KANSAS WIC INFORMATION MEMORANDUM
KANSAS-WIC-I-2021-09

TO: Parent and Sub-Agencies

FROM: Dave Thomason
Nutrition & WIC Services Director

DATE: June 25, 2021

RE: Retirement of Julie Norman, June 25
State Staff Changes
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Mother/Baby Log
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Breastfeeding Initiation
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Southeast Kansas (SEK) Multi-County Health Department Seeking RD
Educational Opportunities

Retirement of Julie Norman, June 25
With great regret for us (and happiness for Julie), we announce that Julie Norman is retiring.
Her last day at the State Agency is Friday, June 25.

ACTION REQUIRED: If you are a local agency assigned to the Management evaluation team
of Julie and Amanda, and have questions about:

- Nutrition – contact Patrice Thomsen at Patrice.thomsen@ks.gov or 785-296-1189
- Administration – contact Amanda Owsley at Amanda.Owsley@ks.gov or 785-296-1322

We will be recruiting for this position soon. Contact Patrice Thomsen for more information.
**State Staff Changes – Krista Sanders**
We are pleased to announce the hiring of Krista Sanders as the Administrative Specialist/Office Manager. Her first day was June 14. The Administrative Specialist position was vacated when Ashley Waldo was promoted to Vendor Manager.

Krista Sanders has lived in Lawrence for over 10 years where she worked with special needs adults. Before moving to Lawrence, she worked with the state of Missouri in the Department of Corrections, Probation and Parole in HR where she did payroll, workers comp and FMLA. She also worked with the state of Missouri in the Child Support Division, setting up and managing the office for a new formed group of four attorneys. Prior to working for the state of Missouri, she worked for Garmin as the Customer Repair Clerk. She enjoys spending time with family, playing games and gardening.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please notify all staff.

**Zoomin’ with WIC Coordinators**
**Wednesday, July 14, 2021 2-3pm**
WIC Coordinators are invited to join this Zoom meeting as a way to have a conversation with your peers about how you operate WIC. After brief updates from the Kansas WIC Director, David Thomason, the floor will be open to talk amongst yourselves about whatever you would like to. Want to know what others are doing? This is the place to ask! You can join using computer audio and webcams, but if you don't have the technology, you can simply join by phone. To limit the number of people, only WIC Coordinators are invited to join. The recording will be sent to all WIC Coordinators after the meeting.

These meetings are held quarterly, and the next one will be held at 2pm on October 13.

WIC Coordinators may view the recording of the 4/14 Zoomin’ with WIC Coordinators [here](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbb5zBPXMO).

**ACTION REQUIRED:** WIC Coordinators, if you would like to join, please use the link below when it’s time to join:

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82352138168](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82352138168)

Meeting ID: 823 5213 8168
One tap mobile
+13462487799,82352138168# US (Houston)

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 823 5213 8168
Find your local number: [https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbb5zBPXMO](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbb5zBPXMO)
**BFPC Reports & Budgets**

Please submit the BFPC 3rd Quarterly Report by July 20, 2021. Please include your Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Annual Evaluation with your FFY21 budget. Please remember to budget for at least one option for annual required BFPC training, outlined in the budget guidance.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Submit the QR report to Casey Florea at cassandra.florea@ks.gov. Submit your Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program Annual Evaluation with your budget.

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**New Nutrition Assessment Process – Training Still Available!**

If you haven’t attended a New Nutrition Assessment Process live webinar yet, please register for one of the dates below. Or, if you prefer, view the recording at the bottom of this webpage, and click on the survey below the recording after you’re finished.

Click on your preferred webinar date below to register:

- W 7/7 12-1:30pm
- M 7/12 3-4:30pm
- Th 7/22 12-1:30pm
- T 8/3 3-4:30pm

Please see the new Nutrition Assessment Tools here. We will be reviewing these during the training.

**TIP:** If you haven’t already, you might want to complete the Molly Kellogg Motivational Interviewing for WIC online Training Modules (11 total—best spread out the modules and practice in-between modules if possible). While not required, the skills you learn from that training will greatly help you implement the new Nutrition Assessment Process!

**Here is how to access the Molly Kellogg Motivational Interviewing for WIC program:**

1. Go to www.mollykellogg.com
2. Under the “programs” tab click on “WIC Step by Step Log on”
3. The password is: WIC cares

Once you view the webinar training (live or recorded) you can begin using the new process. Remember, all agencies will be given plenty of time to implement this new process (by January 1, 2022).

For existing completed diet questionnaires, follow the record retention policy ADM 03.01.00: “All supporting documentation and records shall be retained for four (4) years (current Federal Fiscal Year plus prior 3 Federal Fiscal Years). The only exception is for Voter Declination forms, which only have to be retained for two (2) calendar years.”

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please share with staff and register for a live webinar or plan to view a recording.
**2022 Nutrition Services Plan Guidance**

(This is a repeat of a mass email sent June 15, 2021 by Julie Norman.)


For 2022 LAs will write their own Breastfeeding Promotion and Clinic Improvement Strategic Action Plans. The SA will not provide a low risk secondary nutrition education lesson plan for 2022.

In the Appendix, just as in 2021, several sample Strategic Action Plan objectives and action steps have been provided by the SA. These are included as examples. They should be adjusted for each LA’s individual situation.

It may be helpful to think about possible budgetary impacts of LA’s Strategic Action Plans. 2022 LA budgets are due July 15, 2021. (see May P Memo) Agencies will be able to revise their budgets later, but by including any expenses in the LA budget a budget revision may not be necessary.

The due date for completed 2022 Plans is November 1, 2021.

Please submit your NSP to your ME Team RD, via email. If Julie Norman was your ME Team RD, mail your 2022 NSP to Patrice Thomsen. Emails of the four state Nutritionists are listed below.

Lisa Medrow, lisa.medrow@ks.gov, Patrice Thomsen, patrice.thomsen@ks.gov., Emily Brinkman, emily.brinkman@ks.gov, Casey Florea, cassandra.florea@ks.gov.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Notify applicable staff regarding the 2022 Nutrition Services Plan Guidance and return completed plans by 11/1/2021.

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**WIC Advisory Committee – Call for Agenda Items for July 27 meeting**

The next WIC Advisory Committee conference call is Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 9:00 AM. **Please submit agenda items to your WAC representative or Patrice Thomsen by July 16, 2021.** You can find your representative name and contact information on the WIC Advisory Committee page of the Kansas WIC website. As a reminder, questions about policy implementation should be directed to your agency’s assigned state staff member. Alternates are also invited, but may choose not to attend, unless notified that your Representative will not be attending. The facilitator for the July call is Christy Rogers, from Cloud and Clay counties.

Current agenda items include

- Feedback from Local Agencies about the NWA Calendar to make a determination if the State should order for Local Agencies as in the past and if so, wall or pocket style? (If you would like to provide feedback to your representative, find your representative name...
and contact information on the [WIC Advisory Committee](#) page of the Kansas WIC website.)

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Submit agenda items by July 16, 2021 to your WAC representative or Patrice Thomsen. Contact Patrice Thomsen with questions at [patrice.thomsen@ks.gov](mailto:patrice.thomsen@ks.gov) or 785-296-1189.

**Voluntary Recall & Announcement: Beech-Nut Stage 1, Single Grain Rice Cereal**

This item is a repeat of a mass email sent on June 9, 2021 to all WIC staff identified in KWIC to receive I- and P-Memos.

On June 8, 2021, Beech-Nut announced a voluntary recall of one lot of Beech-Nut Stage 1, Single Grain Rice Cereal as well as a decision to exit the market for Beech-Nut branded Single Grain Rice Cereal.

This announcement likely affects WIC vendors and participants. The recall should be treated as any other consumer recall, although because of the subject and consumer population it may generate more questions from stakeholders.

Key points from the Beech-Nut announcement are provided below.

- Beech-Nut Nutrition has issued a voluntary recall of one lot of Beech-Nut Stage 1, Single Grain Rice Cereal. Click [here](#) to view the announcement.
- The specific Beech-Nut Single Grain Rice item (UPC Code# 52200034705) being recalled has an expiration date of 01MAY2022 and product codes: 103470XXXX and 093470XXXX. The expiration date and product numbers can be found at the bottom of the Beech-Nut Single Rice Cereal canister. These specific product codes were distributed nationally through retail and online.
- Consumers who may have purchased Beech-Nut Rice Cereal with product codes: 103470XXXX and 093470XXXX with expiration of 01MAY2022 should discard the product. They can also go to [www.beechnut.com/ricecereal](http://www.beechnut.com/ricecereal), or call 1-866-272-9417, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for further information on obtaining an exchange or refund. (Kansas WIC clients who choose to seek an exchange for this cereal obtained through WIC should use these instructions. They should not go to the WIC office or grocery store to exchange products.)
- This recall is a result of a routine sampling program by the State of Alaska which found that samples from that production lot of Beech-Nut Stage 1, Single Grain Rice Cereal tested above the guidance level for naturally occurring inorganic arsenic set by the FDA in August 2020, though the rice flour used had been tested and confirmed as being below the FDA guidance level for inorganic arsenic.
- In addition to issuing the voluntary recall, Beech-Nut has also decided to exit the market for Beech-Nut branded Single Grain Rice Cereal. Beech-Nut is concerned about the ability to consistently obtain rice flour well-below the FDA guidance level and Beech-Nut specifications for naturally occurring inorganic arsenic.

**ACTION REQUIRED:**
For clients:

- Provide this information to appropriate clients with WIC appointments and those who contact the agency with questions. Local Agencies may choose to publicize it more, such as through a Health Department Facebook page. (Remember there is no mechanism for the State Agency to send a mass notice to clients through KWIC.)
- Refer back to the February I-memo for recent information about heavy metals in infant food and links for consumer information. (This batch was identified as being above the guidance level for naturally occurring inorganic arsenic set by the FDA in August 2020 so is being voluntarily recalled by Beech-Nut.)

For stores:

- We know that grocery stores have their own mechanisms for learning about food recalls. Therefore, we do not require that you contact your local WIC vendors.
- Do use this information if you get questions from your local WIC vendors.

**Lead Poisoning Prevention Program for Children**

It may seem like a problem of the past, but lead poisoning is still a health hazard in Kansas. Children birth to age six are most at risk because of their behaviors, rapidly growing bodies, and developing brains. While lead poisoning is very serious, and can cause lifelong effects, it can be prevented.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Poison Control Center at The University of Kansas Health System have partnered together to develop the *Hunter & Scout’s Poison Patrol – Lead Poisoning Prevention Program*. The program makes it easy and fun to teach this important topic of lead poisoning prevention to young children. The program includes a video and activities as well as educational materials for parents. See this short video: [Lead Safety (kansashealthsystem.com)](http://kansashealthsystem.com).

To learn more and request your FREE program materials please visit our website and complete the online request form: [www.kansashealthsystem.com/leadpoisonpatrol](http://www.kansashealthsystem.com/leadpoisonpatrol).

If you have any questions, please contact the education coordinator at 913-588-0152 or [poisoncenter@kumc.edu](mailto:poisoncenter@kumc.edu).

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please share with staff.

**2021 World Breastfeeding Week and National Breastfeeding Month**

August is National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week is the first week of the month (August 1-7). Both are annual celebrations of breastfeeding that encourage families, communities, and the world to support breastfeeding to improve the health of mothers and babies. Start making plans now, if you haven’t already, for how your clinic will be celebrating! This year’s theme for National Breastfeeding Month is *Every Step of the Way*. More information can be found on the [US Breastfeeding Coalition](http://usbreastfeedingcoalition.org) page. And the theme for World Breastfeeding Week is *Protect Breastfeeding: A Shared Responsibility* with more information available on the [World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action](http://worldallianceforbreastfeedingaction.org) page.
Additional resources from the SA for helping local agencies celebrate, promote, and support breastfeeding will be shared as they become available. Save the date for a Kansas WIC World Breastfeeding Week webinar on August 4th at 1:00. More details to come.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with all staff. For questions, contact Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov or 785-291-3161.

### World Breastfeeding Week MPR Video
For World Breastfeeding Week (August 1st-7th), the USDA Mountain Plains Regional Office would like to recognize and honor the great work being done across the region to promote and support breastfeeding among WIC families. They are asking for your help in submitting photos or short videos (less than a minute) of something you are proud of doing to promote/support breastfeeding. Some example might include: photos of breastfeeding billboards, WIC gardens, participants, breastfeeding rooms, mobile vans, BFPCs, staff or anything else you can think of that supports breastfeeding in WIC; or video clips recorded of BFPCs, participants, or staff. Submissions will be compiled into a video showcasing all of the wonderful work being done across the region! We would love to see lots of Kansas representation on the video, so please consider sharing!

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Please send photo and short video clip submissions to Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov by July 16th. If any of your submissions include WIC clients, please ask Emily for a media release form to send with the photo or video.

### New Breastfeeding Resource Available to Purchase/Discontinuation of Mother/Baby Log
A new resource, *Breastfeeding Your Newborn Baby*, from Nutrition Matters is available to order. This book was developed to support new mothers during their breastfeeding journey. The SA staff are planning to discontinue updating and printing the Mother/Baby Log, and this new booklet is intended to take that material’s place as a resource to provide to new and expectant parents. Since we are encouraging use of this new resource, the SA has added this title to the Handouts window in KWIC to select when it has been provided to a client. Please see the flyer provided at the end of this memo for more information on this resource. The Mother/Baby Log can still be ordered from the WIC Publications Order Form until the current supply is gone.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with applicable staff and order as needed as a resource to provide to new and expectant parents in support of their breastfeeding journey. For questions, contact Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov or 785-291-3161.

### Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Breastfeeding Initiation
The CDC’s [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr) from May 28, 2021 reported on the racial and ethnic disparities in breastfeeding initiation based on 2019 birth certificate data. Although rates of breastfeeding initiation have increased during the past decade, racial/ethnic disparities in breastfeeding persist. Birth certificate data indicate that the magnitude of racial/ethnic disparities in breastfeeding initiation varies across states as do the racial/ethnic groups corresponding to...
each state’s largest disparities. The good news is that gaps for Black and Hispanic breastfeeding initiation rates in Kansas are considerably less than for the US. However, efforts continue to be needed to close that gap even further and continue to increase breastfeeding initiation and reduce racial/ethnic disparities. Maternity care policies and practices supportive of breastfeeding and breastfeeding programs that target highest risk populations might help increase initiation, reduce disparities, and improve infant nutrition. CDC researchers found that the overall prevalence of breastfeeding initiation was 84.1% with variation by maternal race or ethnicity, from 90.3% among infants of Asian women to 73.6% among infants of Black women.

**ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with applicable staff. For questions, contact Emily Brinkman at emily.brinkman@ks.gov or (785)291-3161.

**KBC New Funding Opportunity for Aspiring Lactation Support Providers**
In alignment with the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition’s commitment to addressing racial disparities in breastfeeding, the KBC is pleased to announce a funding program to support aspiring Black, Indigenous, and Latinx lactation support providers. The purpose of this program is to increase the number of IBCLCs and other certified lactation support providers who share the background of families of color in Kansas and who understand the unique barriers that families of color experience in their breastfeeding journey. The KBC has committed $5,000 to this fund with a maximum individual award of $1,000. To be considered for funding, eligible applicants must meet the following requirements: self-identify as Black, Indigenous, or Latinx and; reside or support breastfeeding families in Wyandotte, Shawnee, Sedgwick counties, or Southwest Kansas (map of eligible counties).

The application and additional information can be found here. **ACTION REQUIRED:** Share with applicable staff.

**Southeast Kansas (SEK) Multi-County Health Department Seeking RD**
SEK is seeking an RD to cover Allen, Anderson and Woodson county WIC programs (approximately 28-38 hours/month depending on RD availability).

**ACTION REQUIRED:** For more information and to apply, please contact Becky Johnson at becky@sekmchd.com or 620-223-4464. Apply by 7/6/21.

**Educational Opportunities**
All educational opportunities are posted to the KS WIC Training Webpage and are updated monthly. See [Educational Opportunities – Updated July 2021](#).

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

**NEW!**
**First Nutrition Conference from Children’s Mercy**
1-Day Conference for Dietitians and Nutritionists

**September 15, 2021 8:15am-3:30pm**

**Helping Babies Grow: Through the NICU and Beyond**

Hosted by Children’s Mercy Nutrition Department, this one-day conference is designed for dietitians and nutritionists whose practice involves the care of preterm infants from NICU admission through outpatient toddler years. Regional experts will cover topics including:

- Probiotics in the NICU.
- The care and evaluation of the former preterm infant.
- Nutrition-focused physical exam for neonates.
- Bone health in infancy.
- And more!

Agenda and registration details coming soon!

**NEW!**

**September 1 – December 31, 2021** distance program University of Minnesota School of Public Health **2021 National Maternal Nutrition Intensive Course**

(There is also a virtual in-person webinar program scheduled for **July 29-30, 2021** and will be held online via Zoom Webinar. Registration for the virtual in-person webinar is open and is $25 per person. Group registration is also available.)

Registration for the distance program will open in July. For more information and registration details, please visit this [webpage](#).

**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:**

*Breastfeeding your Newborn Baby* booklet informational flyer
new breastfeeding book

New in 2020, use Breastfeeding Your Newborn Baby to support new mothers during their breastfeeding journey.

Breastfeeding Your Newborn Baby book
$3.25 per book, 8½” x 6” with 29 pages full color throughout
BF75BK (English) • BF75BKs (Spanish)
ISBN#978-1-942530-42-8
©2020 NutritionMatters, Inc.
quantity discounts available when ordering 100+ books

How to Order:
Place your order online:
www.numatters.com

Send us your order:
email:sales@numatters.com
call: 715-931-1822
fax: 715-855-0129
mail: 316 North Barstow Street, Suite 1
Eau Claire, WI 54709

Contact your sales representative - Lindsey to request a sample of the book and receive a quote!
Lindsey Carmis
lindsey@numatters.com
715-595-7124

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