



Whole Child Leon addresses critical community issues affecting young children and serves as a catalyst to create partnerships that solve problems. Together with public, private and non-profit partners, child advocates, business leaders, government officials, educators, parents and caregivers, WCL is creating the foundation needed to create systemic change. These are just a few examples of our success.

# Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup

## It's Been 18 Months Since Mamava Lactation Suites Landed in Tallahassee

Whole Child Leon is a founding partner of the Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup which includes pediatricians, nurses, lactation specialists and community advocates. The group meets regularly to strategize how to increase the number and duration of women breastfeeding in our community. Recent successes include installing a Mamava lactation suite at the Tallahassee airport and influencing workplace policy at the Donald L. Tucker Civic Center.



A Mamava lactation suite is a self-contained, mobile space that allows lactating mothers to breastfeed or breast pump in a clean, comfortable and secure environment. Its presence at the Tallahassee airport, one of only seven airports in Florida hosting such a convenience, sends the message to visitors and residents alike that Tallahassee is a breastfeeding-friendly community.

But one was not enough. Just ask workgroup member and nursing mom, Dykibra Gaskin. During a local community event at the area's civic center, Dykibra was in need of a place to go to pump but the only option employees offered was to "sit on the toilet in a public restroom stall." Spurred to action, the Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup immediately got to work. The civic center not only invested in their own lactation suite, but also updated their employee policies and training materials so they next nursing mom on the go will be able to pump in peace.

*"The Policy Group continues to advocate to ensure Tallahassee mothers have access to breastfeeding in the workplace and wherever they are legally allowed to be, to get access to a free breast pump through their insurance, with the assistance of their OB provider, as well as to continue to help Tallahassee be a breastfeeding-friendly community. We are very excited to see the progress made in this community and there is definitely more to come."* - Dykibra Gaskin, Public Health Nutrition Program Director



## Recommendations

- Private and public employers should implement breastfeeding support practices in the workplace.
- The Early Learning Coalition should include breastfeeding support services and proper nutrition as requirements for child-care centers that receive subsidized care.
- Local government should utilize economic development incentives to attract and support employers who implement family friendly practices (e.g., paid maternity and paternity leave, support breastfeeding, offer a living wage).