



Oregon Vendor Advisory Council Meeting

July 28, 2016 10 a.m. – Noon
800 NE Oregon St, Room 1E
Portland, OR 97232

Attendees:

In Person:

Roth's IGA - Tina Olsen

La Tapatia – Silvia Flores and Brenda Alvarez

Oregon WIC Program – Colette LaDue, Jazette Johnson, Michelle Aarhus (facilitator), Sara Sloan, Pi Winslow, Diana Garcia, Maria Menor

By Phone:

Wal-Mart Inc. - Pauline Lasister, Jeffery Magness

New Seasons Market – Anne Valentino, Ben Brill

NW Grocery Assoc. – Sandra Wilken

Target – Mark Schwarze

Albertson's – Shauna Bruel, Kelly Lay, Todd Winer

Fred Meyer Inc. – London Gragert

Kroger Inc. – Brian Urbahns

Logan's Market – Denise Palmer

Walgreens – Jennifer Sutherland

Minutes

Agenda Items	Outcome	Action Items
Review minutes and agenda	Reviewed Agenda and last VAC meeting minutes. Oregon is now all eWIC. No more paper vouchers!	
WIC Caseload Update	Caseload has increased by 1500 participants in the past year. Several things have contributed to this increase including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- A nationwide campaign to promote WIC.- Extending WIC certifications from 6 months to 1 year.- Use of the eWIC shopper app. Positive reviews were shared regarding the eWIC Shopper app.	

	<p>The eWIC shopper app can be found on our website at: https://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyPeopleFamilies/wic/Pages/shopping.aspx</p> <p>It is free to download to any smartphone.</p> <p>WIC is in the process of developing new features for the app, and will be increasing the variety of WIC foods allowed in October 2016.</p> <p>Oregon WIC is also soliciting vendors to share their stories about participating in the WIC program. Please send any stores you would like to share to WIC.vendorservices@state.or.us</p>	
<p>New Food List coming 10/1/2016</p>	<p>Diana reviewed a list of the new foods being added to the Oregon WIC authorized Food List on 10/1/16.</p> <p>Minimum stock requirements for Oregon WIC vendors will be affected by these changes.</p> <p>We will need help from vendors to collect UPCs for new items, and Michelle A. is looking into the possibility of creating a list of UPCs just for the new foods that will be added for vendors.</p> <p>Cage-free eggs will be considered at the next food review.</p> <p>Regional trainings for Oregon WIC vendors will start in October.</p> <p>The vendor team will be creating a short training video to help stores with the new foods being allowed. It will be available on our WIC vendor website.</p>	
<p>New Store Authorization Process</p>	<p>There is a new authorization process for vendors who want to apply for WIC.</p> <p>The application review can take up to 30 days to complete.</p> <p>The X9 number that is assigned to every Oregon WIC vendor is very important to ensure the right equipment and connections are supported to make the eWIC system operate in a store.</p> <p>Chain stores suggested to email the manager of the store, and the corporate office with the X9 number information as soon as possible, so the proper equipment can be tested and certified.</p> <p>WIC trainers will call the store to see if their system is eWIC ready before visiting the store for an on-site visit.</p>	

<p>eWIC feedback and troubleshooting</p>	<p>The statewide transition to the eWIC card went smoother than expected.</p> <p>Some feedback from participants about the transaction at the check stand include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Checker made me pay for items that WIC did not cover.” Please do not make the shopper pay for items not covered by WIC. Offer them the option to take the item off the order altogether if need be. - “I never received my mid transaction receipt (proposed WIC redemption).” This is a very important step during the transaction. Ensuring the shopper is able to view what items are being taken off their eWIC card will avoid confusion down the line. <p>The WIC trainers will be focusing on helping vendors troubleshoot at the check stand during the regional vendor trainings.</p> <p>Michelle A. is currently working on a troubleshooting tool to share with stores.</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Regional vendor trainings</p>	<p>Regional vendor trainings will start in October. Although only some stores are mandated to go to training this year, every store is encouraged to attend.</p> <p>Educational eWIC visits will also happen in stores across the state.</p> <p>Our vendor website has been updated with the new eWIC vendor training tools including the new eWIC Vendor Guide.</p> <p>We also have a new lane sign that stores can use at the check stand that asks shoppers to separate their WIC items from their other groceries, since some integrated stores require that step.</p>	
<p>Q & A</p>	<p>Denise from Logan’s Market – Has odd message on eWIC receipt re: Similiac Advance and Alimentum formula. Please consult with your IT customer service.</p> <p>Todd Winer from Albertsons – When will the new UPCs be added to the APL? Answer: On October 1. When will the new Food List be available? Answer: By mid-September. We will also have an electronic version that you may download and print out from our website earlier than that.</p> <p>Maria Menor from Oregon WIC Program – Since yogurt will be a standard food package item, we will be adding that to our minimum stock requirements. Whole grains will also change. Vendors asked we share the minimum stock requirements with them as soon as possible so they have time to comply.</p>	

The next Vendor Advisory Council Meeting is Thursday, October 27th at 10 am in room 1 C.