

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS)
SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAMS DIVISION (SFPD)**

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MATERNAL,
INFANT AND FETAL NUTRITION
July 23 -25, 2013
MEETING MINUTES**

The National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition (Council) met at the Virginian Suites, 1500 Arlington Boulevard, 3rd Floor, Arlington, Virginia, on July 23-25, 2013. This public meeting, announced in the Federal Register on June 17, 2013, was called to order by Debra R. Whitford, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Council Members in attendance include: Chairperson Stan Bien, Vice Chairperson Grace Chang, Margaret Murphy, Sheri Hatten, Julie Reid, Donna Speed, Suzette Daly, Melinda Jossefides, Keva Zeigler, Leticia Martinez, Kathy Sweidel-Caton, Katurah Bryant, Michael Lu, Michelle Lawler and Debra Whitford.

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

Welcome/Opening Remarks/Introductions/Overview of the Meeting

Debra Whitford, Division Director, SFPD, welcomed members and opened the meeting by introducing herself, recognizing Food, Nutrition and Consumer Service Under Secretary Kevin Concannon, Diane Kriviski, Acting Associate Administrator, Special Nutrition Programs, Council Chairperson Stan Bien and Vice Chairperson Grace Chang. Council members were asked to introduce themselves and mention their affiliations.

Ms. Whitford then introduced Ms. Kriviski. Ms. Kriviski introduced Under Secretary Concannon. Mr. Concannon welcomed everyone, thanked the Council members and spoke about the importance of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). The meeting was then turned over to Ms. Whitford, who introduced Council Chairperson Stan Bien.

Mr. Bien advised the Council Members about their roles on the Council and reviewed the meeting agenda.

WIC Program Updates

Ms. Whitford provided an update for the *Actions Taken* on the 2011 Council recommendations for both WIC and CSFP. Ms. Whitford informed the Council that over the next 2 days they

would receive detailed updates from the Branch Chiefs in the areas of policy, technology & electronic benefit transfer (EBT), nutrition services & breastfeeding, and funding for the WIC Program, as well as an update from CSFP. Ms. Whitford alerted the Council to two areas of increased emphasis for WIC, program integrity and cost containment. Ms. Whitford also highlighted WIC's coordination efforts with government partners and other organizations.

WIC Funding

Joan Carroll, Branch Chief, Funding, Reporting, Analysis & Monitoring Branch, SFPD, provided an overview of WIC funding. Ms. Carroll explained the WIC funding process beginning with WIC receiving an appropriation from Congress. Ms. Carroll discussed the impact for WIC as a discretionary program and how it must compete for funds. Ms. Carroll explained how funding is allocated under a continuing resolution.

Ms. Carroll explained the Nutrition Services and Administration funding formula and announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Appropriation is \$6,522,246.02 (after 2.513% & 0.2% rescission & 5% sequester). Ms. Carroll reviewed the FY 2014 President's Budget Request and FY 2014 House Mark for WIC funding.

WIC Policy Updates

Donna Hines, Chief, Policy Branch, provided an overview of policy updates. Ms. Hines spoke about the emphasis on program integrity and the two major efforts that were completed in this area: Office of Inspector General Vendor Audit and Government Accountability Office Income Eligibility Survey. Ms. Hines announced that Management Evaluations of vendor area for all States will be completed by end of FY 2014. Additionally, several studies related to WIC Vendor Management are in progress or planned.

In other policy areas, Ms. Hines announced that WIC Policy Memorandum 2013-3 was issued to all WIC State agencies on April 24, 2013, on income eligibility guidance. The guidance represents the first chapter of what will eventually be a *Certification/Eligibility Handbook*. The guidance has also been posted to the FNS public website. Additionally, FNS has partnered with Federal Emergency Management Agency to develop a fact sheet on WIC's role during a disaster.

Ms. Hines discussed the work of the WIC Risk Identification and Selection Collaborative (RISC), a standing workgroup jointly filled by FNS and National WIC Association (NWA) representatives, that develops and revises science-based WIC nutrition risk criteria. As part of this summer's RISC issuance, FNS will be issuing an updated risk criteria (#361 Depression) and guidance on WIC's role in addressing maternal depression and women at risk of depression.

FNS plans to host a series of webinars for WIC State and local agencies on Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA)-related topics beginning the fall of 2013, in order to revitalize VENA at the clinic level.

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

National Studies and Initiatives Updates

Jay Hirschman, Director, Special Nutrition Research and Analysis Division and Dr. Melissa Abelev, Evaluation Branch Chief, Office of Policy Support provided an overview on national studies about WIC and announced that the WIC Research Agenda is on the public FNS website.

WIC Technology & Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT)

Jerilyn Malliet, Chief, State Technology Branch provided an overview on WIC technology and EBT and the funding climate for technology. Although currently there is no targeted funding for EBT and MIS, FNS and State agencies must still meet the October 2020 mandate for nationwide EBT. Ms. Malliet gave an update on the status of the State Agency Model Projects (SAM).

Ms. Malliet provided updates on the other Management Information Systems (MIS) projects that State agencies are transferring other than the SAMs. At least 15 State agency projects are in the implementation phase.

Ms. Malliet reported that the public comments received on the proposed rule implementing the EBT-related provisions from the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 are being analyzed now. FNS continues to monitor and provide assistance to State agencies in the efforts to implement EBT nationwide and is actively exploring ways to streamline the review and approval processes for EBT projects.

Nutrition Services Update

Anne Bartholomew, Chief, Nutrition Services Branch provided an overview of the Nutrition Services Branch. Ms. Bartholomew announced that several participant publications were updated and a new one created, all of which can be downloaded from the WIC Works Resource System:

- “Tips for Pregnant Moms” and “Tips for Breastfeeding Moms” have been updated to reflect the 2010 DGA, the recent weight gain in pregnancy guidelines and the 2008 Physical Activity guidelines for pregnant and postpartum women. These are available in English and Spanish.
- The two Preschoolers Tip Sheets: “Healthy Tips for Picky Eaters” and “Healthy Tips for Active Play” have been updated. These are available in English and Spanish.
- A new tip sheet, “Healthy Eating for Preschoolers” has been added and it includes a daily food plan for 2 to 5 year olds. This is available in English and Spanish.

Additionally, we are in the process of updating our outreach publication, “How WIC Helps,” to reflect the 2010 DGAs and to make it more visually appealing. This publication will be available the Fall 2013.

Ms. Bartholomew announced the completion of the newly revised WIC Nutrition Service Standards (NSS). NSS is a set of standards that describe quality nutrition services within a WIC Program and identify a level of quality which all State and local WIC agencies can achieve. The

NSS serve as a continuous quality improvement tool for both State and local agencies to self-assess how well their WIC Programs deliver a wide range of nutrition services and subsequently determine how to make improvements in processes to achieve the desired outcome: delivering high quality nutrition services.

Additionally, the substance use prevention resource for local WIC staff, *Providing Drug Abuse Information and Referrals in the WIC Program: A Local Agency Resource Manual*, is under revision and expected to be completed late 2013.

Ms. Bartholomew provided an update on *Loving Support Makes Breastfeeding Work*, USDA's national breastfeeding promotion campaign that forms the foundation of our breastfeeding promotion and support activities, the Loving Support Award of Excellence program and the WIC Peer Counseling Program.

Ms. Bartholomew provided a status of the Final Rule to Revise WIC Food Packages. The comment period for interim rule ended February 1, 2010. FNS received approximately 8,000 public comments. Comments can be viewed at: www.reggs.gov.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Michelle Waters, Program Analyst, Food Distribution Division (FDD) and Erica Antonson, Program Analyst, FDD provided an overview on CSFP participant's categories and food packages.

They provided an update on the tentative 2013 caseload and administrative grants to States, under the short-term Continuing Resolution, and the impact of the FY 2013 Full-year Continuing Resolution (\$181.873 million, after two across-the-board rescissions) on caseload.

Thursday, July 25, 2013

Elections for Vice Chairperson

The Council elected Melinda Jossefides as the Vice-Chairperson. Ms. Jossefides will assume these duties at the 2014 Council meeting.

Logistics & Wrap-up

Ms. Whitford thanked the Council for a very productive meeting and presented Mr. Stan Bien, Ms. Margaret Murphy, Ms. Sheri Hatten, Ms. Suzette Daly and Ms. Leticia Martinez with certificates of appreciation for their tenures on the Council.

The Council discussed their draft recommendations and cover letter, including a timeline for when the recommendations would be final and mailed.

Adjournment

Ms. Whitford and Mr. Bien adjourned the meeting.

**Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)
Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD)**



**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON
MATERNAL, INFANT AND FETAL NUTRITION
July 23 - 25, 2013
The Virginian Suites
3rd Floor Conference Room
1500 Arlington Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209**

Mission: To study the operation of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and related programs such as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) to determine how they may be improved.

Agenda

Tuesday, July 23, 2013

9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions	Debra Whitford Director Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD)
		Diane Kriviski Acting Associate Administrator Special Nutrition Programs
	Opening Remarks	Kevin Concannon Under Secretary Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services
	Council Role & Agenda Overview	Stan Bien Council Chairperson
10:00 a.m.	WIC Program Update	Debra Whitford
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	Council Discussion on WIC Update	
11:45 a.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	WIC Funding	Joan Carroll, Chief

Funding, Reporting, Analysis & Monitoring
Branch

- 1:30 p.m. *Council Discussion on WIC Funding*
- 2:30 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. WIC Policy Update
- 3:15 p.m. Council Discussion on WIC Policy
- 4:15 p.m. *Day One Wrap-up, Council Deliberations*
- 5:00 p.m. *Adjournment*

Donna Hines, Chief
Policy Branch

Wednesday, July 24, 2013

- 9:00 a.m. National Studies and Initiatives
Update
- 10:00 a.m. Council Discussion on Studies
Update
- 10:30 a.m. *Break*
- 10:45 a.m. WIC Technology & EBT Update
- 11:15 a.m. Council Discussion on Technology
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:30 p.m. Nutrition Services Update
- 2:00 p.m. Council Discussion on Nutrition
Services
- 3:00 p.m. Break

Jay Hirschman
Director
Special Nutrition Staff
Office of Policy Support

Jerilyn Malliet, Chief
State Technology Branch

Anne Bartholomew, Chief
Nutrition Services Branch



3:15 p.m. CSFP Update

Michelle Waters and Erica Antonson
Food Distribution Division

3:45 p.m. Council Discussion on CSFP

4:15 p.m. Day Two Wrap-up

5:00 p.m. *Adjournment*

Thursday, July 25, 2013

9:00 a.m. Travel Voucher Preparation

Robin Young
Nutrition Services Branch

9:30 a.m. Election for Vice Chairperson

10:00 a.m. Logistics & Wrap-up

Debra Whitford & Stan Bien

11:30 a.m. Closing Remarks

Debra Whitford & Stan Bien

12:00 p.m. Adjournment

Debra Whitford

