

Virginia WIC Retailer Advisory Meeting Minutes

Date: July 16, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM EST

Location: Webex

State WIC Office Attendees: Paula Garrett, Michelle Littlejohn, Bob Altermatt, Brian Tun, Jennifer Trower, Ephraim Ewing

Facilitator: Amy Romero

- The meeting started at 2:00pm

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

- Welcome to Michelle Littlejohn, our new WIC Program Manager!
- Funding for 2027 is not clear yet. There are two different pieces of legislation, one includes a \$200million dollar reduction nationally. This would have an impact in Virginia. We'll keep you posted!
- The infant formula contract bids have closed, and this will also include a possible impact to stores. We cannot announce the new contract yet.
- Investigating online shopping; early stages. Any stores who do this in other states with WIC, we'd love to hear insight.
- Also looking into a peer shopping program to help new participants learn about shopping for WIC. Please contact Paula with thoughts/concerns your stores may have.

Bob Altermatt (Vendor Team Manager) provided an update for the vendor team

- Reauthorization training: remember this is mandatory to stay on the WIC program! There's one more training session 7/21. Contact your liaison with questions.
- Handwritten agreements are not accepted; this is a fillable form. If you have trouble, let us know.
- Food lists still on hold. We will let you know as soon as we have a date; and we'll provide you with training regarding major changes.
- Vendor teams staff changes: Amy Romero has moved to Bob's previous role and we will be backfilling that vendor liaison role. In the meantime, her assigned stores should please continue to reach out to her with needs.

Miscellaneous

- Remember each store only needs one cashier handbook when ordering supplies.

The Date for the next meeting is Oct 15, 2026 at 2:00pm EST.