

WIC ASSOCIATION OF NYS



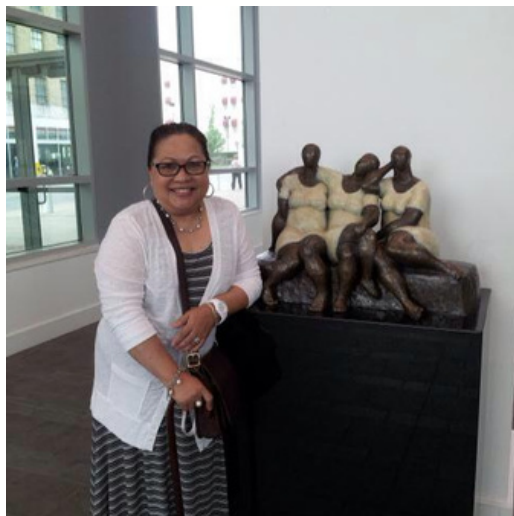
Newsletter

Issue No. 5 | Summer 2022



One life lived,
many lives touched.

....May her soul rest in eternal peace



Alma Lou Brandiss

February 13, 1949 ~ April 15, 2022

Former WIC Director H+H/Bellevue,
WIC program Former Metro and NYS WIC
Association Chairperson

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Happy Juneteenth



Happy July 4th



FEED BACK FROM NYS CENTRAL OFFICE

Every other month NYS WIC Association meets with WIC Staff from Central Office. Prior to our meeting your regional representative will be asking you for ideas for agenda content. The questions below came from local agencies across NYS.

This is how your voice is heard!

General DOH Updates

1. NYSDOH staff Updates

- *Bridget La Rose-Health Program Administrator 1 and works with Samantha Phillips-Brown. Bridget will also be doing the minutes at our DOH/BOD meetings going forward.*
- *Joann Tierney-Daniels- New Section Leader for the Fiscal Management Section.*
- *Cheryl Neary has replace Carol Pry, from Fiscal Management.*
- *Jen Cioffi has accepted a new position at the Bureau of Managed Care and Certification and Surveillance which is within a division of Health Plan Contracting & Oversight.*

2. NYS WANDA

- *Association has been approved to add Wanda-Chat Bot link to their website and has also been added to their Linktree account to increase WIC referrals.*

3. Data Matching

- *DOH continues to engage with NYS Medicaid to explore opportunities for collaboration.*
- *DOH is currently investigating the possibility of providing a link or a referral request to WIC for eligible individuals enrolling in Medicaid through the NYS of Health Marketplace. Stay tuned for more on that!*

Program Communication & Collaboration

1. Non-Discrimination Statement

- *As of June 9th, the Non-Discrimination statement has been updated to reflect the correct statement.*
- *Currently, only an English version is available. It is anticipated that a Spanish version is in the works.*
- *An administrative directive was sent out last month with all of the updates that will be coming for Civil Rights and Justice for All poster, training and policies updates.*
- *DOH will do an initial mailing including at least 2 posters per perm site to start. Then local agencies will be able to order more if needed.*
- *The 2019 Non-Discrimination version is acceptable.*

2. NYS Chat Bot Wanda

- *Wanda has been with NYS just over 1 year. The Outreach team has put together a "Year One" summary of the chat bot data and is currently under review and will be posted to the library shortly and will be sent to all the regional leads.*
3. *WIC Quarterly Webinar- July 13th-Save the dates will be coming!*

FEED BACK FROM NYS CENTRAL OFFICE, CON'T

Quality Assurance and Nutrition

1. Nutrition Education

- DOH is still working on a contract for on-line nutrition education and will share when they have more.
- DOH is waiting for feedback from WIC Coordinator's on the SLMS - Learning Management System

Food Delivery and Vendor Management

1. Formula

- The Board requested regular updates from DOH, regarding the formula shortage and temporary substitutions.
- Continue referring to VMA.
- Foods team responding to the Drop Shipment Requests for various formulas but primarily seeing requests for 12.6oz Nutramigen . They have been working with Mead Johnson and there was a release of this product last week and they are expecting their largest release this week and should be hitting store shelves within a week or two.
- Western part of state having supply issues with Enfacare and team reached out to Mead Johnson and has been working to push the distribution centers to get that product out to Tops, Walmart and Wegmans in that region. And have offered to do drop shipments where necessary, they are being very responsive.

2. Farmer's Market

- Coupon booklets are being shipped out in waves. If you have not received them yet, they should be coming.
- Issue with the serial numbers has been corrected. DOH has suggested local agencies clear your cache before doing inventory so it goes through correctly.
- Purchased scanners should have no issues scanning checks, any issues have been corrected.

Fiscal Updates

1. Fiscal Training and Use of Funds.

- DOH made it very clear that they can not discuss the RFA or future funding of the program nor could they discuss the current contract or the upcoming contract for the WIC Training Center at this time do to NYS procurement laws.
- Regional office contract managers are available and know that they are to assist as needed and they are the first point of contact. If you have questions reach out to them.

2. Why do some NYS programs continue to receive COLA and WIC does not?

- DOH WIC program is not in a position to comment or have knowledge how it is determined which NYS programs receive funding . DOH has inquired about available state funding for the WIC program and we can consider how the WIC Association can advocate for funding. DOH was able to provide a 2% increase to the local agency contracts. Current program budget was reviewed and it was determined that the program could support this increase.

Information Systems Update

1. Inventory of eWIC cards.

- The Association has requested an alternative to the current policy. DOH will talk to the contractor to alleviate inventory discrepancies.

Next DOH/BOD meeting - August 8, 2022

Hunger Solutions New York, our statewide partner, publishes a WIC eNews. All are welcomed to subscribe.

<https://hungersolutionsny.org/wic-enews/>

WIC Association of NYS 44th & 45th Annual Conference - Update

CHANGE IN 2023 WIC ASSOCIATION'S 44th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

After hearing from WIC agencies, due to funding, it would be a hardship to send staff to an in-person conference. The conference committee has decided to change back to a Virtual conference for 2023.

WIC Virtual Conference 2023 April 18-20, 2023!!

Registration Rates:

- \$150 - members
- \$200 - non members

This includes 3 half days of programs -
9:00am-1:00pm daily

WIC In-Person Conference April 2024!!

Registration Rates:

- \$475 - members
- \$575 - non members

Registration fee includes:

- Sunday pm reception - heavy apps and cash bar
- Monday:
 - *Breakfast
 - *Lunch
- Tuesday:
 - *Breakfast
 - *Lunch
- Wednesday:
 - *Breakfast
 - *Boxed Lunch
- Room Rate:
 - *\$135 per night



We look forward to seeing everyone for the
45th WIC Association Annual Conference at
the Crowne Plaza Albany - Desmond Hotel,
April 2024!

Board Term Elections

Voting for Board Member nominees is now closed!
Thank you for taking the time and supporting the Association.

Election results coming soon!

(*Just one of the benefits of being a member of the WIC Association)

Interested in joining a committee of the board...how about one of these?

Conference Committee
Consumer/Vendor Committee
Marketing/Membership Committee

Another benefit of membership, you can be on a committee!!

Save the Date...

Marketing and Membership committee will hold a virtual
Meet and Greet
October 2022
for WIC Coordinators to meet with other WIC Coordinators.
Dates and Times will follow.

New Membership Perks!

- Have a job opening at your agency, let us know and we will post the link on our website.
- Something exciting or new you would like to share, we will post it on our website (promotions, retirements, events, etc.)

National WIC Association's WIC Action Network

National WIC Association's WIC Action Network" will
be meeting on a
bi-weekly basis, every other Friday
from 3-4pm ET.

Please [click here](#) to register for the recurring
meetings to receive WIC legislative and policy
updates.