

WIC Local Agency Conference Call

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022, 8:30-9:30 AM

Agenda and Summary Notes

Agenda Items:

- National Updates – Kate Franken
 - Legislative Update
 - COVID-19 Public Health Emergency
 - Other Program Updates
- Infant Formula Transition Updates – Jessie Zins
- User Acceptance Testing (UAT) Update – Tami Matti
- Video Translation Services – Jenny Skinner
- Equity in Lactation Projects – Rosie Pierce-Martin

National Updates- Kate

Legislative Update - This week, Congress is set to return to Washington, DC to begin wrapping up work for this legislative term. Lawmakers have started negotiations on an omnibus spending bill to prevent a lapse in government funding after current spending authority expires on December 16. Congressional leaders have also signaled that they intend to attach a number of other priority bills to this end-of-year spending package, providing an opportunity to advance important WIC reforms.

Public Health Emergency to Continue past January - Last week, Biden Administration officials signaled that they expect the Public Health Emergency (PHE) Declaration tied to the COVID-19 pandemic to be extended for an additional 90 days past the current January expiration date, allowing the declaration to remain in place into April 2023. The Department of Health and Human Services has indicated that they will give 60 days’ notice to states before terminating the PHE.

Other Program Updates

WIC State Office Move – Kate

Orville L. Freeman Building

Information: 651-201-5000

MAIL	Address for mail delivery; should be included in signature block, per MDH letterhead guidelines	PO BOX 64975 ST PAUL MN 55164-0975
VISITORS	Location address for visitors, couriers, and surface delivery, such as FedEx or UPS. Also, see Map and driving directions to Freeman	625 Robert St N St. Paul, MN 55155-2538
BUSINESS CARDS	Combination address, to be used for business cards only	625 Robert St N PO Box 64975 St. Paul, MN 55164-0975

Infant Formula Transition –Jessie

The state team continues to evaluate supply in the state. Jessie shared benefit utilization data. In March of 2020, 90% of cans were redeemed, May 2022, 80%, August 2022, 87%, September 2022, 86%, and October 2022 so far 81% with the month not fully closed out yet.

There are frequent questions about adding additional products due to participant preference. We are currently holding on adding more formulas unless there is a supply concern in a community. Currently redemption levels look positive with contract formula and current substitutions.

Enfamil products are 87% of what is being purchased, with 13% Similac Advance substitutes, 92% are utilizing Enfamil Gentlease with 8% Similac products, 97% with Enfamil AR are purchasing product with 94% Similac Isomil.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT) – Tami

THANK YOU to all Local Agency staff that assisted with UAT round 1.

UAT round 1 was completed 11/10/22 by all states in the SPIRIT User Group. There were about 250 defects identified by all states. Next steps are for the Maintenance Enhancement Contractor to provide a defect resolution plan that is due on 11/25/22. After the plan is received it will identify when UAT round 2 will begin and we will be able to provide a firmer estimate of when Pilot and rollout will begin. Watch the Thursday updates for information in the next few months related to the pilot and rollout plans.

Website redesign – Tami

The website redesign went live on 11/14/22. With this redesign any saved links to pages may have been broken, you may have to navigate to the page again and resave the shortcut. These broken links should mostly be related to webpages you have shortcuts to not documents. Many old documents were removed with the clean-up prior to the redesign going live. If you are looking for something specific on the website and are having difficulty, please reach out to your consultant.

Video Translation Services – Jenny

We have the ability use video services through Language Line. The November 16 Weekly Update has details on the process to roll out this option in your agency.

Equity in Lactation Projects – Rosie

Rosie highlighted projects that promote equity in lactation. Projects were up to \$5,000. There will be grants available again in 2023.

- Beltrami County worked to develop a sculpture that is now displayed in the lobby of the Sanford Health Pediatric Clinic in Bemidji.
- Anoka County held an Annual Breastfeeding Celebration in August at Locke Park. There were booster seats/education, C&TC outreach, and a grant supported professional photographer for families.
- Isanti County held a Community Baby Shower with over 100 attendees. The shower included a resource room with 12 organizations represented.
- Ramsey County created 20 lactation kits for correctional facilities. Kits include manual pumps, breast pads, bottle brushes and more to support pumping and storing breastmilk while incarcerated.
- Faribault-Martin and Nicollet Counties created four billboards promoting breastfeeding in these communities. The billboards were up for 5 weeks with local families displayed

on the billboards. A social media campaign promoted the project. Banners were also created using the billboard images.

- White Earth Tribal WIC Farmers Market Outreach. A breastfeeding education display and staff were at the Mahnomen farmers market during the month of August. Over 60 families visited the table over the four weeks of the market.
- St. Joseph's Hubbard Rock & Rest Tent. WIC staff were present to provide lactation support, offer promotion bags and provide WIC outreach and advertising for PH programs. Promoted their tent on the local radio station.
- Sawtooth Mountain Clinic Market Tokens. This was a partnership between WIC and the Farmer's market to promote WIC, breastfeeding and expand access to the farmer's market. Other grant funding was used to fund this project.

Thank you for all the Equity and Lactation projects this year!!

Questions & Answers

Can Local Agencies obtain a copy of the slides for the Lactation projects discussed during the call?

Reach out to Rosie Pierce-Martin at rosie.pierce-martin@state.mn.us for a copy of the slides.

Minnesota Department of Health - WIC Program, 85 E 7th Place, PO BOX 64882, ST PAUL MN 55164-0882; 1-800-657-3942, health.wic@state.mn.us, www.health.state.mn.us; to obtain this information in a different format, call: 1-800-657-3942.