

Starting Out at the New Orleans Breastfeeding Center

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Meaghan Chapman newcomb@tulane.edu

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Hello, my name is Meaghan Chapman. I am a native of Louisiana, born and raised in Terrebonne Parish. I am a SOPA student, and my major is Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Humanities. Reproductive health interests me because I believe it is important for women to have agency involved in their femininity without ridicule, shame, judgement, or discrimination. I believe it is important for women to be

knowledgeable about how their bodies work so that they can live their lives to the fullest. I am interning at the New Orleans Breastfeeding Center (NOBC) founded by Latona Giwa BSN, RN, IBCLC, and Nikki Hunter Greenway FNPC, IBCLC. The New Orleans Breastfeeding Center is the first free standing breastfeeding clinic in Louisiana. NOBC provides holistic and evidence based lactation support with the goal of developing the best feeding plan possible. My experience at the clinic so far has been amazing. There is so much about breastfeeding that I never knew was essential to making the process successful. I have had the opportunity to sit in on two clinic visits, where I observed a patient receiving lactation management and learned about restrictions that prohibit a baby from breastfeeding correctly. I have also started doing outreach and mapping hospitals, clinics, and community organizations in Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes. The purpose of the outreach and mapping is to create a database of breastfeeding resources, and to see where NOBC's services can be helpful within the community. While taking on this project, I learned lactation consulting is limited in Terrebonne and Lafourche to only three of the local hospitals. The outreach that I have done thus far has been received positively, and I am happy to be apart of a project that will enrich the lives of women and babies.