

**WIC Advisory Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021      9:00 AM      Conference Call  
Facilitator – Shera Lyn Schwindt, Lyon County

**9:00 Welcome and Attendance (Facilitator).** *Thank you to Yolanda Erives (Seward County) for agreeing to take on the role of Representative for the Southwest region. Robin Hull (Haskell County) will be Alternate. Tracy Sabo will be Alternate for the North Central region. Patrice will see that the website list of members is updated.*

Region		Representative		Alternate
Southwest	x	Yolanda Erives (Seward)	x	Robin Hull (Haskell)
Northwest	o	Cheryl Goetz (Gove) At vac clinic	o	Amy Teeter (Gove) At vac clinic
South Central	x	Vicky Wiebe (Butler)	x	Elgica Ordonez (Barton)
North Central	x	Christy Rogers (Cloud, Clay)	x	Tracy Sabo (Konza Clinic, Junction City)
Southeast	x	Shera Lyn Schwindt (Lyon)	x	Vicki Brown (Linn)
Northeast	x	Ernestine (Mookie) Holmes (Wyandotte)	x	Ruth Forney (Doniphan)
LA NWA Rep	x	Trish Hight (Miami)		
State Staff	x	Patrice Thomsen	x	Dave Thomason
State Staff	x	Kelly Vickers	x	Amanda Owlsey
State Staff	x	Lisa Long	x	Randy Volz
State Staff	x	Emily Brinkman	x	Linda Speirs

**Minutes from the January 26, 2021 conference call** were approved by email and are posted to the [WIC Advisory page of the website](#).

**Spreadsheet with LA contacts by region** for use by WAC members was emailed to members with this agenda. Updated only annually – was current in early March. Patrice Thomsen

**National WIC Association Report** – Trish Hight. In the Mountain Plains Region Local Agency Rep call they spent considerable time talking about the temporary increase to \$35 for the Fruit-Vegetable Benefit related to the COVID 19 funding. Mookie asked about anything new related to the proposed extension of categories to 6-year-old children and non-breastfeeding women to 1 year PP. Trish’s group had not discussed but Dave pointed out that those are part of the proposals that NWA supports. Having hearings but is a long process to possibly be written into a bill, then passed into law, then into regulation. So not even written into a bill yet.

**Nutrition education survey planned for this summer.** Patrice Thomsen. Will be through the WIC Shopper App. Planned topics include general subjects of interest for more nutrition information. Other ideas for items that agencies would like to gather information about? Tracey suggested Nutrition for teen pregnancy, nutrition for twin pregnancy. These members volunteers to look at survey draft and comment: Christy, Tracy, Yolanda.

**Risk Factors change to ordering by number.** Patrice Thomsen. Thoughts after 1 week of having it go live in KWIC. (No new info about the upcoming nutrition assessment training except what has been in the I-Memo.) Tracy – No major problem – just have to pay more attention. Sheralyn: - Challenging at first but adapting.

**Internet/online Security Training by clinic staff** – Patrice Thomsen, Dave Thomason. WIC does not currently require any internet/online security training by local clinic staff. We'd like to collect information about what is being done through the local agencies outside of WIC requirements. Does your agency currently have a requirement that staff have to have annual training?

Yes – Tracy – Konza, Yes; , Bev – Barton, Yes; Sheralyn – Lyon (Flint Hills) “Know Before” and HIPAA; Mookie – Wyandotte, Annual for HIPAA and every 5 years for computer, responsible use of tech. (and all new employees); Yolanda – Seward – no annual training but their IT sends out link for training periodically; Vicky – Butler – Did have one this year, but unsure if it will be annual. Their IT sends security updates periodically.

**WIC Health Channel** – Dave Thomason. Seems like limited use by LA for various reasons. We decided to cancel the contract, but Film Ideas offered to give us use of the channel for free for the rest of FFY 2021. (thru 9/30/21.) Cost is about \$23,000 per year. We'll consider more but at present think we'll likely still not renew. Yolanda commented in Seward that they do play it in the waiting room, but “honestly nobody pays attention.”

**KWIC Update** – Dave Thomason

Soon there will be an update in KWIC for the annual updated income Guidelines. Website policy will also be updated. All agencies will be notified.

**Update from the State WIC Director – Covid-19 and other** -Dave Thomason

- COVID 19
  - Previous week the SA sent out an updated Q & A
  - Do we expect waivers to end soon? We do not anticipate expiration of waivers thru the end of the year. There are no requirements from the SA that mandate Local Agencies must provide remote services – follow local guidance and provide services as safely as possible.
  - What are WAC members doing now/planning?
    - Tracy – Konza clinic - Currently remote. As of mid-July, expects to see all in clinic unless are COVID-positive or especially high risk. Understand that Geary and Riley are currently remote.
    - Mookie. Wyandotte is currently remote.
    - Sheralyn – Lyon Currently majority remote. Planning to start In-person in June.
    - Yolanda – Seward, Since March 1, have been in office. Day before appt, when do the reminder call, screen on the phone and if have symptoms, will do remotely.
    - Ruth – Doniphan – Today – in -person
    - Christy – Cloud – Remote until most of the immunization clinics have slowed down because the immunization clinic is right next to WIC area.
  - Feedback on remote Management Evaluations? (None offered by committee members.)
  - \$35 FVB
    - Several members said clients are very happy. Tracy reported that Riley did a great video. Put on Facebook. Included the message to “Stay tuned for ways to use this extra food”. Would be good to collaborate across the state to get client ed resources.
    - Dave pointed out there would be an NWA toolkit
    - Christy – “How hard to had frozen f/v?” SA answer: Unfortunately – hard. A big job to get products, UPC, notifications, etc.
- SNAP in Kansas applied for a grant to match up SNAP and WIC records for outreach in early stages of pregnancy. Just received grant. Dave and Amanda Owsley are working with them.
- Local Agencies should be monitoring expenditures and let SA know if you will have a lot of money left.

### **Round Table Discussion –All.**

- Christy Rogers: When asked her region for agenda items,
  - Tracy Sabo said “Thank you to the State WIC Staff!”
  - An agency asked if the base food package could be cheese and yogurt instead of all milk. The SA decided to do this at the same time we changed to \$35 FVB. In the fall when we go back to the previous FBV amount, the cheese/yogurt will continue to be the base and not change back to all milk.
  - One of the LA had concerns about wanting more training for herself related to nutrition topics. The SA hopes that she is able to take advantage of the webinars and can reach out to her.
- Mookie: Have all the states in the country changed to eWIC? Per Dave all are working on it, but as of April, these are not fully implemented: Alabama, Georgia, New Jersey, Maine, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and some of the Indian Tribal Organizations.
- Yolanda – Could there be a choice between canned beans and dried beans at the store? Per Patrice – the SA would like to consider having a choice of all legumes at the store – peanut butter, canned and dried beans but we have not progressed in the discussion to get feedback from clients or LA staff. Tracy commented that she like the separate beans and peanut butter because it encouraged diversity – to try beans.
- Patrice: Should WAC change from conference call to Zoom? Some difference of opinion, but mostly didn’t care. Final decision to use Zoom so could have the option of sharing documents. Patrice will send new meeting invitations with Zoom info. (Remember if do not have camera, mic on computer, will still be able to just call by telephone.)

### **Reminder of Future Conference calls/Facilitators (Facilitator)**

All Tuesday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

- 7/27/2021 – Christy Rogers, Cloud/Clay
- 10/26/2021 – Vicky Wiebe, Butler
- 1/25/2022 – Mookie Holmes, Wyandotte

### **Adjourn (Facilitator)**