

MEETING AGENDA

Meeting Name: NYS WIC Association Board of Directors

Meeting Date: December 12, 2022

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 / PCCS)
- Samantha Phillips-Brown (Bur. Dir)
- Josh Huggins (QANS)
- Ali Stark (ISMS)
- Bridget La Rose (Bur. Dir)
- Andrea Wahrlich (Bur. Dir)
- Tammy Leone-Curtis (FDMVS)
- Joann Tierney-Daniels (FMS)
- David Becker (CDRO)
- Iris Marchante (MARO)
- Ivette Santiago (MARO)
- AmyLyn Clarke (WRO)
- Becky Monahan (WRO)
- Beth Huber (WRO)
- Nancy Mendillo (CNYRO)
- Danielle Owen (Central)

Board Members:

- Lauren Brand
- Andrea Byrne
- Tammy Lana
- Lisa Fermin
- 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 Clarke
- Tommi-Grace Melito
- Kristin VanHouten

AGENDA SECTION	TOPICS	WHO
Welcome & Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Outline of today's meeting ❖ Project Sunlight Forms ❖ Introductions 	Lauren

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General DOH Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ WIC Association of NYS Annual Conference We plan to cover a session, topic TBD. We will invite FNS to participate.❖ Planning for Re-opening No new information has been received. The White House previously stated that state governors would receive 60 days' notice if the Public Health Emergency (PHE) would be expiring, but this has not been received. Current USDA waivers are valid for 3 months after the PHE ends. Suggest starting to see some participants in person if not already. We cannot mandate participants to come in person, but we can encourage it when scheduling appointments. Online nutrition education will be provided.❖ Immigrants/Shelters<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ As with any participant in a temporary location such as a shelter, assess the resources available to them.○ Provide education on how to shop/prepare foods○ Provide complete list of vendors in the area, not just locations within walking distance○ Alert VMA when you become aware of a new shelter location.○ We will do the same and alert VMA of any pop-up sites occurring○ Can't mandate vendors to carry special items but can give them a heads up.❖ CVB Update FNS provided clarification that state agencies should provide enhanced CVB until the end of the fiscal year. If for some reason there is not a Continuing Resolution or an appropriation, then the CVB could revert to the original \$9 and \$11 amounts. There are a few different options that could be made including authorizing a temporary amount or continuing the resolution to get us through to the end of the year.	Corie
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The official expiration date is December 16th. If the amounts are reverted, we don't know exactly when it would happen.

Any information received will be shared with LAs and through the WIC website, and the App. The Board Members/Advocates would like to be informed first before any alerts go out to the families.

There are no consequences for the families that spend it all before December 16th.

❖ **Staff Updates**

Alison Stark is the new Section Leader of ISMS. The Bureau continues to interview for the open positions of the second Assistant Director and will soon begin interviews for the Section Leader for PCCS.

FNS is aware of and has raised staffing concerns to the National Office. They are aware that additional funding is needed to support hiring and retaining qualified staff.

❖ **WIC Shopping Improvement and Technology Funding**

FNS shared that additional funding to support these grants is expected to be released in the spring. For WIC Shopping: NYS' plan is to survey vendors to assess readiness for online shopping, and survey participants to see what can be done to improve the shopping experience, such as online shopping, app enhancements, or translations in multiple languages. Technology grant: TBD.

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Program Communication and Collaboration Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Wanda Updates Exploring opportunities to translate Wanda into Spanish. ❖ Breastfeeding Curriculum Schedule The mandated trainings will take place Jan-April 2023. All trainings will be recorded and available in the spring. For new staff that will miss the live trainings, LAs should continue to use the current breastfeeding curriculum. Central office will be releasing guidance soon to assist agencies with scheduling. If staff are struggling with getting all the trainings completed, please reach out to the Regional Offices. ❖ Mandatory Letters Will mandatory letters be generated in NYWIC in additional languages? Not at this time, but may be considered in the future. As a reminder, submit a help desk ticket for enhancements. ❖ Disability Question For the disability question on the participant screen, we were told at NYWIC training that the question relates to disabilities around communication and accessing the site. Is this accurate? Not sure which “training” is being referred to here, but the disability question is not focused solely on communication and physical access to a WIC site. Disability is defined as a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of an individual’s major life activities. WIC is required to ensure equal access to benefits and services and to offer reasonable accommodations to individuals with a disability including those related to mobility, hearing, speech, and vision. Equal access is also required, and accommodations may also be requested by individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or hidden disabilities such as mental illness, learning disabilities, or chronic conditions. There is guidance provided in the NYWIC Guidance Packet (WIC LibraryàCommunicationsàNYWICàNYWIC-Guidance-	Corie
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Packet-11-2022) and other trainings which are meant to assist staff with obtaining this information.

- ❖ **The CAI Basic Training for Support Staff** includes a slide on the disability question. The annual civil rights training also addresses disability.

Per the Board Members/Advocates, this question is difficult to answer when it pertains to an infant as opposed to an adult. Cicatelli will be providing support staff training, and Civil Rights training.

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Quality Assurance and Nutrition Section	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ LACASA Metrics Update My team is working with our evaluation unit on the Pediatric Nutrition Surveillance System (PedNSS) which will help come up with the Metrics. Hoping to have the statewide PedNSS reports out in late January 2023, along with the versions that have data at the local agency level. We are planning a presentation on the PedNSS reports since it has been so long since it was released. This will provide agencies with some background on the data that the report provides. It has been a while since Metrics have come out so once this round of metrics is complete, we will work on providing metrics on a more frequent basis. ❖ LMS/WIC Library Update Working on getting the contract in place. Hoping to launch in early March. Over the next few months, we will be doing testing and preparing the new system. In the meantime, Survey Monkey will be used to register for trainings. Unfortunately, we do not have a way to view the trainings that were on the interim LMS. These online trainings will be one of our first priorities once the LMS launches in March. ❖ Online NE Update Partnering with wichealth. This will be fully integrated in NYWIC during the February release. After the release, local agencies will be able to offer online nutrition education to participants. In preparation for online nutrition education, wichealth will be presenting on the January quarterly webinar. There will be eight separate LA training sessions coming out which will allow for 1-2 people to attend per LA. Our expectation is that the staff who attend will train others in the local agency. The trainings are scheduled to be on January 18th, 20th, and 27th. We will also record and post one of the training sessions for staff who are unable to attend. Instructions will be shared before they go out to everyone. We are limiting the size of the trainings to make them more interactive and allow staff to ask more questions.	Josh
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We will look into how to issue certificates for staff who view the online training.

❖ **Substance Use Policy**

This policy has come up due to the USDA findings against the state. We worked with USDA to find a reasonable compromise.

WIC is only expected to offer referrals. The wording of the policy regarding the care coordination was not changed in this last policy update. The language is consistent with the USDA Substance Use Prevention resource.

With no background in substance abuse counseling, there is concern from the Board Members/Advocates on how to approach the substance use questioning to participants. There have been no trainings on how to discuss this with participants and they would prefer that an expert come in to discuss it. Resources will be shared on how to handle substance abuse topic.

Board Members/Advocates are concerned that it comes across discriminatory.

Per FNS, this information must be provided to participants. However, if a participant stops you or refuses the information/discussion then it can be documented.

Questions asked by the Board Members/Advocates:

- Can these questions on substance abuse be added to the Q&A portion?
- Can this be added to the NYWIC screening process?
- Is there any other way to be in compliance?
- Should staff be documenting everything?
- Will there be a training on how to bring this topic up?

DOH will look into the questions & suggestions from the board members. For the documentation question, staff

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should document like they would any other education:
using the topic dropdown and/or in notes

DOH will be looking into providing local agencies with
some more guidance on this policy

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Food Delivery and Vendor Management Section

❖ **Formula**

Requests to locate infant formula that cannot be resolved in the community are referred to VMAs. We are still seeing pockets of short supply of formula pop up around the state. Formula request data for the last few weeks **Formula Requests: (12/3-12/9/22) 49 total Formula requests** with none for Montefiore catchment area. Jack and foods team have coordinated- **21 drop shipments** all for Nutramigen primary Warren and Washington counties. MJ has been very cooperative in assisting with drop shipments to areas where Nutramigen is in short supply. For reference:

- **Week of (11/26-12/2)** 114 Formula requests and 68 Drop shipments.
- **Week (11/19-25/22):** 32 requests and six (6) Drop Shipment requests all CEO catchment.)

MJ has been very cooperative in assisting with drop shipments to areas where Nutramigen is in short supply.

As a reminder, we ask local agency staff to continue to encourage participants to shop early and expect multiple shopping trips may be needed for formula throughout the benefit period.

The WIC2GO app is a tool that can help with vendor location and contact details. Participants can use this to call vendors in advance of shopping to inquire if they have the formula. If a participant is at the end of their benefit cycle and cannot locate formula, they can contact their local agency to reach out to their VMA for assistance with locating the formula.

*A request was made to include store brand name identification on the Temporary Formula Shopping Guide. The foods team has added a key at the bottom on the guide to indicate which stores carry the alternative brands. The updated guide is posted on the vendor website: <https://nyswicvendors.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Temporary-Formula-Shopping-Guide-September-2022.pdf>

Tammy

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	<p>❖ Staff Updates Name Change: Jennie Cole changed their name to Jay Cole.</p> <p>New Staff: As of December 8th, FDVMS has welcomed Cassandra Lloyd, Noelle Manley, Bornali Alam, and Emily Cohen to the section.</p>	
Fiscal Updates	❖ RFA Updates- No updates at this time.	Joann
Information Systems Updates	❖ No updates at this time.	Ali
Other	❖ No updates at this time.	Regional Offices