

**WIC Advisory Committee Notes**

Tuesday, April 28, 2020      9:00 AM      Conference Call  
Facilitator – Meridith Gierhart - Sumner County

**9:00 Welcome and Attendance (Facilitator).**

Region		Representative		Alternate
Southwest	X	Angie Nelson (Finney)	X	Tami Myers (Ford)
Northwest	0	Cheryl Goetz (Gove)	X	Amy Teeter (Gove)
South Central	X	Meridith Gierhart (Sumner)	0	Shannon Snyder (Stafford)
North Central	0	Ladonna Reinert (Lincoln)	X	Sheri Suelter (Lincoln)
Southeast	X	Shera Lyn Schwindt (Lyon)	X	Vicki Brown (Linn)
Northeast	X	Ernestine (Mookie) Holmes (Wyandotte)	0	Ruth Forney (Doniphan)
LA NWA Rep	X	Trish Hight (Miami)		
State Staff	X	David Thomason	X	Julie Norman
State Staff	X	Lisa Medrow	0	Randy Volz
State Staff	X	Lisa Long	X	Patrice Thomsen
State Staff	X	Amber Pelan	X	Amanda Gerber
State Staff	X	Ashley Waldo	X	Kelly Vickers

**Minutes from the January 28, 2020 conference call** were approved by email and are posted to the [WIC Advisory page of the website](#).

**National WIC Association Report** – Trish Hight.

NWA calls have discussed:

- Mission
- The Hub (used for sharing resources)
- Public Charge
- Recruitment & Retention Campaign (e.g. WIC will come up first when searching “nutrition”; helping with WIC calendar)
- COVID-19 response (most states’ local agencies are doing remote with office closed, or from home; Indian population has been difficult to reach as many have old flip phones or change numbers; some states still have paper checks; some states can’t load benefits remotely so they have been doing a “drive-through” to load; establishing receiving breast pump guidelines; helping connect clients with other food delivery programs; states are reporting increased number of WIC certifications and increase in caseload)

**USDA Management Evaluation – Nutrition Services.** Patrice Thomsen. Completed by the Mountain Plains Regional Office Staff in January 2020. We have received the report and are starting to work on responses for corrective actions to better meet federal guidance and improve nutrition services in Kansas. We expect to have a recorded webinar on KS-TRAIN as our primary training tool. This will be several months in coming, after we develop our action plans and have them approved. One item relates to having a statewide policy about testing and calibrating scales. If your agency has such a procedure, could you send it to Patrice at [Patrice.thomsen@ks.gov](mailto:Patrice.thomsen@ks.gov) or if not a formal procedure, we would still appreciate any description of your health department’s regular testing and/or calibration of scales, including who provides the service, and cost, if available.

**Response:** Meridith will send info about scale testing from Harvey County.

### KS WIC Webinars—Lisa Medrow

All recordings can be viewed on [GoToStage](#)

Upcoming Webinar topics

- **How and When to Report Child Abuse**  
Thursday, April 30, 2020 8:30-9:30am CST [Register Now](#)
  
- **Families, Places, and Food Insecurity in Households with Young Children**  
Wednesday, May 13, 2020 12-1pm CST [Register Now](#)
  
- **Iron Deficiency**  
Thursday, June 18, 2020 12-1pm CST [Register Now](#)

### Motivational Interviewing for WIC—Lisa Medrow

Online 11 week (or month) program by Molly Kellogg, RD, LCSW. Information was in the February I-Memo and is on the Training webpage. Free to all WIC staff. Has anyone started this yet, or have plans to start? Any feedback?

**Response:** None from WAC members. Patrice encouraged staff keep this on their radar and we'll do more promoting. To State staff, it seems a great opportunity for development and clinic improvement, so we encourage staff to investigate and complete, but we don't intend to make it required training.

### Nutrition Assessment Committee-Lisa Medrow

The Nutrition Assessment Committee was formed and due to COVID-19, had to delay first meeting until June 1, 2020.

### New WIC Coordinator Training Committee-Lisa Medrow

We have several volunteers to be part of a committee to develop a New WIC Coordinator Training/Mentorship. Due to the current circumstances, our first meeting has not been scheduled yet. This committee will help guide the development of this new program, but we will need many, many experts to help develop and review training modules, for example. If you are not on the committee but would be willing to help with small projects like those, please let me know. [Lisa.medrow@ks.gov](mailto:Lisa.medrow@ks.gov). It may be too much work for just a few to handle and it's always good to have more eyes on training modules, etc.

**Mid-certification rescheduling** — Patrice Thomsen. [CRT 03.04.00 Mid-certification Appointments](#). Current policy about rescheduling is: "WIC benefits shall not be denied if the mid-certification appointment is missed. If a mid-certification appointment is missed, it must be rescheduled at least once." Do any of your agencies reschedule more? Remember originally these clients only had a 6-month certification period. Now they are allowed to have a one-year cert period. The regulatory principle is "Quality of care must not diminish for clients certified for longer than six months". Do staff have a feel for how many clients never get a mid-cert because they have missed twice so the clinic makes the next appointment as an NE+, NEI, RD so we don't get anthropometrics, hgb for several more months?

**Response:** Mookie – Wyandotte doesn't have a formal policy but might reschedule more than once, it depends. Expressed ideas about same pros and cons the SA has considered – if reschedule too often, gets confusing with care plan (flow sheet). Some moms really want I/C weights, etc, others not, etc. Meridith – Harvey and Sumner do not have a formal policy but more often than not, likely do reschedule more than one time. Nobody had strong feelings that current policy was insufficient.

**KWIC Update** – Dave Thomason. Client Services version 4.3 release will be late Friday, May 1 for use Monday, May 4. Mass email with Release notes, Known Issues and short webinar sent Monday,

April 27. Time frame for releases means that staff have already identified changes for the 4.4 release, which should be fall of 2020.

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

Thank you for all you have been doing! As you know, we have waivers in place through May 31, 2020. We anticipate those to be extended but have not heard from USDA yet. There will likely be a phase-in for KDHE staff to return to office (probably not WIC yet—staff will continue working from home). Recent staff changes include Ashley Warren has left to another position with the state, leaving a vacancy we will fill. Janna Gunckle has also left to another position with the state, and our own Ashley Waldo has since filled that position. You'll see more about that in the April I-Memo.

**Round Table Discussion** –All.

Have agencies done any outreach, especially to attract brand-new-to-WIC applicants? Are agencies in a position that they have any time to do outreach? Reminder about National WIC Association resources including social media.

**Response:** Some have done social media, newspaper, radio (free PSA opportunity). Linn county is going to be putting outreach notes in the lunch bags that the school district is distributing.

**Reminder of Future Conference calls/Facilitators** (Facilitator) Time is 9:00 – 11:00 AM

- July 28, 2020, Cheryl Goetz
- October 27, 2020, Mookie Holmes
- January 26, 2021, Ladonna Reinert (Change-over mtg for departing and new members.)

**Adjourn** (Facilitator)