

Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: January 18, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM EST

Location: webex

State WIC Office Attendees: Paula Garrett, Megan Nason, Alex Acharya, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower, Ephraim Ewing.

Facilitator: Amy Romero

- The meeting began at 2:00pm

Paula Garrett (Program Director) provided an update for the Division

- Impending Government shutdown: The WIC program has funding to operate through the end of March. We have additional monies that would make us financially solvent until the end of April. The VA WIC program will not shut our doors and there will not be a waitlist for anyone.
- Participation as of November 2023 was approximately 109,000. Our high number was July 2023 at 127,000. One reason participation is wavering is the fact that the waivers expired, so participants must present in person again.
- Working on a collaborative relationship with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to identify people receiving Medicaid but not receiving WIC. Also partnering with the Virginia Federation of Food Banks.
- Bringing in a healthcare provider portal for providers to be able to provide information to our staff regarding participants and their most recent visits to their physicians.

Megan Nason (Program Manager) provided an update for the WIC Program

- 2024 WIC Food List: The Virginia State WIC Office (SWO) is currently working on the next food list which will be release in spring of 2024. The food list will be available in both English and Spanish. Electronic and hard copy versions will be provided. There will be no major additions this year however we anticipate potential additions to the next food list which will be released in 2 years. USDA is likely making updates to the WIC food packages however we do not have a timeline on those updates at this time. These will be updates to reflect the current science and recommended nutritional needs for our participant population.
- Nutramigen Recall: December 30th, 2023 Mead Johnson announced a voluntary recall of select batches of 12.6 and 19.8oz cans of Nutramigen due to possible Cronobacter contamination. At this point retailers should have already checked product and corresponded with Mead Johnson if they had any product included in the specific recalled batches. Mead Johnson did reach out recently to alert states that all retailers should now be selling the product as some may have put a temporary hold on selling during the recall to ensure all products were accounted for. If you

have any questions about the recall please reach out to consumer relations at Mead Johnson:
consumer.relations@rb.com

- The following recalled product batch codes and can size associated with each batch were distributed in the U.S.:
 - ZL3FHG (12.6 oz cans)
 - ZL3FMH (12.6 oz cans)
 - ZL3FPE (12.6 oz cans)
 - ZL3FQD (12.6 oz cans)
 - ZL3FRW (19.8 oz cans)
 - ZL3FXJ (12.6 oz cans)
- The products have a UPC Code of 300871239418 or 300871239456 and “Use By Date” of “1 Jan 2025”.

Alex Acharya (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team

- Failed store monitoring visits: Retailers must maintain inventory of the foods listed of minimum stocking requirements found here: [Minimum Stocking Requirement - at a Glance \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- Stores that are failing visits have some common items missing; bread, infant cereal, and frozen juice. Details will be published in the retailer bulletin to help stores address the issue.
- Reminder that if an owner sells their store, the WIC authorization is terminated and the new owner must apply again. Owners are required to inform the program of a change in ownership.
- Reminder to reach out to us with any questions wic_retailer@vdh.virginia.gov
- The Date for the next meeting is April 18, 2024 at 2:00pm EST.