



# County of Yolo

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### **Three Mother-Baby Friendly Yolo County Worksites Honored**

Woodland, CA—By providing a location at work for mothers to breastfeed, local businesses were recognized last Wednesday night for supporting mothers who provide the best nutrition for their babies, creating a baby friendly work environment, reducing absenteeism and health care costs, and improving the health of mothers and babies.

The Community Breastfeeding Coalition of Yolo County nominated three local organizations for the Mother-Baby Friendly Worksite awards. The awardees were:

- Dr. Mandelaris' Pediatric Dentistry Practice
- CommuniCare Health Centers
- Yolo County Office of Education Head Start/Early Head Start Program

“This is the fourth year that we have recognized local agencies with this award. We are pleased that more employers are seeing the benefit of providing a mother and baby friendly workplace. We are even more impressed that so many employers have gone above and beyond what is required by state law,” states Dr. Hinton, Yolo County Health Officer/Director. One example, in particular, is Dr. Mandelaris' Pediatric Dentistry Practice, where breastfeeding moms are not only provided with a private space and a reasonable amount of time to express breast milk in compliance with state law, but are allowed to bring their infants to work so moms can nurse and care for their babies during the workday. “Breastfeeding provides a healthy start in life. In this economy, it is necessary for so many mothers to return to work soon after having their babies. These model programs provide much needed support for working families, and hopefully more employers will follow their lead.” Hinton stated when she addressed the group.

These local employers are among the many statewide being recognized during the month of October for their support of baby friendly programs in their organizations. Statewide awardees range from restaurants, school districts, and hotels, to car dealerships, government agencies, and a casino.

The awards are sponsored by the California Breastfeeding Coalition. Worksites that meet the Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace guidelines are eligible to be nominated. By meeting these guidelines, organizations will meet the California legislative requirements to provide adequate space and time for mothers to express milk for their babies while at work.

In addition to awarding local employers for their Mother-Baby Friendly worksites, a special award was presented to Sutter Davis Hospital for receiving the designation of Baby Friendly Hospital. “It is not easy to receive this designation,” stated Eve Dunaway, chairperson of the Community Breastfeeding Coalition. “There are so many requirements hospitals need to comply with, and the process can take several years.” Sutter Davis Hospital is only the 67<sup>th</sup> in the nation to receive this designation, which is awarded by the Baby Friendly Hospital Initiative, a program of UNICEF in partnership with the World Health Organization.

For more information on how to become a Mother-Baby Friendly Workplace, go to [www.usbreastfeeding.org](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org), or [www.californiabreastfeeding.org](http://www.californiabreastfeeding.org). Or call, Yolo County WIC at (530) 666-8445.

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Note: Included is a summary and contact person for each winning organization.