you remember any of the process, you probably have a vague notion that it takes hard work and a lot of convincing of important people in the right place at the right time to get from the "good idea" stage to a law. This is the process that IBCLCs face when trying to legislate for the IBCLC's role in helping mothers to breastfeed their babies.

At the recent Reimbursement Workshop at the ILCA/USLCA conference, facilitated by former USLCA BOD member Maureen Dann, PNP, IBCLC, attendees were given a [handout](#) created by BOD member Laurie Beck, RN, MSN, IBCLC, that outlines the basic steps needed to accomplish this goal. It is obvious in looking at this handout that no one person can make this happen. USLCA encourages IBCLCs to become involved in lobbying for the IBCLC profession at the local, state, and national level. We encourage members to share resources, ideas, and contacts through the eNews as legislative activity will vary from state to state. It is an exciting time for our profession as we unite together and continue to grow in numbers. We welcome your thoughts and comments as we learn

LIAISON REPORT

**BREASTFEEDING PROMOTION CONSORTIUM MEETING
July 31, 2008
By Marsha Walker, USLCA Liaison**

The Breastfeeding Promotion Consortium (BPC) was established by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Consumer Service (FCS) and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in 1990. It meets twice each year in Washington, DC and is composed of over 40 organizations and Federal government agencies. The Mission Statement of the BPC is to be a forum for dialogue between breastfeeding advocacy groups and Federal agencies to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding.

The BPC has proved a valuable resource in advancing both breastfeeding and the IBCLC. [read more.](#)

PRACTICAL PERSPECTIVES

**MEET NIKKI LEE, RN, BSN, MS, IBCLC, CCE, CIMI
Lactation Consultant for the Philadelphia Department of
Public Health**

For the past two years, I have worked as the lactation consultant for the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. Philadelphia means "City of Brotherly Love"; my goal is to make Philadelphia the City of Motherly Love, where babies breastfeed anywhere they are and no one notices, and where

from each other and look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to be a part of this important effort, please contact Laurie at laurie.beck@dchstx.org

We welcome Crystal Stearn as the new Board of Director who will be overseeing the licensure/legislative committee. New committee members are always welcomed as there is plenty of work to be done!

TIPS: TECHNOLOGY IN PRACTICE

HAPPY WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK!

Okay, maybe World Breastfeeding Week has come and gone by the time you receive this issue of the *eNews*. It's not too late to celebrate a good thing, though! What did you do to celebrate? If you haven't already done so, be sure and check out the WABA [World Breastfeeding Week](#) materials, including especially the Action Folder.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY AND CITY HEALTH OFFICIALS MCH NEWSLETTER FEATURES BREASTFEEDING!

The August edition of the [NACCHO](#) MCH Newsletter,

rates of pediatric obesity and diabetes decrease so much that the CDC notices. My dream is that someday there will be at least one Baby-Friendly facility in Philadelphia, as well as a HMBANA-certified Milk Bank.

One of the best things about my job is that I get to give things away, including my time. As my mission for the PDPH is to implement the Breastfeeding Promotion Policy, and my salary is paid by the PDPH, I can do outreach and approach a variety of audiences to offer free materials and trainings. This is a delightful example of tax dollars at work. [read more.](#)

appropriately enough, is about breastfeeding—in recognition and celebration of World Breastfeeding Week. Subscription to these monthly newsletters is free, and back issues of the newsletters are available on the website. The current issue is not yet available on the website. If you would like to subscribe, [click here.](#)

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