



Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2022

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
 - PHE: The national public health emergency (PHE) has been extended through October 12, 2022. Accordingly, all active WIC waivers granted under (Families First Corona Response Act) FFCRA are now set to expire on January 9, 2023 (90 days following the end of the PHE); these waivers will be extended in tandem with any future renewals of the PHE.
 - Abbott: Abbott's Sturgis plant re-opened July 1st with production of EleCare and we should be seeing those products distributed soon. Abbott is also working on re-opening other portions of the plant which will focus on production of Similac Total Comfort and Similac Spit-Up. Formula substitutions will now go through at least the end of September.
 - CVB Increase: Currently the temporary increased Cash Value Benefit (that participants use to redeem fruits and vegetables) will be set to expire at the end of September 2022. We are hopeful this will be extended into the next fiscal year however USDA has not received the official confirmation. If it is not extended, the increased cash value benefits return to previous levels of \$9/child and \$11/women per month.
 - Food List: The 2022 Virginia WIC Food List is currently at the printer with anticipation of delivery to our warehouse next week. Once the Food Lists are at the warehouse we will be mailing out copies to our local agencies and the authorized vendors.
- Questions from the call:
 - What should be done if we believe reimbursement is too low on an item due to inflation? Contact Amy Romero (amy.romero@vdh.virginia.gov) with details so we can review and make changes.
 - When will the food list be posted online? We will align that with the estimated dates retailers should receive their shipments of the physical copies.
- **Alex Acharya** (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team
 - Annual training is due July 29! This is a USDA requirement and we're currently waiting on 50% of the stores to complete the steps.

- Remember corporate stores are submitted via spreadsheet, not the survey.
- **Miscellaneous**, open to all
 - Only one cashier handbook is required per store. If you order more, we will adjust the amount; so reach out if there's a need for something different.
- **The Date for the Next Meeting is October 20, 2022 at 2:00pm**