

# Meeting Minutes

**Subject: Retailer Advisory Call**

**Date: January 17, 2018**

**Time: 2:00 PM**

The conference call was held on January 17, 2019 and began at 2:00 PM. Organizations in attendance via telephone or in person were: Damon, Food City, Food Lion, Giant, Harris-Teeter, Ingles, Super A, Wal-Mart, Wegmans, Weis, and the Virginia WIC Office (Paula Garrett, Alex Acharya, Bob Altermatt, Al Astley, Ephraim Ewing, Amy Romero, Jennifer Trower & Brian Tun).

Paula Garrett (Director, Division of Community Nutrition) provided the Division and WIC Program Update:

1. Partial Government Shutdown – Today is the 27<sup>th</sup> day of the shutdown. Paula has daily calls with USDA, who has brought in a few employees from furlough. The Virginia WIC Program received funding last October through January, and on 1/10/19, received funding through February, with additional funding to carry through March expected next week. **VA WIC is business as usual now and expected through the end of March 2018.**
2. Yogurt – An audit revealed that a computer glitch has resulted in many WIC participants being over-prescribed for Yogurt. As an interim solution, yogurt has not been prescribed since mid-December, but there are participants with yogurt prescribed, and may be redeeming yogurt through most of March. The glitch is being addressed, and will be thoroughly tested before implementing in early May, when yogurt is expected to be prescribed again. While additional guidance may be forthcoming, Retailers are asked to refer questions to Paula or their WIC Vendor Liaison, and to refer their WIC customers with questions to the customers' local WIC office.

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

1. Certified Mail – Several instances of certified mail being returned to the State WIC Office has occurred over the last few months. Most of the returns have been due to incorrect addresses, or store personnel refusing to sign for the mail. Please notify your Vendor Liaison if the address for certified mail is different from the address of record for any store. We ask that store personnel inform their staff that all certified mail from the Virginia WIC Program should be signed for and accepted.
2. Retailer eBulletin – In an effort to boost readership, future editions of the Retailer eBulletin will be shorter and will go out more frequently. The next edition will be sent out via email in early February. We ask that each recipient read it and make it available to other staff members. This edition will contain an article and link to our Annual Compliance letter, which explains the compliance requirements for the Virginia WIC Program. This information distributed via our next eBulletin will serve as the required annual notification to each authorized store.

The meeting ended at 2:25 PM.

Required Actions: Retailers should submit any ideas for improving the Virginia WIC Program to Alex or their assigned Vendor Liaison.

Next meeting: **Thursday April 11, 2019 at 2:00 PM** (alternate date Thursday April 25 at 2:00 PM). Minutes of this meeting will be distributed with the "Save the Date" email for our next meeting.