

**WIC Advisory Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, January 26, 2021

9:00 AM

Conference Call

Facilitator – Ladonna Reinert, Lincoln County



**9:00 Welcome and Attendance (Facilitator).** *Thank you to all the members, but especially to those departing from the committee.*

Region		Representative		Alternate
Southwest	X	Departing: Angie Nelson (Finney) New:	X	Departing: Tami Myers (Ford) New:
Northwest	O	Cheryl Goetz (Gove)	O	Amy Teeter (Gove)
South Central	X X	Departing: Meridith Gierhart (Sumner) New: Vicky Wiebe (Butler)	O O	Departing: Shannon Snyder (Stafford) New: Elgica Ordonez (Barton)
North Central	X X	Departing: Ladonna Reinert (Lincoln) New: Christy Rogers (Cloud, Clay)	O	Departing: Sheri Suelter (Lincoln) New:
Southeast	X	Shera Lyn Schwindt (Lyon)	X	Vicki Brown (Linn)
Northeast	X	Ernestine (Mookie) Holmes (Wyandotte)	O	Ruth Forney (Doniphan)
LA NWA Rep	X	Trish Hight (Miami)		
State Staff	X	Patrice Thomsen	X	Dave Thomason
State Staff	X	Emily Brinkman	X	Casey Florea
State Staff	X	Amanda Owsley	X	Lisa Medrow
State Staff	X	Ashley Waldo	X	Lisa Long
State Staff	X	Kelly Vickers		

**Minutes from the Oct. 27, 2020 conference call** were approved by email and are posted to the [WIC Advisory page of the website](#).

**Revision/Approval of Ground Rules.** See attached page after agenda. - Patrice Thomsen

**Determine 2021 WAC Meeting Dates and facilitators (and first meeting of 2022).** Patrice Thomsen

All Tuesday, 9:00 – 11:00 AM

- 4/27/2021 – Shera Lyn Schwindt, Lyon
- 7/27/2021 – Christy Rogers, Cloud/Clay
- 10/26/2021 – Vicky Wiebe, Butler
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**Spreadsheet with LA contacts by region** for use by WAC members. Updated only annually. Will be sent by the end of February by Patrice. Members can use if they have a reason to contact the agencies in their region.

**New Member Selection for Calendar Year 2021** - Patrice. Still missing new members. Agencies assigned to identify have struggled with COVID, staff turnover, etc. North Central - Alternate and Southwest – Representative and Alternate. Committee wants Patrice to recruit.

- *Special Note by Patrice – After the meeting, Tracy Sabo, Geary – Konza clinic has agreed to the Alternate for North-central. Still working on Southwest*

**National WIC Association Report** – Trish Hight. In November 2020, NWA hosted a virtual summit that included brainstorming “big ideas” for the future of WIC. These are some of those ideas that were gathered, then will be considered by the NWA board and staff as ideas to **possibly** include as priorities that they would share with USDA, Congress.

- More flexibility in providing services
- Discontinuing SNAP for children < 5 and WIC covering those services
- WIC “for all” including veterans
- Expand variety and types of foods
- Online shopping for WIC
- “Tiering” the program – some clients getting only certain services – like BF support and food package amounts tied to income.

**Shera Lyn Schwindt – Lyon provided these two questions.**

1. If a child has a Dr diagnosed allergy for both soy and dairy, what’s the alternative? What would be a good suggestion for these kids? In future maybe having a SIA from Dr could be appropriate? We are seeing increased allergies and sometimes take off all dairy.

Answer by Patrice: We are limited to dairy milk and soy milk (and subs for cheese, yogurt, tofu) by USDA, based on key nutrient components. It has been several years since the SA sent out something with nutrient comparisons. No state option for other non-dairy substitutes. If highly allergic, something like Elecare Jr could be issued with authorization. It may be that the industry is developing some products like Ripple milk that could be an alternative, but it is a slow process with USDA. Individuals might want to write letters.

Discussion by committee: Some kind of class developed for parents, including a handout about substitutes. Some parents will want to buy the non-dairy product themselves. Also would be a good training topic for staff. (It might be possible to find a suitable handout or create one. To do a lesson plan for parents is a great idea, but would have to go in a list of priorities.)

2. On occasion if there is an error when issuing benefits ie previously issued formula ie RTF instead of powder, or evaporated milk or tofu was issued/clicked on instead of milk? Could there be a possibility of a trigger message ie Are you sure you want this?

Answer by Patrice: The process for making changes in KWIC has a long lead time and involves collaborating with the other states in the consortium that uses the same system. For example, we now are finalizing items for the fall 2021 release and the spring 2022 release has been identified as mostly “big fixes”.

**Training Update**—Lisa Medrow (10 min.)

- **Webinars**

KS WIC has transitioned from GoToWebinar to Zoom. Soon you will no longer be able to access previous webinar recordings from GoToStage. All the recordings have been moved to the KS WIC website and you can access them along with all webinar handouts [here](#).

Next KS WIC Webinars:

**February 9, 2021 12-1pm** – KS WIC Webinar:

**New 2020-2025 DGAs: How They Were Developed and How They Relate to WIC**

[Register Now](#)

Webinar Description: Released in late December 2020, the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans include some key changes that WIC staff should know, including first-time ever

guidance for pregnant and breastfeeding women and infants and children under two. During this webinar you will also learn more about how the DGAs are developed.

Speaker: Chelsie Todd Deneault, MPH, RD, LD

**February 25, 2021 3-4pm – KS WIC Webinar: Determining Income**

[Register Now](#)

Webinar Description: Determining income for WIC eligibility can be one of the most challenging responsibilities there is in WIC! Learn the best practices when determining income and review some of those special circumstances you run across and how to handle them.

Speakers: Amanda Owsley and Dave Thomason

- **New Nutrition Assessment Training**

We are finalizing tools now for the new Nutrition Assessment process that will be based on a conversation with the client (using a new tool with suggested questions you can ask to identify risk factors) and not Diet Questionnaires. The Nutrition Assessment Committee originally thought we might want to wait to do any training until “later”, since many LAs are having to work on COVID-related activities right now and might be called upon to do even more with the vaccines. However, what do you think? Is it possible that “sooner” might be better since we have the USDA waivers in place and many of you are sort of free-styling your assessments now and aren’t using the Diet Questionnaires anymore anyway? Could this be a good time to sort of “practice” the skill that we won’t make mandatory until after the waivers expire? Or, is it simply too much to think about anything new right now? Please be prepared to share your thoughts at the meeting (and feel free to ask your colleagues what they think, too!).

Feedback from committee members – Love the idea of getting rid of the diet questionnaires. Consensus that “soon” would be a good time to start because will be so useful with remote appointments, even if it takes some time training and time in appointments getting used to the new method. Especially since the plan includes a long implementation time so some clinics could put off for a while because of COVID.

**KWIC Update** – Dave Thomason. CQuest contract is ending in June 2022. Open to CQuest and other companies to apply. Planning for changes is even more specific during this time to allow for a contract transition if another company is awarded the contract. Next releases – Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022 (mostly bug fixes)

Dave asked if there are any major issues related to:

KWIC: Christy R suggested a change that if baby stopped breastfeeding and mom was in the BF Peer Counselor services that there would be a link to remove them. Dave suggested Emily and Casey talk to Christy for details and then send to him.

WIC Shopper App – no comments

WIChealth.org – no comments

WIC Health Channel – We are considering if we should renew the contract – any comments about current use? Christy Rogers says they tried to use but streaming in their clinic building was unsatisfactory. Suggestion to perhaps do a Survey Monkey survey to get broad feedback.

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

The SA hosted a Zoom call with Coordinators January 12 and will have calls again in the future.

Those calls are not intended to replace WAC, but an opportunity for coordinators to tell SA staff about circumstances and share ideas for solving problems.

Reminder if WIC staff are helping with vaccinations that staff time should not be charged to WIC.

**Round Table Discussion –All.**

- Mookie Holmes -  
Does Dave think we will be back in offices by May? Answer – Unsure. It is likely that the emergency order to be extended at least one more time. Even now, some are doing “hybrid” with some remote and some on-site services. So, it will depend on the COVID situation in each county.
- Vicky Wiebe – how amount for peanut butter and canned beans displays on the benefits list is confusing to clients. A suggestion was made to make it clearer. Dave asked her to email specifics to him.
- Dave – Work is proceeding for an online, mobile “preapplication” for Kansas WIC. It will not be released for some time. In our Consortium, New Hampshire is piloting so Kansas is waiting for a while longer to implement the application.

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

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**Adjourn (Facilitator)**

# WIC Advisory Committee

## Ground Rules

The purpose of the WIC Advisory Committee is to provide the State Agency with Local Agency and client input and recommendations on proposed, new, or revised policies and procedures. Questions about policy and procedure implementation should be directed to the State Agency, rather than to the WAC (ADM 09.00.00).

In order to maintain good order, we agree to the following ground rules:

- Be on time and actively participate in meetings
- Establish and adhere to meeting time frames
- Listen and respect opinions and ideas of others
- No side conversations, only 1 person speaks at a time
- Provide honest and open feedback--All comments, questions and ideas are valuable
- Maintain confidentiality
- Speak for your region, participants or the group you represent
- Keep discussions focused on the issue presented
- Disagreements are expected, but dealt with in the meeting
- Support decisions of the group once made
- As much as possible, submit items for the agenda rather than waiting to bring up in the Round Table.
- As indicated in policy ADM 09.00.00, the meeting may be cancelled if there are no agenda items submitted by 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled date.
- Be sure phones are muted. (If no Mute button, use Mute \*69 and Unmute #69.)
- Have Fun.

Revised 1/2021