

WIC Vendor Advisory Council (WVAC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 30, 2007

Location: Connecticut Department of Transportation Conference Room B

Start Time: 2:00 pm

End Time: 4:00 pm

Recorder: Harriet Dennis

IN ATTENDANCE: Brian Andrikis, Dennis Banks, Paul Bocknewich, Kimberly Boulette, Donna Brewer, Diane Buzzetti, Harriet Dennis, Mitch Klein, Renee Coleman-Mitchell, Kevin Krusz, Sue O'Neill, Adam Osmond, Janet Rankin, Kumi Sato, Pat Sullivan, Joanne White

Kim Boulette WIC Vendor Specialist for the Connecticut WIC Program opened the meeting and welcomed everyone for attending. The day's agenda was distributed.

Topics for discussion:

❖ ***Chairperson – Rotation schedule***

Kim asked if there are any volunteers interested in taking on the role of the chairperson. The chosen chairperson will be responsible for putting together the meeting agenda with the State WIC Office Update being a standard agenda item. Renee explained that the State WIC office would continue to schedule the location and book conference rooms in addition to making copies of materials needed. Kim suggested that if no one person wants to take the lead of this group, then maybe two people could be assigned to organize each meeting with a rotating schedule of all members. Agenda items are always welcome from members of the council. Adam Osmond (Sam's Food Store) volunteered to serve as the chairperson for the full year starting January 29, 2008 and Brian Andrikis (North Branford Supermarket) will serve in 2009.

❖ ***Members role-distribution of authorized vendor list –***

Kim distributed authorized vendor list and Dennis reported there are 114 pharmacies included in this list.

❖ ***Briefing on meeting with Representative Minnie Gonzalez –***

Renee gave a briefing on the popular questions that were asked at the meeting she attended on October 19, 2007. A number of WIC vendors raised many concerns on having a problem with Soy formula not selling, which is required by USDA to be WIC minimum inventory requirement. In addition smaller store vendors feel they are being targeted when it comes to being non-selected or renewals of authorized WIC vendor applications.

❖ ***Criteria for determining needs for additional vendors –***

Dennis reported back in 2004 the USDA performed an evaluation on the State WIC Program with concerns of their being too many vendors on the program and having to reduce food costs.

❖ ***Process for returning unused formula-Nestle –***

Kevin distributed a memo regarding expiring Nestle Infant Formula for small vendors. Kyle Anderson from Nestle USA, Inc. discussed the procedures to exchange expiring Nestle infant formulas from small vendors in Connecticut.

- Nestle infant Formulas involved: Good Start Supreme DHA & ARA; Good Start Supreme Soy DHA & ARA; Good Start 2 Supreme Soy DHA ARA
- Expiring Formulas: two months to six weeks prior to the expiration dates stamped on the formula containers
- Nestle will exchange up-to, and including, two cases per type of Nestle product

Vendors are to call the toll-free telephone numbers listed on the respective Nestle infant formula container (each product has a distinct telephone number).

The Call Center will arrange for the delivery of the new items. A Nestle Field Representative will visit the store and remove the expiring infant formula.

If you have any problems contacting Nestle, you may use these telephone numbers:

800-811-7500 English

800-284-9488 English

800-225-2270 English/Spanish

❖ *Rejected checks –*

Kim reported the state WIC office receives rejected checks for many reason. It is important for the vendors to send in writing their price changes on all WIC approved items because it affects the maximum prices allowed. Brian Andrikis (North Branford Supermarket) asked if maximum prices could be posted on WIC Website by peer groups giving vendors an idea on just how much of a price increase they can make. Dennis answered that we cannot give vendors the maximum prices. Donna Brewer (DPH Hearing Officer) suggested maybe just listing the minimum prices a vendor can charge per WIC item by peer group. All prices changes are to be faxed or mailed to the State WIC Office. There is not a specific form for price updates, so our price stock survey can be used as a template also for submission of price changes listing products and prices. Dennis stated that you must submit price increases for WIC approved items before charging WIC customers

The meeting adjourned at 4:00p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 29, 2008 from 2-4 pm at the DOT Building in Newington. Meetings will continue to be held on the last Tuesday on a quarterly basis. Renee thanked everyone for attending.