

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Name: NYS WIC Association Board of Directors

Meeting Date: August 14, 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)
- Joann Tierney-Daniels (FMS)
- Kristen Cherico (CDRO)
- Iris Marchante (MARO)
- Ivette Santiago (MARO)
- AmyLyn Clarke (WRO)
- Becky Monahan (WRO)
- Beth Huber (WRO)
- Nancy Mendillo (CNYRO)

Board Members:

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

AGENDA SECTION	TOPICS	WHO
Welcome & Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ 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- Lucinda Caruso is now the section leader of QANS.❖ Medicaid & WIC- Currently working with Medicaid in DOH & SNAP on data usage agreement and comparing to see what is missing.❖ Modernization Grant – Looking for ideas on how to increase participant benefits.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texting platform is an option. It would be an agreement between the state. Making the MIS system a better portal to work for the agency. Two-way texting is hugely helpful way of communicating with participants and would help with uploading document as needed.• The regions will make up subcommittees to discuss this topic and will make a list by the due date.	Josh/Sam
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ARPA Waiver Discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ WIC2Go and NYWIC Changes - Changes to both WIC2Go and NYWIC take time and will not be available for the waiver start date. A broadcast message can be displayed on WIC2Go to alert participants of the choice between in-person and remote appointments.❖ Anthropometry Data (QANS) - When there is no recent anthropometric measurements and/or hematological data, staff may offer to complete on-site or obtain from an allowable referral source. Reviewing and completing the health and nutrition questions in NYWIC and asking probing questions allows for a complete nutrition assessment and generation or assignment of applicable nutrition risk criteria. Staff then provide nutrition education by framing a discussion that helps participants identify goals and actions.❖ High Risk Participants (QANS) - Anthropometric and hematological data may be limited; however, quality nutrition services are provided through participant-centered dialogue and information exchange with the participant during the nutrition assessment to meet the nutrition needs of the participant and assess risks. Benefits cannot be withheld based solely on the lack of anthropometric measurements and hematological data. If data is unavailable, participants must still be issued full benefits if at least one qualifying nutrition risk is identified. LA staff must continue to attempt to collect appropriate data and document all attempts in the participant record. As such, local agencies should not mandate WIC families to come into the office for collection of anthropometric measurements and/or hematological data.❖ Returning Formula (FDVMS) – Since the PHE has ended we needed to return to many pre covid program operations. In addition, the waiver allowing MMA flexibility expired on June 30th. We have considered the request but ultimately determined that we cannot offer that option. The program is not allowed to exceed MMA and we need to have full accountability of our issuance and redemption for audit purposes. We also need that accountability to comply with our formula contracts. *There is a field in NYWIC that helps us	Sections
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	<p>account for and track the data on returned cans of formula in our records.</p> <p>Helpful Reminders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It does not have to be a designated participant representative to return the formula to the LA, anyone can return the cans to the LA on behalf of the participant.• Staff should be advising participants to only purchase a small amount of formula at a time until they know the baby tolerates it. This will reduce the chance that the participant will have unopened cans to return to the LA. Along the same lines, if a participant only redeemed a partial amount, staff can return and reissue the unredeemed cans in the meantime while they wait for the redeemed cans to be returned to the LA. <p>❖ Med Doc Forms (FDVMS) – Health care providers can list multiple formulas on the Med Doc Form so that the participant can be prescribed either. If a participant is having trouble locating a specific formula at the store, the LA can make the food package change without needing an updated Med Doc. This should help eliminate some of the back and forth.</p> <p>❖ Remote Service Data Collection(PCCS) – We are not aware of any studies being conducted to evaluate the impact of remote vs in-person services on nutritional behavior. We are looking into how it can affect the impact on enrollment and participation.</p>	
Program Communication and Collaboration Section	❖ Update to Letters in NYWIC - Three letters will have minor updates to allow staff to indicate whether an appointment is remote or in-person. These are: initial certification reminder, recertification letter, and HNU appointment reminder. These are slated for the 1.24 release in November.	Renee

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<p>Quality Assurance and Nutrition Section</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Learning Community - Anyone accepted to the Learning Community (LC) would be expected to be in-person for the full two-days. Like the LC that ended in May, anyone who wants to attend the Summative Congress, as an observer, can attend virtually or in-person.❖ Online Nutrition Education -<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All local agencies must be offering the option of online nutrition education to eligible WIC participants by December 1, 2023.• Online Nutrition Education/wichealth Statewide Data:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ As of July 30th, online nutrition education has been accepted by participants about 40% of the time it is offered. Over time this number has continued to fluctuate between 40-50%.○ As of July 30th, 81 agencies have offered online nutrition education to participants.○ As of August 7th, the top 5 lessons completed by NY WIC participants are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Solving Picky Eating▪ Help Your Child Develop Healthy Eating Habits▪ Feeding your Infant Solid Foods▪ Making Mealtime a Family Time▪ Baby's First Cup❖ In-person CLC Training – The only organization which offers this training is Healthy Children. The training will be virtual at least through June 2024.	<p>Lucinda/ Josh</p>
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Food Delivery and Vendor Management Section	❖ CVB Update – There is some uncertainty over future CVB amounts due to the lack of a Federal appropriation and at this point in time we don't have confirmation as to what those new amounts are going to be. There is the possibility of a continuing resolution to continue the current funding level. FNS is aware that states will need this information in order to update their systems. LAs may be seeing October benefits being issued at the lower standard CVB amounts because the enhanced amounts were not approved beyond 9/30. We are working with our contractor on a plan to ensure that participants receive the benefits they are entitled too once a decision has been made at the federal level. We plan to communicate more information as soon as we have the final plan.	Cassie
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Fiscal Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Budget / Fiscal Updates – Policy Supplement to WPM 1460 outlines staffing ratios for program positions. Per policy, the suggested metric for QN/CPA to participant ratio for assigned caseload is 1:700. While this is our current guidance, we plan to assess caseloads for all agencies mid-way through FFY 2024.❖ FY 2024 Update – UPDATE SINCE THE AUGUST MEETING – TRANSITION POSTPONED TO 1/16/24 -- On 10/10/2023, the State will be transitioning all grant contracting activities from Grants Gateway to a new procurement module in the State Financial System (SFS). Grants Gateway will sunset when the new system goes live on 10/10/2023, and any contracts not executed in Grants Gateway by 10/6/2023 will need to be rebuilt and re-routed through the approvals process in the new system after the go-live date. Due to the amount of time it takes to build, process, and approve contracts, we anticipate significant delays with any contracts that will be executed in SFS. The delay with contract execution will further delay payments on FFY 2024 advances and monthly vouchers. We strongly recommend that all agencies review and sign their contracts as soon as possible to ensure their contracts are executed on time in Grants Gateway. The transition to SFS will also affect budget modifications for the current FFY, which are due in NYWIC on 10/31. WIC Central Office will issue guidance to agencies on signing the modification in the new system.	Joann/ Cheryl
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Information Systems Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Program Closures<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ There has been no official communication from DOH to LAs about closures. LAs have been in discussion with one another.○ Central Office is coordinating with Code for America to complete additional outreach to participants who have not transferred to a new LA.• NYWIC questions/ WIC Agency Transfers -<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ In NYWIC, transferring a participant from a closed LA is the same process as transferring a participant from an open LA. There will be no process impact to NYWIC.• Wanda & Agency Closures –<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Central Office is coordinating the communication of LA closures for Wanda, the DOH website, WIC2Go, etc. to prevent referrals to closing LAs.	Ali
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Cikatelli Training - In December Cikatelli is offering trainings on how to talk to participants, such as scheduling reports.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A script may help in knowing how to talk to participants❖ The next DOH/BOD WIC Association meeting is on 10/2/23 but is going to be rescheduled for 10/16/23. A new meeting invite will be going out.	Regional Offices