

## WIC Vendor Advisory Council (WVAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

Time: 2:00-4:00

Location: DOT Conf. Rm A

Attendance: Kevin Krusz, Kimberly Boulette, Janet Rankin, Kathy Minicucci, Pat Sullivan, Rich Lammlin, Diane Buzzetti, Joanne Yandow, Norma Gyle, Sue Oneil

Recorder: Harriet Dennis

TOPIC	DISCUSSION
<b>ITEM #1 Introduction</b>	Kim Boulette, WIC Vendor Specialist for the Connecticut WIC Program, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the WVAC Meeting. Members then introduced themselves to the new comers providing their name and the organization that they represent.
<b>ITEM #2 Difficulty in ordering formula – 48 hour rule</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The question was asked if any stores were having trouble ordering and receiving formula within the 48 hours allowed by our agreement. No one has had issues with formula and the process is working well.</li> </ul>
<b>ITEM #3 Needs assessment for additional WIC authorized stores</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Each year the Connecticut WIC Program will assess areas where additional WIC vendors are needed according to where the participants are located. Our office has received numerous requests from vendors looking to become WIC authorized. Our epidemiologist is working on the data assessment.</li> </ul>
TOPIC	DISCUSSION
<b>Item #4 New Food Packages</b>	<p><b>New Food Package Implementation.</b> Coming soon – April New WIC Food Lists will be ready and distributed to all WIC vendors. May – Training and instruction will be given on the new WIC foods and how to process WIC Cash-Value Checks for fruits and vegetables. WIC Local Agencies will need to give participants a heads up on new food packages forthcoming, as there will be many changes to the WIC Food List. <b>Implementation date.</b> The Connecticut WIC program will start issuing WIC checks to participants on July 1, 2009. Vendors will need stock items from both lists from July through September to allow participants to redeem checks with the old food packages. Fresh, frozen and canned fruits and vegetables, in addition to the specific sizes and types of baby foods to meet the demand are necessary. Baby foods fruits and vegetables will be provided to all WIC infants aged 6-12 months. Some infants will also have checks for jars of baby food meats. A WIC check for fruits and vegetables looks like a regular WIC check. Participants will redeem it in the same way as a regular WIC check. Participants are allowed to buy any combination of allowable fresh, frozen or canned fruits and/or vegetables with this WIC check. A minimum dollar amount of \$25 worth of fruits and \$25 worth of vegetables will be the state’s minimum inventory requirement.</p> <p><b>Ability to use another form of payment with the fruit and vegetable check (FVC).</b></p> <p>Unlike regular WIC checks, an exact quantity of the items allowed for purchase is not printed on the checks. That means that participants may buy any amount of allowed fruits and vegetables and WIC will pay for up to the value printed on the check. Vendors would need to make sure their register systems can accept more than one form of payment per transaction. Sue stated that all Connecticut Stop &amp; Shop stores are already on board with the new register system that would flag WIC approved products.</p> <p>Farmers’ Markets may be able to accept these WIC checks. WIC checks for fruits and vegetables are different than the Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program voucher</p>

	<p>that we distribute in the summer. WIC participants will continue to receive WIC checks year-round and FMNP vouchers in the summer months.</p> <p><b>New food items to be approved in Connecticut</b> Manufacturers are continuing to submit requests for their products to be approved and appear on our food list. Store brand items are welcome for new food package.</p> <p>Bids are due on February 12<sup>th</sup> to become the contractor for most of New England's infant fruits, vegetables, cereal, and meats. Currently we only provide Gerber infant cereal and the companies offering our infant foods may be the same or different for jarred foods versus infant cereal.</p>
<b>TOPIC</b>	
<b>ITEM#5 Vendor Bulletins- 4 handouts</b>	<p><b>Name Change for Nestle Good Start Supreme DHA &amp; ARA Infant Formula Products.</b> It's very important for all WIC authorized vendors to provide formula for WIC participants. Starting in March 2009, Nestle Infant Formula products in concentrate, ready to feed and powder will have a name change. Participants may purchase either of the product names if both are in stock.</p> <p><b>Above-50-Percent Vendor Determinations</b> Each year the State WIC Program must identify the vendors that receive more than half of their total food sales from the WIC Program. This handout explains what foods to include when calculating this dollar amount.</p> <p><b>Checks Rejected Due to Unreadable Vendor Stamp.</b> There has been an increase in the number of WIC checks being rejected due to "Unreadable Vendor Stamp and Missing Vendor Number." This handout provides some suggestions to vendors to help reduce the number of rejected checks.</p> <p><b>Submission of Rejected WIC Checks for Payment</b> This handout is a reminder of the procedure in the WIC Vendor Agreement regarding payment for rejected checks.</p>
<b>TOPIC</b>	
<b>ITEM#6 Updated Minimum Inventory Requirements for July, 2009</b>	<p>Feedback was requested from the Council members on the copy of the new minimum inventory requirements distributed and it was well received.</p> <p>The least expensive brand is allowed for certain items. There are multiple brands of the same cereal available in the store and the least expensive brand will need to be purchased.</p>
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Item#7 Open Discussion/Suggestions for future agenda items</b>	Sue reported that the Stop & Shop of Unionville is still using their old WIC stamp and was not aware that their new WIC stamp had been delivered. Sue stated she will follow up with that store.
<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Item #8 Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, April 28, 2009 2-4pm Location Wethersfield Police Station, 250 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT Meeting adjourned