

# Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

**Date: April 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

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

- **Food List & Formula Flyer:** The WIC 2024 Food List and Retail Formula Flyer have been printed and shipped to our storage warehouse. The team here at State WIC Office will be working over the next few weeks to get food lists and formula flyers to our local agency clinics and authorized retailers. Electronic versions are available already on our webpage. There have been no major changes. [2024 WIC Food List NEW! - WIC Retailers \(virginia.gov\)](#)
- **New Food Rule:** Hot off the press – these were published 4/18/24 by USDA. The goal of the new food packages will be to allow more choices and more flexibility for WIC participants. We will have two years to implement these changes and we anticipate that will align with our next food list for 2026. Some of the new food packages are optional for states to make which we will be meeting internally to discuss. We will be providing information on the changes once decisions have been finalized well in advance of the 2026 food list.

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

- **Compliance letter reminder:** the letters were already sent out; let Alex know if you did not receive it or have questions
- **Change of ownership:** If a store changes ownership, WIC authorization does not transfer. Stores must alert us **before** the change of ownership and the new owners must apply for WIC authorization.
- Updates regarding points of contacts
- APL updates regularly; ensure it is downloaded daily

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

- USDA recently released the final rule updating WIC food packages and the State agencies will have 2 years to fully implement the food package changes.

- The Congress passed the new federal budget which includes \$7.1 billion for WIC, about \$1 billion more for WIC.

The Date for the next meeting is July 18, 2024 at 2:00pm EST.