Incarceration

Why are changes needed? Michigan currently lacks any laws to promote, support, or protect the special health needs of mothers who wish to breastfeed their children. The status quo treatment of mother-inmates, which requires separation of mother and infant, undermines the health of both the mother and her child, and evidence suggests it can negatively impact families over multiple generations.¹

MIBFN Recommends:

• Lactation accommodation policies should be adopted for the incarcerated.
• Milk expression programs should be adopted for the incarcerated.
• Humane birthing practices that support laboring women and their infants should be adopted and provided for all those incarcerated.
• Whenever possible, incarcerated individuals should have direct access to baby through Prison Nursery Programs.
• Community-based alternatives to incarceration should be provided as viable sentencing options.
• Policies should support treatment as an alternative to punishment through trauma-based services.
• Incarcerated individuals should receive services that focus on the parenting relationship between parent and child.

To learn more about the MIBFN Incarceration campaign, visit www.mibreastfeeding.org/incarceration