

# Meeting Minutes

**Subject: Retailer Advisory Teleconference**

**Date: July 13, 2017**

**Time: 10:00 AM**

**Location: 12<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, VDH**

The meeting began at 10:00 AM. Organizations in attendance either in person or on the phone: Ahold, Damon, DECA Dahlgren, Farm Fresh, Giant of Landover, Reid's Supermarket, Shop and Save, Shoppers, SuperValu, Todos, Virginia WIC Office ( Paula Garrett, Alex Acharya, Al Astley, Freda Bolling, Ephraim Ewing, Amy Romero & Brian Tun), Wade's, and Wal-Mart.

Paula Garrett (WIC Program Manager) provided an update of the WIC program

USDA WIC Budget Reduction/Continuing Resolution: We are expected to operate under a continuing resolution until September 2017 at the current funding level. The proposed budget includes a \$1B reduction to USDA that includes a possible \$200M reduction in the WIC Program. Another Continuing Resolution is expected to be passed mid-September if no budget has been passed by then.

WIC on Wheels (WOW): WOW is currently in operation in Tidewater with store shopping tours being conducted at Farm Fresh and Food Lion with Virginia Cooperative Service. All staff positions have been filled, and a new van is being acquired and will be made a mobile WIC clinic. The van and all materials will be branded with the logos and colors to reflect the new Virginia WIC Program branding initiative.

Update Food List – National Brands: The new 2018 Approved Food List is expected to be published and distributed starting in April 2018. The application period closes on July 31, 2017, with approval/denial notifications going out in September 2017. Please apply now if you haven't already.

Summer Food Service Program Texting: Retailers are asked to remind their customers that the list of summer meals sites can be obtained by texting "food" to 877877.

Participant app: There are currently about 1000 participants from 20 Health Districts participating in the pilot being conducted by ODU using the JPMA smartphone "app". The app will include a store locator, barcode reader, fruit & vegetable and cereal calculators, nutrition education and recipes.

Conference: Members of the Vendor Management Team will be attending the National WIC Association Technology, Program Integrity, and Vendor Management conference in Memphis, TN on September 25-28, 2017.

Alex Acharya (WIC Vendor Compliance Manager) provided an update of the Vendor Compliance Team

Contract Reauthorization: Our current WIC contract with all of the authorized stores expires September 30, 2017. Each WIC authorized store must attend a reauthorization training session and return the signed Retailer Agreement for the period October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2020. Retailers with certified trainers are in the process of training their stores; all Retailers without certified trainers have been trained. All signed Retailer Agreements are due August 16, 2017. Please contact Alex if there are any questions concerning reauthorization.

Retailer Manual: The Retail Store Manual has been updated and is available online from our “Resources” web page (<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/wic-retailers/resources/>) for viewing or downloading. A printed copy can be requested using the Retailer Supply Request Form also available on the “Resources” web page. A summary of changes is attached to these minutes.

Points of Contact: General retailer questions can be directed to the assigned Vendor Liaison. Questions concerning UPCs can be directed to Brian Tun. Questions concerning compliance can be directed to Bob Altermatt. Other questions can be directed to Alex Acharya, Vendor Compliance Manager. Names, phone numbers and email addresses of each Vendor Compliance Team member can be found at the bottom of the “Resources” web page.

Benefits: WIC on Wheels, new participant app.

Concerns: Potential budget reduction

The meeting ended at 10:20 AM.

**The Date for the Next Meeting is Thursday October 19, 2017 at 10:00.**