



## **Proclamation**

### **OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF EL DORADO**

#### **Recognizing August 2024 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month**

**WHEREAS**, human milk provides the ideal balance of nutrients for infant growth and development; reduces the risk of infectious and chronic disease in both mother and child; reduces the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; promotes the development of intestinal microorganisms that support the development of the infant's immune system, making breastfeeding an infant's first immunization; and can influence healthy weight stability in ages ranging from birth to 5 years of age;

**WHEREAS**, promotion of breastfeeding is a primary Public Health prevention strategy fostering a foundation for life-long health and wellness;

**WHEREAS**, breastfeeding provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations;

**WHEREAS**, employers that provide workplace lactation support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health care costs, absenteeism, and turnover rates as well as improved morale, job satisfaction, and productivity;

**WHEREAS**, the El Dorado County Public Health Division's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Public Health Nursing Maternal Child Adolescent Health (MCAH) programs actively educate, support and promote breastfeeding as the norm for infants up to age one year and beyond;

**WHEREAS**, currently 33 percent of infants age six months enrolled in the El Dorado County Public Health WIC Program are breastfed exclusively, a trend that is consistent with the Healthy People 2030 national breastfeeding objective to increase the proportion of infants who are breastfed exclusively through age six months to 42.4 percent and who continue breastfeeding through the 12th month of age to 54.1 percent;

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous Milk Medicine Week is celebrated concurrently with World Breastfeeding Week to increase support for Native first food experiences, promote healing and wellness, and increase access, opportunity, visibility, and equity in Indigenous Milk experiences; and

**WHEREAS**, The Breastfeeding Coalition of El Dorado County and El Dorado County Public Health Division join professional health organizations and breastfeeding advocates worldwide celebrating World Breastfeeding Week on August 1st through the 7th each year to raise awareness of the benefits of breastfeeding and further promote strategies to protect optimal breastfeeding practices and encourage increased breastfeeding rates.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado does hereby designate the month of August 2024 as "Breastfeeding Awareness Month" and calls upon government agencies, hospitals, health care providers and other community partners to increase public awareness of the health benefits and importance of supporting mothers who want to breastfeed.

Passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of El Dorado at a regular meeting of said Board, held the 30th day of July 2024.

**Attest:**  
Kim Dawson  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
by:

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Deputy Clerk

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Chair, Board of Supervisors