



WIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 22, 2017
 TIME: 11:00 am

WIC ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ralph Clegg	Franki Newton	Jennifer Morrill	Marcie Johnson
Dave Davis	Marti Woolford		

STATE WIC OFFICE STAFF PRESENT:

Chris Furner	Rick Wardle	Alison Jensen	Mykio Saracino
Angie Sorrells	Lynne Nilson	Karen Smith	Nicole Reames
Penny Tisdale	Phyllis Crowley		

I Welcome and Introductions Ralph Clegg

The parties present introduced themselves around the table. Welcome Everyone!

II Program Updates Chris Furner

A. Memberships for WIC Advisory Council

B. Per the WIC Advisory Council bylaws we are supposed to include persons from the categories below. After the category we have listed potential sources for future new members:

- a) WIC Participants
- b) Providers of WIC Services – Ralph Clegg, Franki Newton and Jennifer Morrill
- c) Vendor Interests – Dave Davis
- d) Community Based Organizations – Marti Woolford

Other possible sources from community based organizations are: Head Start, Communities United, Community Services, Utah Food Bank, Voices for Utah, March of Dimes, United Way, Catholic Community Service and Refugee Resettlement Center.

- e) Private Citizens – Medical Professionals, Social Workers, Dietitians, Nutrition Specialists, OBGYN professionals, Nurses, Pediatric Physicians or representatives of public health clinics.
- a) This year we will need to nominate the chair, the vice chair, the executive steering committee and three WIC Participants for the next two years. Chris would like to discuss the option of electing someone from UAWA. WIC Clients/Participants will be paid a \$50.00 stipend for attending the meeting.
- b) Brian Bennion, Jennifer Morrill and Marti Woolford would not want to receive a nomination. Under “provider of WIC services” we will be replacing Jennifer Morrill’s name with Marcie Johnson’s. If anyone has any suggestions of people to nominate, it would be helpful.

We would like to have a meeting to discuss this on May 31 from 11-12:30 pm. You will receive more information between now and then.

C. The National WIC Association Leadership Conference in Washington, DC

Chris Furner, Alison Jensen and Mary Orloski attended the leadership conference.

- a) With the current political environment in Washington DC right now everything was presented with uncertainty, frustration and concern.

Topics Discussed were:

- Immigration and how it effects participation (Immigrants are dropping out of WIC for fear that the government will be able to identify them and have them deported. This is an unfounded fear, since they are already in our system, it is too late to pull out. They do not realize that WIC does not share this information with Immigration Control agencies.
- Adjunctive Eligibility
- Current Participation
- Current Costs
 - A Status Report on the Characteristics of our Participants

- D. The presentation with the most applicable content came from a panel of speakers from the National Committee for Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. They were commissioned by USDA to research on what improvements could be done to the WIC Food Packages in a Cost Neutral Environment (no more than 10% increase).

The following suggestions came from the position that WIC must remain a supplemental program, (apparently, the milk and juice amounts that we provide are not exactly supplemental), so that is why they recommended reducing those. Here are the suggestions they made:

- Increase to the fruit and vegetable voucher (from \$8-\$12 for children and from \$16.00 to \$35.00 for breastfeeding women who have multiples)
- Canned fish (currently only for fully breastfeeding women) in rotation with peanut butter and beans for everybody.
- Allowing juice to be substituted for a \$3 cash value voucher
- Reductions in juice and milk that is offered allowing ranges for whole grains and yogurt to allow a larger selection for our participants.
- Allowing partially breastfed infants to receive some more a formula within the first month that they are born.

You can view the report, slides and a PowerPoint from this meeting at nationalacademies.org, search for WIC Food Packages. They will be sending this report to the USDA for consideration and we will see what happens.

E. The Capitol Hill Visit

- a) Chris, Mary and Alison were able to meet with all six of our Utah staff elected officials. Then met with the senators first and then went to see the representatives. Everyone we talked to had a very positive outlook about our program. They were very supportive and especially supportive when we told them that we did not need any more money than we currently have. We just want our normal budget allocation to continue. It is felt that they will support WIC on the floor.

F. Operations and Administration Grants received by 3/21/2017

- 1) Breast pump Kits - \$32,364
- 2) Hiring of a new contractor to provide customer service training to local agency staff - \$40,000.
- 3) Contract with Utah Interactive to build a WIC vendor interface for our new WIC website - \$50,000.
- 4) Host a lactation education course - \$30,000

III Funding

Chris Furner and Mykio Saracino

A So far we have not received our final funding amount for this year. We are currently operating on last year's funding. Here are the projected levels for 2017:

- Base NSA Funding for FY17 \$ 16,796,377.00
- Spendforward from FY 2016 \$ 1,398,824.00
- Total NSA Funding for FY17 \$ 18,195,201.00
- Base Food Funding for FY \$ 27,929,512.00

When we receive the actual funding amount from the USDA we will reassess these figures.

B While some have heard 20% of the USDA budget will be cut. Chris Furner does not think so. Chris believes it will be more like 3.4%. We do have a 3% cushion built into our NSA funding, however.

VI e-WIC Project

Angela Sorrells and Penny Tisdale

A Penny Tisdale is the owner of our newly contracted managed systems consultant, Etegrity, LLC. The firm's primary focus is benefit and service delivery of electronic benefits transfer (EBT), electronic funds transfer (EFT) and emerging technologies for improved efficiency and reduced administrative costs.

B Since Nov 15, 2016 Penny's firm has been collecting a large amount of data from the WIC Program so they can create their large, first deliverable to the Department of Agriculture as an APD (Advanced Planning Document).

C The pilot will occur in three counties at the beginning of October 2018. Between now and then we have to build a database of universal product codes and look-up codes for the grocery stores.

D We have to change many of the policies every time it mentions a "check" or a "food instrument" it has to be changed to an "electronic food benefit" or a "cash value benefit" in all the documentation for this project that has existed for years

E There will be some new policies that relate to electronic benefits. We will also need to oversee the vendor equipment to make sure everyone is using the same retail system. Most of the larger chains and stores are on the "RORC" system. The smaller, rural stores will also need to be converted to this system.

F After October 2019 there will be no more paper (everything will be electronic).

G WIC will coordinate training for local WIC staff and our vendors.

V Operations Updates, P & P, State Plan and Elections

Rick Wardle

- A. In May we will be rolling out a new "Rights and Responsibilities" form in the clinics. Our clients must read this once per year. This informs our clients what their rights and responsibilities are as clients of WIC. We have them in 12 languages and audio recordings.
- B. We needed to make some changes this year, they are:
- a) The USDA requested that we add a sentence that tells clients that they can now ask for a verification of certification to help them transfer to other states. This helps them automatically qualify for WIC in these other states.
 - b) We decided to remove the sentence that reads "WIC does not affect my immigration status," at this time of political uncertainty we cannot guarantee that.
- C. State Plan
This time of year is when the state office starts working heavily on our state plan. April 12 we will meet to discuss changes that we feel we need to make to our P & P and state plan. We will go out for public and WIC staff comment and allow them to make any suggestions in the month of June. In July we meet again to discuss any suggestions that have been made. We review those and make any edits to the plan. In August we submit our plan to the USDA for their approval in October. The new State Plan will be rolled out on October 1.
- D. Changes that will save WIC time and money-
We will implement a limit or a sales threshold that our vendors must meet every month to continue to be a WIC authorized vendor. This will help us to avoid any cost to set up EBT in their store. We came up with a limit of \$300.00 in monthly WIC sales. Currently we have 15 stores that do not meet that limit. We have to keep some of the rural stores because there are no other stores within 20 miles. We will also have to keep the stores that are part of large chains.

VI Nutrition and Breastfeeding Updates

Phyllis Crowley

- A The Bear River Program and Salt Lake program had submitted two award applications. They were submitting those applications to be considered by USDA for a Loving Support Gold Medallion Award. The USDA requests that the state staff review those applications and make their recommendations to the USDA. The state did recommend that these two programs receive those awards.
- B The state will be conducting a 2017 Participant Satisfaction Survey.
We sent out emails requesting volunteers. Here are the volunteers: Jennifer Morrill, Mindy Box, Lori Galvez and Iliana MacDonald. The focus will be to streamline the existing survey.
- C 2018 P & P - Risk Revisions
- 1) 135 - Inadequate Growth (slow or faltering growth) we have removed children it is for infants only now.
 - 2) 352 - Infectious Diseases will be split into two categories. 352a will be acute infectious diseases; and 352b will be chronic infectious diseases.
 - 3) 359 - Recent major surgery, trauma and burns – no change to the definition. It was updated and expanded in the reference and implications section.

- 4) 411 - Inappropriate nutrition practices for infants.
- 5) 503 - presumptive eligibility for pregnant women.

D. Abbott has a new formula series "Pro Series." Clinics have been seeing FAFAs for this formula. It has not been approved as a WIC formula. It has only 19 calories, it will never be WIC approved. It does not meet USDA regulations. Abbott will get out the message to doctors.

E. Paola Velez has started working at the University of Utah Clinics and Hospitals. She was responsible for updating the Nutrition Educations materials. For now we will not fill this position because of our uncertain budget.

F. Completed Management Evaluation Reviews

a) Rick Wardle and Phyllis Crowley completed reviews for Central Utah (Mt Pleasant, Fillmore, Delta, Hanksville and Junction) in early March.

b) Here are the upcoming management evaluations:

- May-Roosevelt
- June-Bountiful
- August- Blanding
- September-Wendover

G. Other Updates:

a) Our relationship with NASPO (a cooperative purchasing organization that provides us with reliable, competitive contractors) has been continued through September 2018.

b) We now have a new formula contractor (Red Rock Pharmacy) they began on February 1.

H. Thank you to UAWA who requested that we update our Laboratory Training Module. Thank you Bonnie Farmer and Mary Orloski who worked very closely with Christina Perry on this module. It is posted on SharePoint.

VII Vendor Updates

Nicole Reames

A We currently have 294 stores in Utah. We are one up from last year, but there are quite a few new stores coming on. Kroger is building some stores in Utah County and South Salt Lake.

B Our TIP report was submitted in February and we got the green light from our regional office. We hit all of our benchmarks!

C We have received a grant for the vendor portal on our new website.

VIII Wed Sept 6 was chosen for our next WIC Advisory Council Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.