The Public Affairs Commission met via conference call on Monday, October 8, 2018, to discuss Resolution #10 adopted by the MSMA 2018 House of Delegates. Participating were Chair, James Blaine, MD, Springfield; Mohammad Agha, MD, Columbia; Jeffrey Thomasson, MD, St. Louis; George Hubbell, MD, Lake Ozark (Councilor Advisor); and MSMA staff, Lizabeth Fleenor.

Resolution #10: Collection of Breastfeeding Data at Well-Baby Visits in First Year of Life

Resolved, that our MSMA explore the feasibility of a study on the collection of breastfeeding data with state Practice Based Research Networks and relevant specialty medical associations.

The Commission discussed the wide availability of resources from the following:
- Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services programs, tracking, resources
- Centers for Disease Control programs, tracking, resources
- American Medical Association recommendations and policy
- American Academy of Pediatrics programs, tracking, resources
- Pediatricians, Family Practice, and OB/GYNs influence in breastfeeding

Although the ask of the resolution is to create specific data for breastfeeding, all on the call believe the bottom line was that the data would be used to enhance the rate for breastfeeding at all periods following birth, up to one year. So, instead of MSMA studying the feasibility of a study, the Commission suggests MSMA encourage members and their affiliate hospitals and systems to increase breastfeeding in our state. Only 16 of 80+ hospitals offering maternity services champion the "Show-Me 5" program by the DHSS; simple expansion of that program to those hospitals not meeting that criterion deserves consideration.

Data is already collected by the CDC and other organizations and has shown Missouri lags in breastfeeding rates at all newborn and infant ages sampled. To produce more data wouldn’t be any more compelling than that what is already available and published.

Recommendation:

That MSMA contact the specialty societies that can have the most positive effect on positively changing the breastfeeding rate, i.e., FPs, Peds, and OBGs.

That an article in Missouri Medicine be published encouraging specialty societies and their respective physicians take on and share in the challenge of increasing the breastfeeding rates in Missouri through distribution of related data.

The Commission also recommended that we add the above resources to our website under Public Health for use by members and the general public.

Show-Me 5: https://health.mo.gov/living/families/wic/breastfeeding/showme5.php