Republic of the Philippines Department of Health NATIONAL NUTRITION COUNCIL REGION VII

RNC Resolution No. 018–02 (s 2018) Excerpts from the Minutes of the Regional Nutrition Committee Meeting held on 11 July 2018 at the Club Ultima, Osme**ñ**a Blvd., Cebu City

"ENJOINGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT 7, CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION 7, AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO PUT UP LACTATION STATIONS FOR EMPLOYEES AND CLIENTELE"

WHEREAS, RA 10028 otherwise known as the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009 require that all health and non-health facilities, establishments or institutions both private and government must establish lactation stations. It also sets provision of how to set-up these lactation stations, outline benefits of nursing employees as well as provides sanctions for private facilities, establishments and institutions which unjustifiably refuses or fails to comply;

WHEREAS, a lactation station, also known as breastfeeding room/area/station, is an important facility that enables mothers to wash-up, breast or express milk comfortably and store it safely. The use of this facility encourages success in exclusive breastfeeding;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health is mandated by law to certify lactation stations as mother-babyfriendly spaces maintain a list of certified establishments as well as create an awarding mechanism for health and non-health facilities that successfully comply to RA 10028;

WHEREAS, the Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service Commission, as agencies incharge of looking after the well-being of employees and clientele of private and public agencies respectively, are mandated by RA 10028 to encourage establishments to set-up lactating stations for employees and clientele;

WHEREAS, based on the 2015 National Nutrition Survey, Central Visayas has a 55.2% exclusive breastfeeding rate which means 1 out of 2 women cannot successfully breastfeed their children exclusively during the 1st 6 months of life which could lead to lesser chances of their children to grow to their full potential. Lactating women in Central Visayas are only able to breastfeed their children on an average of 9 months which is lesser than the WHO recommendation of breastfeeding up to two years and beyond;

WHEREAS, the Regional Breastfeeding Task Force, is a body, headed by the DOH RO7 and is created to monitor the implementation of the RA 10028 and EO 51 or the Milk Code.

WHEREAS, the RNC finds the need to encourage better breastfeeding practices in the region to help improve malnutrition rates among infants and young children by giving support for working mothers to breastfeed successfully. This can be attained by providing these mothers with a safe and clean environment to breastfeed or express milk;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, to request DOLE 7 and CSC 7 to redisseminate RA 10028 and its implementing rules and guidelines private and public establishments and ensure its compliance, and the DILG to disseminate guidelines to local government units encouraging the establishment of lactation stations and monitors its functionality;

RESOLVED FURTHER, for DOLE 7, CSC 7 and LGUs to update the RNC secretariat of the status of established lactation stations annually;

RESOLVED FURTHERMORE, to request DOH RO7 to update RNC secretariat of the number of certified mother-baby-friendly establishment and to craft an awarding mechanism for health and non-health facilities that successfully comply to RA 10028;

RESOLVED FINALLY, to request members of the Regional Breastfeeding Task force to monitor said lactation stations and recommend points of action for the RNC.

APPROVED, this 11th day of July 2018 during its 2nd RNC Full Committee Meeting Series 2018 held at Club Ultima Board Room, Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City.

Certified Correct:

Parolita A. Mission, DPA, RN RNC 7 Secretary

Attested by:

Jaime S. Bernafias, MD, MGM, CESO III Chairperson, RNC