

United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC)		
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Board of Directors Ethics Committee		Revision Date: n/a

Code of Ethics for Board & Staff

The United States Breastfeeding Committee (USBC) is comprised of and serves many constituencies, with varying perspectives and needs, although all are united in support of *"Protecting, Promoting and Supporting Breastfeeding: A Public Health Imperative."*

Members of the USBC Board of Directors are elected and govern *as individuals*. They may also offer wisdom, expertise and perspective from their USBC member organization, or other collaborative efforts.

Members of the USBC Board of Directors and Staff Team commit to carrying out USBC's vision, mission, and values. They perform their duties according to the principles of this Code of Ethics and the Board & Staff Leadership Code of Conduct, as enforced by the articulated Complaint/Problem Resolution Procedure.

- We expect integrity, honesty, and trustworthiness in our individual and collective work.
- We know communities mirror the societies in which they exist and positive action is essential to counteract the many forms of inequity and abuses of power that exist in society.
- We endorse and model a culture of inclusion, diversity, and equity that permeates all USBC activity. We are equitable in our decisions and mindful of their impact on other groups and people.
- We expect to be treated, and to treat others, with respect. We respect the opportunity to be heard, and we respect differences of opinion.
- We accept as a personal duty the responsibility to keep up to date on emerging issues, and to conduct ourselves with professional competence, fairness, impartiality, efficiency, and effectiveness.
- We conduct our organizational and operational duties with positive leadership, exemplified by transparent communication, dedication, and compassion.
- We avoid any interest or activity that is in conflict with the conduct of our official duties.

- Staff members respect the structure and responsibilities of the Board of Directors, provide them with facts and advice as a basis for their making policy decisions, and uphold and implement policies adopted by the Board.
- Board members respect the structure and responsibilities of the Staff Team, to provide operational support to the strategic and policy direction identified by the Board.
- We expect responsible action on behalf of the organization and we are accountable and transparent to our USBC member organizations, collaborative partners, and one another. We share information when appropriate without sacrificing confidentiality.
- We expect our actions to demonstrate our care for others and the community as a whole. We support each other in a humane manner. We care about the well-being of each other, the community, and the USBC.