



June 7, 2024

Memorandum of Understanding

Dear Michigan WIC,

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets for the terms and understanding between Birth Detroit (BD) and MI WIC to partner toward a shared vision of addressing racial inequities in maternal health, by helping prepare families prenatally and find support for initiation and duration of breastfeeding as long as a family is able. Through clinical presence, weekly classes and warm-line help we believe families in our care will benefit from this integrated approach to impact positive lactation outcomes, especially for Black families in Detroit. Together, the Parties enter into this Memorandum of Understanding to increase access to lactation education and support as a part of a comprehensive model of care in Detroit.

Mission

Birth Detroit's mission is to midwife safe, quality, loving care through pregnancy, birth and beyond.

Purpose

This memorandum of understanding is established between Birth Detroit and MI WIC. The purpose of this understanding is to formalize our community partnership in support of birthing families receiving care through Birth Detroit Care and Birth Detroit Birth Center.

Duration

This MOU is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorized officials from Birth Detroit and MI WIC. This MOU shall become effective upon signature by the authorized officials from Birth Detroit and MI WIC. and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent. In the absence of mutual agreement by the authorized officials from Birth Detroit and MI WIC this MOU shall end on **May 10th, 2025**.

Accordingly, Birth Detroit and WIC operating under this MOU agree as follows:



As a part of our community partnership, WIC’s Breastfeeding Community Liaison will work with Birth Detroit to help create greater lactation support and education to Birth Detroit clients. WIC’s Breastfeeding Community Liaison will be present at Birth Detroit Birth Center one day a week during clinical hours to provide immediate lactation support, answer questions and/ or refer to WIC services. WIC’s Breastfeeding Community Liaison can be available to help Birth Detroit clients navigate using their WIC benefits and assist with knowing about WIC appointments. Birth Detroit will host a free 3 session course (60 minutes each) in person at Birth Detroit developed and facilitated by the WIC Breastfeeding Community Liaison. This **POMM (Precious Ounces of Mothers Milk) Series** will be held throughout the year. Online registration for the **POMM Series** will be held on the Birth Detroit website and promoted to Birth Detroit clients and Birth Detroit program participants. Birth Detroit will make the **POMM Series** course a required education course to be eligible for Birth Detroit birth center care. Birth Detroit will refer and promote the WIC Breastfeeding warmline to Birth Detroit families to troubleshoot early lactation concerns or normal lactation questions.

This MOU represents a commitment to work together to build upon the current relationship to vision and grow in partnership to increase the connection of families, lactation support at Birth Detroit clinics and freestanding birth centers and demonstrate how Black-led midwifery clinics and birth centers can be a valuable asset to our communities, birthing hospitals and public health systems.

Authorization

The signing of this MOU is not a formal undertaking. It implies that the signatories will strive to reach, to the best of their ability, the objectives stated in the MOU.

On behalf of the organization I represent, I wish to sign this MOU and contribute to its further development.

Christina Herring Authorized WIC Representative Date: 6-7-24

_____ Authorized Birth Detroit Representative Date: _____

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