Join IBLCE for our Latin American and Caribbean Meet & Greet!

You are cordially invited to IBLCE's Latin American and Caribbean Meet and Greet event at the ILCA® Conference in Chicago, IL on Thursday, July 21, 2016.

Interested in Latin America and the Caribbean? Visit with members of IBLCE's Board of Directors, IBLCE® staff including IBLCE's Director of Promotion & Advancement for the Americas and Israel, Saray Murillo Hill, IBCLC and others interested in this wonderful part of the world! Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

This event is open to all who are interested in promoting the IBCLC® credential in Latin America and the Caribbean. You must RSVP to attend the event. Please click here to RSVP.

Please RSVP by tomorrow, July 15th, to reserve your spot.

We look forward to seeing you there!

United States Breastfeeding Committee Update

IBLCE has long been a full member organisation of the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC). USBC is the recognised national voice for breastfeeding advocacy and support in the United States and has partnerships with several important federal agencies including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), The U.S. Surgeon General and Office on Women's Health. Due to IBLCE's involvement in USBC, access to IBCLC care was included as Action 11 in the Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding in 2011 and coverage of lactation care was included in the Affordable Care Act in 2010.

Currently USBC has funding from The Kellogg Foundation to foster communication and collaboration within the lactation support provider community. The goal is to increase access to quality breastfeeding care by identifying appropriate trained support for breastfeeding families and training resources for healthcare and community support providers. IBLCE's representative, Becky Mannel, has been a key component of this ongoing dialogue in clarifying the role of the IBCLC within the healthcare team and within the lactation support community. Another possible outcome of this dialogue is a cohesive approach to Medicaid reimbursement of lactation care services.

Some of the other important USBC conversations occurring include formula marketing, maternity care practices, infant sleep practices, workplace support, training of other health care providers, donor milk and research coordination. IBLCE is involved in several of these conversations and will continue to be a strong voice for the IBCLC at the national level in the United States.

Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act

Congratulations to Georgia on passing HB 649 "Georgia Lactation Consultant Practice Act" providing licensure for IBCLCs. IBLCE recognises the hard work and efforts of all those involved in the process of passing this bill. IBLCE commends the state of Georgia for recognising the value of the IBCLC credential and its role in protecting and supporting the health and wellness of breastfeeding families.
Is In!

Q: In addition to attending conferences, how can current IBCLCs earn CERPs?
A. Clinical Observation
B. Poster Presentation
C. Teaching
D. Master's thesis and doctoral dissertation
E. All of the Above

Answer: E. All of the above. For complete details, please review the Individual CERPs Guide.

Quiz of the Quarter

Q: In which two states is there now licensure for IBCLC?
A. Rhode Island & Georgia
B. Delaware & Georgia
C. Rhode Island & Alabama
D. Georgia & Alabama

Check out the next IBLCE newsletter for the answer to this quiz of the quarter!

Country Quiz of the Quarter

Which of the following facts about Greece are true?
A. The Greek Archipelago consists of 6,000 islands.
B. The capital of Greece is Thessaloniki.
C. The National Tree of Greece is the Kapok tree.
D. The population of Greece is approximately 11 million.

Welcome to IBLCE’s New Country Coordinator for Australia!

Marj Duncan is a Registered Nurse, Registered Midwife, Child and Family Health Nurse, IBCLC, and Baby Friendly Health Initiative (BFHI) Assessor and Educator. Marj has supported families with parenting and breastfeeding challenges for over 20 years in both hospital and community, and has been an IBCLC since 1999. She is passionate about the benefits of breastfeeding not only for the mother and baby, but the community as a whole.

For all general certification and recertification questions please contact Marj at aus@iblce.edu.au

For any question about your IBLCE online account, application, specific exam booking procedural questions, or applying for CERPs for your educational event contact IBLCE in the Asia-Pacific and Africa office based in Queensland, Australia. Contact information can be found here on the IBLCE website.

IBLCE would like to welcome Marj to the team of Country Coordinators!

IBLCE Expiration Date Change

As previously announced, IBCLC certification expiration dates changed from November 1 to December 31 of the year of certification expiration, due to the change to twice-a-year examinations. In the year you are due to expire, IBLCE will mail you an updated certificate showing this expiration date change.

Contact your IBLCE Regional Office with any questions about this mailing.

Exam Results and Online Registry Update

The 2016 April Exam results were mailed 14 June 2016 from the IBLCE regional offices. Please know that postal delivery timings may vary worldwide. The printed score report is considered the official exam result. The exam results also have been posted to the Online Credential Manager System. Log into your online account today to view your results.

The online registry will be updated in late July.

IBLCE Signs on to Urge US Government to Support Proposed WHO Code Guidance

Together with the United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC), IBLCE proudly supported the sign-on letter urging the U.S. Government to support the World Health Organization’s (WHO)
This new guidance addresses policy gaps by providing clarity on what constitutes appropriate promotion of foods for children from 6-36 months of age, and also clarifies that milk products that are marketed for feeding infants and young children are in fact breast-milk substitutes and should be covered by the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. The guidance was developed by WHO to protect breastfeeding, prevent obesity and promote healthy diets and ensure that caregivers receive clear and accurate information on feeding.

Ethics & Discipline: What’s Behind the Process?

This is the first of a series of periodic articles designed to illuminate the Ethics & Discipline (E & D) process.

Quality certification programs have a Code of Professional Conduct, or Code of Ethics, to promote professionalism, protect the integrity of the credential and justify public trust. Accreditors of certification programs typically require that such programs have such a code together with an accompanying process.

Implementation of a Code of Professional Conduct (CPC) requires a fair process and an equitable balancing of interests. The public relies on credential holders and the services they provide. At the same time, certificants have earned a credential which is very important to them, professionally, and perhaps personally as well. A just process is important.

What is behind the IBLCE Ethics & Disciplinary process and what are the features built into the process to provide balance and fairness?

Several points are key. First, a determination must be made as to whether a complaint filed contains reliable and sufficient information or whether the complaint potentially has merit. If the complaint is found to be unreliable, insufficient, frivolous or inconsequential, it is dismissed. If it potentially has merit, it is moved forward for further consideration through several levels of review. Different volunteer leaders are involved at different levels to provide a fair and balanced review.

A screening process takes place to identify any potential conflicts of interest between the complainant or respondent and those volunteer leaders reviewing the matter. If a conflict of interest is identified, that volunteer will not consider the matter. Instead a volunteer without a conflict will consider the matter.

Key identifying information, such as the name of the complaint and respondent, are redacted prior to volunteer review.

Both parties are provided the opportunity to submit information on the matter.

These are some of the key features of a process designed to be equitable and even-handed.

Processing an E & D matter fairly, and in a balanced manner, takes some time. Different groups of volunteer leaders are convened at the various levels of review, key identifying information removed from sometimes voluminous documentation furnished by the parties and careful review of information is conducted.

It is a process which IBLCE takes seriously as it involves the public which certificants serve, as well as the certificants themselves.

Further information may be found on the IBLCE website.
Certificant Spotlight

IBCLCs work around the globe in a variety of practice settings in lactation. This feature of the eNewsletter and IBLCE website highlight IBCLCs and the important work they perform for mothers, babies and families. Read about certificants around the world and why they value the IBCLC credential!

Kelly Johnson, IBCLC

Kelly Johnson, BNRN, IBCLC, has over 14 years of professional experience in maternity, paediatrics, neonatal intensive care and home care. She has done extensive education in breastfeeding and is working toward her ICEA Educator certification. She studied nursing and began her career in New Brunswick, Canada. She moved to Grand Cayman in 2006 for adventure and to expand her experience in NICU nursing. Shortly after moving, her passion for breastfeeding increased and she began her course work to become an IBCLC.

After having her first child, Samuel, she and her husband felt there was insufficient support in the Caymans for new families. This led her to start a company, with the help of a former nurse, devoted to family breastfeeding support.

Teaching and helping expectant families and new parents with their babies has always been one of Kelly’s passions. Kelly volunteers with the hospital in Grand Cayman teaching breastfeeding classes and provides classes to clients in their homes. The IBCLC has provided Kelly with an exciting new career!

IBLCE News & Notes

IBLCE, including the Board of Directors and staff, do much more than administer the IBCLC examination and are pleased to share information about the many initiatives in which IBLCE is involved.
A number of IBLCE Board and team members attended the ELACTA conference in Athens, Greece in May. Board Chair Andreja Tekauc Golob, MD, IBCLC presented "The Epigenetics of Breastfeeding." Board Secretary Micaela Notarangelo, PhD, IBCLC, presented a poster on a project to promote breastfeeding among cleft infants. The project resulted in the inclusion of the IBCLC role in one of the most important cleft center teams in Italy (Pisa Santa Chaila), and is spreading knowledge of the IBCLC role and certification at the birthing center where these babies are born.

IBLCE Board Director Profile

As an ongoing feature, the IBLCE eNewsletter features an IBLCE Board member and includes information about the focus of the Board member's work on behalf of the IBCLC community and the public.

Clifton J. Kenon, Jr.
DNP, MSN, RN, IBCLC, RLC

Dr. Clifton J. Kenon, Jr. has been an IBCLC since 2009 and is in his second year of his first term on the IBLCE Board. He contributes to the Board on various committees including Research and Finance, and serves as Chair of the Marketing Committee. He also serves as one of IBLCE's representatives to the United States Breastfeeding Committee.

Dr. Clifton Kenon Jr., a lactation consultant and avid breastfeeding supporter, led the first hospitals within the IHS to become Baby-Friendly, as well as the first and only hospitals within the states of North and South Dakota. This resulted in increased breastfeeding rates by up to 80 percent on some reservations. He created an induced lactation programme for Native American women that were considering adoption, as well as strengthened the use of the lactational amenorrhea method as a natural family planning method. He removed barriers to access for all forms of contraception including emergency contraception for American Indian Women residing on Reservations. He created the first national nurse residency programme to train nurses to work in resource constrained rural settings, and wrote the National Indian Health Service Breastfeeding Protection guidelines.

For his leadership in the area of breastfeeding, he was recognised by Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Initiative," and was invited to speak at the White House in 2012. He has been recognised by the Surgeon General of the United States and received the 2011 Lucille Woodville Award in honor of his contributions to the health of women and newborns in the United States. In 2013, he took home the top national award at IHS, the Reyes Award, making him the first nurse and the youngest person ever to receive this honor. He was the Award of Excellence in Practice Recipient from the Association of Women's Health Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses in 2014.

Clifton is a Senior Research Advisor in the Office of Population and Reproductive Health at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), where he continues to work on breastfeeding, fertility awareness based family planning, and postpartum family planning. In addition to his full-time job, Clifton continues to help mothers and families as a labor and delivery nurse and lactation consultant. Prior to joining USAID he served as the Director of Maternal and Child Health in the Great Plains Area of the Indian Health Service (IHS). In that position, he worked throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska serving the needs of American Indian and Alaskan Native women. He has worked as
labour and delivery nurse, mother baby nurse and lactation consultant at both the University of Virginia Hospital, and Duke University Medical Center.

Clifton earned a doctorate of nursing practice from Chatham University of Pittsburgh, a master's degree in nursing from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Winston-Salem State University. Dr. Kenon is currently pursuing a second doctoral degree at the University of Tennessee.

In his spare time, Clifton enjoys writing, traveling, and community service. His dream places to visit are Fiji and the Seychelles Islands.

- The Board and Staff of IBLCE