KANSAS WIC INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
KANSAS-WIC-I-2021-07

TO: Parent and Sub-Agencies

FROM: Dave Thomason
Nutrition & WIC Services Director

DATE: April 28, 2021

RE: New State Staff Members
Mid-year Budget Review for FFY 2021
Up-date on WIC and Public Charge
2022 Kansas WIC Conference Planning Committee
May 14 Deadline - Breast Pump End of SFY Ordering
KBC Request to Promote Survey to Help New Moms
Formula Changes – PediaSure Grow & Gain, PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber
New Nutrition Assessment Process -Update
Still More Information from FDA about Heavy Metals in Baby Foods
Educational Opportunities

New State Staff Member – Linda Speirs
We are pleased to announce the hiring of Linda Speirs. Linda’s first day was March 22nd. She will fill the Local Agency Fiscal Coordinator position and will be joining Emily Brinkman as her ME partner. Linda’s contact information is linda.speirs@ks.gov and 785-291-3134.

Here is some information on Linda: My name is Linda Speirs. I am excited to be a Program Consultant with Nutrition and WIC Services. After raising my nine children, I returned to college and received a bachelor’s degree in July 2020 from Brigham Young University-Idaho. My husband and I moved back to Kansas in August. Our family lived in Kansas previously for about 15 years. We now live closer to our six beautiful grandchildren. As you can probably guess, I love children! I’m looking forward to learning more about WIC and working in KDHE to serve families in Kansas.

ACTION REQUIRED: Please notify all staff.

Mid-year Budget Review for FFY2021
Most Local Agencies submitted budgets for full staff working on WIC. Due to the ongoing pandemic, many will not come close to spending their allocation. The Local Agency Expenditure Tracking Form is one way to see if you are on target for spending your allocation. If revisions to your budget for the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY2021) are necessary, please submit them using the same budget form that your original budget was submitted on.

The Budget Template and Checklist FFY2021 is located here: http://www.kansaswic.org/local_agencies/administrative_materials.html. At the top of the WIC Budget Form is a box to indicate if the budget is an initial submission or a revised version. Budget revisions should be emailed to KDHE.KSWICFiscal@ks.gov with the file name including the Local Agency name and the words: Revised Budget FFY2021. Please include a document that explains the reason for the budget revision.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Let those that complete the budget conduct a mid-year review to check if a revision is necessary. Although revisions can be submitted at any time, mid-year review revisions are due May 14th.

**Update on WIC and Public Charge**

In response to a February 2, 2021, Executive Order directing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to review the actions related to the implementation of public charge, DHS announced that as of March 9, 2021, it will no longer apply the August 2019 final rule on public charge. DHS is now applying its 1999 Interim Field Guidance, which specifically lists WIC as a supplemental non-cash benefit that a non-citizen may receive that should not be considered for public charge purposes. In addition, the 1999 Interim Field Guidance states that nutrition programs, including other supplementary food programs, should **not** be considered for public charge purposes.

This means that applying for or receiving WIC or Farmers Market Nutrition Program or Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program services are not considered as part of the public charge inadmissibility determination. More specifically, a non-citizen to the United States will not be deported, denied entry to the country, or denied permanent status because they receive or received WIC, FMNP or SFMNP benefits. Receiving WIC, FMNP or SFMNP does not affect an individual’s immigration status and does not affect a non-citizen’s ability to become a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident. For more information on the changes to the public charge guidance, please visit the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services Public Charge website.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share this information with staff, clients and when appropriate, with other stakeholders in your local immigration community.
2022 Kansas WIC Conference Planning Committee

Congratulations and thank you to the 2022 Kansas WIC Statewide Conference Planning Committee representing small and large local agencies from across the state and representing the WIC roles of RN, RD, Clerk and BFPC.

Committee Members:
- Alejandra Corona, (Clerk, Wyandotte Co.)
- Alice Jantzen (RN, WIC Coordinator, Harvey Co.)
- Alicia Ramey (RD, Cowley Co.)
- Danica Pelzel (RD, Johnson Co.)
- Emily Brinkman (Breastfeeding Coordinator, SA)
- Kelly Vickers (Public Service Executive, SA)
- Lisa Medrow (Training Coordinator, SA)
- Mallory Pope (BFPC, Brown Co.)
- Patrice Thomsen (Nutrition Services Coordinator, SA)

The committee will meet monthly starting in April 2021 to plan a conference in 2022. Please submit ideas if you haven’t already to Lisa Medrow at Lisa.Medrow@ks.gov. Thanks again to this planning committee!

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Stay tuned for more information about the 2022 Kansas WIC Conference. Budget guidance will be provided.

**May 14 Deadline – Breast Pump End of SFY Ordering**

Check your breast pump and breast pump equipment supplies! No items will be approved for purchase after **Friday, May 14th** until July 1st, due to the end of the state fiscal year. All invoices and reimbursement requests must be to Emily Brinkman, Breastfeeding Coordinator at the state office by **June 1st, 2021**. Do not include breast pump and equipment costs on your affidavits. These costs must be submitted on the Breast Pump Request for Reimbursement Form with a copy of the invoice for payment in accordance with policy **NED 05.04.00**.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Contact Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov for order approval before placing the order. Only request to order the amount estimated to be used for a maximum of six months.

**KBC Request to Promote Survey to Help New Moms**

(Adapted from an email sent email to WIC Coordinators and Breastfeeding Coordinators on 4/13/2021.) The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition is asking for your help on behalf of the Office on Women’s Health.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women’s Health (OWH) is sponsoring the creation of a campaign that encourages new moms who might be at risk for postpartum depression to reach out for help. They want to learn how to make it easier for new moms to get help if they feel pressure with a new baby and other life issues. They are looking for new moms to take a survey about their experiences and the challenges they may have faced.
What they share will be used to help create a special health campaign for new moms focusing on postpartum issues. To help on this project, they are looking for women between 18 and 44 years old, who have had a baby in the past year to take an online survey that will ask about their experiences as a new mom. The survey will take about 20 minutes and no personal identification information (name, address) will be collected. The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition has been asked by OWH for help with reaching LOTs of mothers for this survey. Please consider sharing this link on your personal and/or organization’s social media, encouraging mothers to participate in the survey: https://forms.gle/dgiRYiGdHt2FX4mp8 (or complete yourself if you are a new mom).

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with staff and consider promoting from your local page or directly with new moms in your clinic. Contact Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov for a sample post that can be shared via social media, or follow the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition on Facebook and share their post from 4/13/2021.

**Formula Changes – PediaSure Grow & Gain, PediaSure Grow & Gain with Fiber**
Abbott has provided these updates for PediaSure Grow and Gain and PediaSure Grow and Gain with Fiber:

- Retail versions of PediaSure Grow and Gain and PediaSure Grow and Gain with Fiber are undergoing a reformulation that will include:
  - The addition of Vitamin K2
  - Change to NonGMO ingredients
  - A reduction in sugar
    - PediaSure Grow and Gain will have 25% less sugars (all flavors)
    - PediaSure Grow and Gain with Fiber will have 33% less sugars (all flavors)

- The reformulated products will have minor changes to the products label (as depicted to the right) and will begin flowing through retailer’s shelves May through July 2021.

- The reformulation will **not** affect product name, item numbers, UPCs, price, or ounces per unit.

- There will be no changes in KWIC. Staff will **not** need to retailor any food packages.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** For your information. Contact the State Agency with questions.
New Nutrition Assessment Process – Update
See the February 2021 I-Memo original detailed announcement and March 2021 I-Memo Update.

We hope you are getting excited to soon toss out those old Diet Questionnaires and move on to a new and better way to conduct nutrition assessments with clients! We’re getting closer! Here’s where we’re at right now:

- All risk factors have been re-named in KWIC to include the USDA code, and organized numerically.
- The coordinating Online Risk Factor Manual will soon be posted to the KS WIC Website and will be set up similarly to the Policy and Procedure Manual, organized by client category.
- Just prior to the Nutrition Assessment training webinar, the new tools for the process will also be posted to the website.
- By late spring, we will be hosting live webinar trainings on the new Nutrition Assessment Process, held on a variety of dates and times for you to choose from. A recording will also be available.
- By January 1, 2022 all agencies will be using the new Nutrition Assessment Process.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Watch for more information in upcoming I-Memos. Start to consider within your agency when you’d like to train and start the new Nutrition Assessment Process.

Still More Information from FDA about Heavy Metals in Baby Foods
In February, there was news in the media about heavy metals in baby foods. (See the February I-Memo and March I-Memo for information.) We will continue to pass along more information as it is available.

The Food and Drug Administration posted a constituent update on April 8, 2021 on its “Closer to Zero” Action Plan for Reducing Exposure to Toxic Elements from Foods for Babies and Young Children. The update includes:

- Closer to Zero infographic
- Key to a Well-Balanced Diet Infographic
- Previously published information about limiting exposure to arsenic, arsenic in rice and rice cereal for pregnant women and parents, and metals and your food.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with staff and clients as appropriate

Educational Opportunities
All educational opportunities are posted to the KS WIC Training Webpage and are updated monthly. See Educational Opportunities – Updated April 2021.

View Previous Webinar Recordings
View previous KS WIC Webinar recordings and access handouts and resources here.

ACTION REQUIRED: Share with staff.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact the state staff member assigned to your agency.

Items included below and/or provided as separate documents: