

Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: April 22, 2021

Time: 2:00 PM

Location: Conference call

State WIC Office Attendees: Paula Garrett, Megan Nason, Alex Acharya, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower, and Amy Romero. Facilitator: Amy Romero

Recorder: Bob Altermatt

- The meeting began at 2:00pm
- **Paula Garrett** (WIC Director) provided an update for the WIC division
 - Seven waivers in effect for COVID, store monitoring still on hold. Federal Emergency Declaration expires in July and we expect to be renewed.
 - Clinics are still not seeing participants in person. A sixty-day transition period will take place once the declaration is lifted.
 - Participation still ~120,000, redemptions near pre-COVID levels
 - CVB will increase to \$35.00 for all participants, begins June 1, 2021 ends September 30, 2021 (depends on last date to spend date for participant)
- **Megan Nason** (Program Manager) provided an update for the program
 - New food list applications opening soon; new food list in 2022
 - New participant survey will be released virtually
 - Beginning June 1st, participants will no longer need medical documentation from their healthcare provider to receive Similac Sensitive powder and Similac Total Comfort powder. This likely will impact issuance and redemption and it is anticipated that vendors will see a steady increase in participants redeeming these benefits at their stores. The issuance amounts per participant will remain the same however.
- **Alex Acharya** (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team
 - The 2022 food list application will be coming out soon. If your contact information has changed, please send your new contact information to brian.tun@vdh.virginia.gov.
Update: The 2022 food list application has been released. More information and a food application worksheet can be found [HERE](#).
 - Reminder that VA allows WIC as self-checkouts, but stores need to have go through a certification process by VA WIC
 - Please notify WIC Vendor with any changes in store ownership including store ownership or store closures, as WIC authorization does not transfer to a new owner.
- **Miscellaneous**, open to all
 - Questions from retailers: WIC window decals were ordered but not received yet. Our supplier was out of these, but they've been ordered. If you've placed an order for a window decal, you will receive one as soon as they are back in stock. Remember, you only need 1-2 decals, just for main entrances.

- IS VA WIC planning to include new items in the new food list? Specifically, gluten free options Pasta, bread, tortillas, Cage free eggs, Organic baby food, Greek Yogurt?
 - The program currently allows several gluten free options including corn tortillas, rice and many cereals. We do expect to add organic baby food. The other requests have been passed along to the nutrition team for consideration.
 - Email us at WIC_retailer@vdh.virginia.gov if you have any questions you didn't get to ask – or if you need to be added to our email list to receive information about the RAM calls in the future.
 - Remember the retailer webpage is here: www.virginiawicretailers.com
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- **The Date for the Next Meeting is July 22, 2021 at 2:00pm**