

MEETING AGENDA**Meeting Name:** NYS WIC Association Board of Directors**Meeting Date:** December 4, 2023**Meeting Time:** 2:00 PM EST**Location:** Zoom Meeting:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88698130922?pwd=aDAzWFVFc3BvZWJwK1d5M1FtTFINQT09>**INVITEES:****Department of Health:**

- Corie Nadzan (Bur. Dir)
- Samantha Phillips-Brown (Bur. Dir)
- Josh Huggins (Bur. Dir/QANS)
- Amy Simmons (Bur. Dir)
- Andrea Wahrlich (Bur. Dir)
- Ali Stark (ISMS)
- Renee Wing (PCCS)
- Tammy Leone-Curtis (FDMVS)
- Lucinda Caruso (QANS)
- Jillian Osborn (QANS)
- Cassandra Stockman (FDVMS)
- Cheryl Nary (FMS)
- Kristen Cherico (CDRO)
- Iris Marchante (MARO)
- Ivette Santiago (MARO)
- AmyLyn Clarke (WRO)
- Becky Monahan (WRO)
- Beth Huber (WRO)
- Nancy Mendillo (CNYRO)
- Dylan Farnan (QANS)

Board Members:

- Lisa Fermin
- Andrea Byrne
- Tammy Lana
- Lauren Brand
- Megan Fulton
- Lauren Sondey
- Rudy Sicari
- Melissa Sacco
- Misha Marvel (SW Advocate)
- Natasha Ashley (Advocate)
- Sue Kowaleski (Advocate)
- Tanya Reese (Advocate)
- Cindy Walsh (Advocate)
- Sherry Wilson (SW Advocate)
- Elizabeth Crofut
- Helene Rosenhouse-Romeo
- Sara DeFrank
- Penny Bashford
- Mary Maziarz
- Latoya Thompson
- Monica Gopaul
- Deliza Cosme
- Lori Davis-Spatalo
- Sara Hettel
- Keri Santos
- Ashley Clark
- Tommi-Grace Melito
- Liz Crofut
- Kristen VanHouten
- Amber Munch

AGENDA SECTION**TOPICS****WHO**Welcome &
Agenda

- ❖ Outline of today's meeting
- ❖ Project Sunlight Forms
- ❖ Introductions

Lisa

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General DOH Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Staff Updates-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Corie is returning from maternity leave in January.○ Joann has accepted a promotion. Cheryl will attend these meetings in the interim○ Please make sure Lucinda Caruso and Cheryl are the invites going forward.❖ Modernization Grant Updates-<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We are still planning on sending out a texting survey. Who can I send it to in the association for feedback?	Josh/ Sam
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<p>Program Communication and Collaboration Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ COVID Waivers -<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated Remote Appointment Procedures related to the ARPA waiver will be released. The most significant change is that verbal consent from participants will be accepted for referrals to other programs and services and for contact with health care providers.• Participants who were certified using Medicaid as adjunct eligibility but are no longer eligible for Medicaid due to the reinstatement of renewals will need an alternate proof of income eligibility (SNAP, TANF, or income). If participants report a change in eligibility, an income reassessment should be completed at the next appointment. Otherwise, this assessment will occur at recertification. Child Health Plus is not the same as Medicaid even though there is an option with no co-pay. Federal regulations specify the adjunct programs (Medicaid, SNAP, TANF). States may consider other programs that have income limits at, or below, the WIC income limits. DOH is seeking additional information from Medicaid partners to help clarify the differences for WIC staff and participants.❖ Temporary Sites - Local agencies should continue to monitor temp site activity, effectiveness, and any associated challenges.❖ Waitlist – Food funds are currently sufficient so NYS is unlikely to need a waitlist at this time however, the rhetoric around waitlists may continue until a federal budget is passed.<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ We don't believe we will need to implement a waitlist if Congress keeps the food dollars the same, but our projections have us very close to spending all our funds. Any changes big increases in participation or food costs could change our projections.	<p>Renee/Josh</p>
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Quality Assurance
and Nutrition
Section

- ❖ WIC Health Update
 - ❖ As of November 19th, 82 agencies have offered online NE to participants.
 - ❖ Acceptance rate continues to fluctuate between 30-40%.
 - ❖ As of November 29th, a total of 17,071 lessons have been completed in wichealth
- Online NE workgroup updates:
- ❖ The workgroup continues to provide Central Office with valuable feedback about the implementation of online NE. The workgroups feedback and suggestions has prompted:
 - updates to the Online Nutrition Education Using wichealth. These updates will be shared in the upcoming WIC Watch to be released December 6th. For reference the updates include:
 - criteria for scheduling future appointments after benefit issuance
 - details for monitoring the Participants Eligible for Issuance Dashboard
 - language to be inclusive of in-person and remote appointments
 - the development of the LA Memo 08-23 #36 Administrative Directive FAQ for online NE that was shared in the November 8th WIC Watch.

Lucinda

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<p>Food Delivery and Vendor Management Section</p>	<p>❖ Nutramigen Supply - Supply of powder is still an issue for some areas. Mead Johnson has been updating us on the distribution effort. 5,800 cases (6 units) were shipped to DCs in November. Depending on when a store orders it may take a few days to a week to hit the shelves. Another big production release is scheduled for December 18th. MJ working to move that date up to help rectify any gaps in supply as quickly as possible and before the holidays.</p> <p>We have been tracking formula requests made to VMA and they have been constant, not seeing any big spikes. We saw VMA requests drop from an avg of 11 per week- to only 5 last week.</p> <p>The Food Delivery Team released an Info Email 11/8 that advised agencies to encourage working with HCP to add another product to the med doc or obtain 30 day verbal consent to add RTU as alternate. Can also switch benefit to Similac Alimentum if the babies cannot tolerate RTU product.</p> <p>Continue to remind HCPs/Participants that multiple formulas can be written on the med doc form to reduce the amount of back and forth.</p> <p>Request to add larger can sizes. - The Foods team has done extensive research into this possibility and found that the larger can sizes make it difficult to meet the maximum monthly amounts of formula defined by regulations. We have no current waivers for MMA.</p> <p>Changes would need to be made in the MIS. The formula would need to be assigned in a separate subcat and would need to be specifically assigned to participants. This would also create additional work for the LAs to conduct a void/reissue and participants could not then purchase another size item if found on the shelf. Ultimately it appeared that we would be trading one problem for another. It was determined that by the time those changes could be made the shortage would resolve.</p>	<p>Tammy</p>
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	<p>Question on whether NYWIC can allow for two formulas listed on med doc to be interchangeable? – Putting formulas together in the same subcategory is not always possible. When it comes to exempt formulas, they need to be specifically requested by the HCP per regulation. Putting all the comparable formulas together would open us up to reg violations.</p> <p>BOD suggested working together with VMA to try to offer greater support and relief to participants in areas where these supply issues are impacting. Central Office is willing to hear ideas and have discussions. We hope this issue resolves soon and we recognize and appreciate all the work this puts on LA staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Disabling of Food Packages - As far as we know this will be the only way to update food packages when we have major changes like this, such as the new food rule. We haven't had to do this for minor changes. This is the only time since NYWIC roll out that we have had to disable all food packages on advice from our contractor. We are hopeful we will not need to update the CVB again. We checked with ISMS team about slow response rate. ISMS suspects that the delay was in the web request from LA to NYWIC then from NYWIC to Conduent. It does not appear there is anything we can do about the speed. <p>Can BF categories align in NYWIC? - NYWIC does not automatically match BF status because multiple infants could be in the household with different breastfeeding status. Policy states for a mom with twins, her BF status should match the status of the twin with the highest level of BF.</p>	
Fiscal Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Reminder that FFY 2023 final vouchers were due 11/15.❖ Procurement and contract management activities will be transitioned from Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS) on 1/16/2024.❖ DOH does not anticipate awarding additional funding or coordinating a computer/technology upgrade for WIC agencies at this time. Agencies are encouraged to explore OGS contract offerings for negotiated pricing.	

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Information Systems Updates	❖	Ali
Other	❖ Deputy Secretary going to visit the Syracuse WIC LA Offices.	Regional Offices