

**WWA Board MEETING MINUTES**

**Wisconsin WIC Association**

**MEETING:**

WWA Monthly Meeting- March 21  
Thu, Mar 18, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CDT)

**Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/535285469>

**You can also dial in using your phone.**

United States (Toll Free): [1 866 899 4679](tel:18668994679)

United States: [+1 \(571\) 317-3116](tel:+15713173116)

**Access Code:** 535-285-469

New to GoToMeeting? Get the app now and be ready when your first meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/535285469>

**PURPOSE:** March 2021 monthly meeting

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>Start Time:</b>	<b>End Time:</b>
3/18/2021	Teleconference	12:00PM	1:00 PM
<b>Facilitator/Lead:</b>	Elisabeth Pohle	<b>Minutes Prepared by:</b>	Gabriela Mucha

**ATTENDEES (checked in attendance)**

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aryn DeGrave                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Camen Haessig                  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gabriela Mucha | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suzanne Polacek |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ellen Ellingsworth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kristina Ingrouille | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sarah Nix      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elisabeth Pohle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angela Ellis                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Kara Kerrigan                  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Shawn Handfelt             |

<b>Items/Actions to Be Approved</b>	<b>Outcome/Notes</b>	<b>Action Items &amp; Person Responsible</b>
<u>Approval of Meeting Minutes</u> (Gabiella) ▪ Last meeting: January 2021	Passing of meeting minutes: • Suzanne 1 <sup>st</sup> motion • Kristina 2 <sup>nd</sup> motion	<b>Elizabeth</b> will create new folder for 2021 minutes. <b>Gabriela</b> will post January minutes in wicshare.
<u>Treasurer's Report</u> (Ellen/Kristina)	Pay Pal: \$187.13 Business savings account: \$33, 476.69 Business debit account: \$3,454.95	
<b>Committee Reports:</b>		
<u>Finance</u> (Ellen)	<b>Membership:</b> 2 checks need to be added to the spreadsheet 2 needs to be added from last week.	<b>Ellen</b> will add 2 checks to the spreadsheet in wicshare.
<u>Membership</u> (Kara- not in attendance; Elisabeth will report out) • Membership Drive 2021 • Discussion: we need to establish a permanent person to be the liaison between WWA and the State WIC Director • Establishment of an actual position; "WWA State Director Liaison" • Will this be combined with another position?	<b>Membership Drive 2021</b> comparing with previous years WWA always has higher membership rates in odd years due to bi-annual WWA conference. Historically, same 3 to 4 projects every year never paid their membership. Membership drive officially ends March 31 <sup>st</sup> , but payments will be accepted afterwards. Regional Representatives did more outreach this year to the members of their region. Ellen is going great keeping membership log up to date. WWA is looking forward on getting information from the survey to find out why projects never joined. <b>Permanent person to be the liaison between WWA</b> Kristina is in frequent contact with state office and she is willing to be WWA State Director Liaison, since she is already doing lot of the communication with SWO.	<b>Kara</b> will send out membership survey to regional representatives to personally invite projects in their region who did not pay membership to respond to the survey to find out why they are not members. <b>Regional Representatives:</b> will forward survey from

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nomination for someone to keep this position for 2021</li> </ul>	<p>Motion was past to made to make Kristina “<b>WWA State Director Liaison</b>”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Angela 1<sup>st</sup> motion</li> <li>Suzanne 2<sup>nd</sup> motion</li> </ul>	<p>Kara to projects in their region who are not members.</p>
<p><u>Professional Development (Kristina)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2021 Conference updates</li> </ul>	<p><b>2021 Conference updates</b> (Kristina)  <b>Conference Dates: 10/27/21 and 10/28/21</b>  Meeting on 3/16/21 SWO and Fit Families.  <b>10/27:</b> 6 hour training with Ellyn Satter, 2 different dietitians will present 4 series. Zoom will be use as main platform and since we are switching to zoom it would be huge cost saving. Working on how to apply and have CPE approved by CDR  <b>10/28:</b> looking for speakers, ½ day or full day. Fit families will need 2 hours discussion for second day. WWA need annual association lunch hour. Fit families would stay on, brake out session and training, figuring out details. Cultural humility versus culturally competency, looking at speakers. Would like to tie CPE information with WIC and what we do on daily basis. How we can use information presented and apply knowledge to our daily practice? Brain from NWA responded right the way and was eager to be the speaker 2<sup>nd</sup> day in the morning. He would like to be the voice at national level and was asking what topics we would like covered, policy changes/future in WIC, etc. FIT families, 2<sup>nd</sup> day speakers. Save the date will be in FMR next week. More details about conference coming stay tuned!</p>	<p><b>Kristina</b> will post Professional Development Committee notes on wicshare so people can review.  <b>Kristina</b> will post save the date for the conference in FMR</p>
<p><u>Advocacy (Elisabeth)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NWA Leadership Academy Scholarship</li> <li>Recap: NWA National Policy Conference (Elisabeth and Sarah)</li> <li>Advocacy Week 2021: April 12-16<sup>th</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>NWA Leadership Academy Scholarship</b> Recipient: Annika Crossley from Dodge County project 67 was notified and is all set to go with the academy.  <b>Recap: NWA National Policy Conference</b>  <b>Sarah:</b> Lot of policies were covered, increasing value of WIC food package, have more culturally appropriate food items, expand variety, individual tailoring of WIC packages, online shopping, curb site pick up, shopping in rural settings, etc. <i>American Rescue Plan</i> was passed: 4 months increase to 35\$ for fresh frt/veg for women and children.  <b>Elisabeth:</b> had 8 or 9 meetings scheduled with staffers, meetings went well for most part. Some staffers already aware what is WIC, some were asking for WIC overview. Great discussion, follow up information to send them to keep them updated. They were asking about participation and redemption rates. Lot of discussion with Gwen Moore about sharp decrease in lead testing in Milwaukee county. WIC is not testing and MD offices are not testing either, huge decline in lead testing in children due to COVID-19. Pocken and Baldwin are big supports of WIC. Future of NWA conferences, benefit of in person but huge cost benefit not having to pay for travel/logging meals.  <u>WIC Act was reintroduced to both Congressional chambers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend <a href="#">child eligibility</a> to age six or the beginning of kindergarten, ensuring that children do not fall into nutrition gaps</li> <li>Extend <a href="#">postpartum eligibility</a> to two years providing crucial nutrition support in the inter-pregnancy period for WIC mothers.</li> <li>Extend <a href="#">infant certification</a> periods to two years, removing paperwork requirements at a time of transition for infant's diet.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Elisabeth</b> will send more updates about advocacy week via email later on.</p>

	<p><b>Advocacy Week 2021: April 12-16<sup>th</sup></b> No updates right now, city of Milwaukee Health Department has been very short staffed and Elizabeth did not have time to work on it.</p>	
<p><u>Communication (Aryn/ Gabriela)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Website (Ellen)</li> <li>• Spring Newsletter (Elizabeth)</li> <li>• Facebook(All)</li> <li>• Zoom vs Go to Meeting (Ellen)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Website</b> (Ellen) is up to date.</p> <p><b>Spring Newsletter</b> (Elizabeth) would like newsletter to go out before advocacy week. Elizabeth will include summary about NWA National Policy conference, WIC shopping peers, membership updates, WWA conference save the date.</p> <p><b>Facebook</b> has some post from 2021 NWA National Policy Conference</p> <p><b>Zoom vs Go to Meeting</b> (Ellen)</p> <p><b>Zoom</b>-annual fee \$149.90 for basic account, they have options and possibility of add on features for bigger webinars and conferences if needed for 1 to 2 months or additional payment, not necessary to do more advanced account if we will not use it and it would be more expensive. Ellen is willing to get amount set up and we will be ready to go with zoom for our next meeting. Elizabeth made motion to switching from go to meeting to zoom:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah 1<sup>st</sup> motion</li> <li>• Ellen 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Elizabeth</b> will work on spring newsletter</p> <p><b>All:</b> Let Elizabeth know if you have any other ideas about what to post in Spring newsletter.</p> <p><b>All:</b> Review spring Newsletter before it is posted to FMR and give feedback to Elizabeth.</p> <p><b>Ellen</b> will cancel <i>go to meeting</i> which is payed monthly and set up WWA account for zoom so we would have.</p>
<p><b>WALHDAB (Gabiella)</b> (Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards)</p>	<p>No new updates this month.</p>	
<p><b>LACC/NWA (Sarah/ Angela E.)</b> (Local Agencies Communication Committee)</p>	<p><b>Sarah</b> More people on the call this month. Lot of talk about American Rescue plan passing. Is WI set up ready to go to implement? Implementing most likely will occur later since states want to keep issuance for four straight months for example Jun/July/Sep/Oct. Instead of increasing and decreasing value for fresh frt/veg. Would this included increase in frt/veg for 9-month packages? Not sure.</p> <p>From Ohio – class action lawsuits against WIC, due to heavy metals in baby food. Since it is offered by WIC, we are indirectly supporting heavy metals in baby food per lawsuit. Same products are offered to non-WIC clients and WIC clients. This issue was brought up to FDA attention 3 years ago but nothing was done since. People are pushing for stricter guidelines for baby foods and standard levels across all products. FDA Issues Updated Statement on Toxic Metals in Baby Foods per 3/8/21 MMR: The letter reminds manufacturers of existing obligations to ensure food safety but does not yet commit to increased enforcement or regulation.</p> <p><b>Kristina: WIC Shopper</b> USDA received 490 million to modernize WIC. It is uncertain how USDA will spend the money or if it will be disturbed it to state offices, and individual states can pursue the grants. USDA will decide how money it will be allocated. Is WI ready to go when the money comes?</p> <p><b>Discussion all:</b> Rosie – only works with Internet explorer, IE is obsolete and going away. Voices to modernize WIC need to come from vocal projects. What could work? More committees including state/local staff and WWA? Modernizing, what we want to do? How much it would cost? Where are our boundaries? We are motivated as generation</p>	<p><b>Kristina</b> will find out about 35\$ implementation in WI, how this will look like in WI and if it affects babies 9 month old package.</p> <p><b>Per 3/29/21 FMR:</b> We are planning to implement this increase for our Wisconsin WIC participants. At this time, the State Office has not received the specific information from Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) on who will be eligible, besides women and children, and what the exact amount can be for each participant category. Stay tuned for more information on this! (Malone)</p>

	to improve things and do things differently. This would have to involve big retailers, getting information from the other side. Funding for COVID-19 is broad and there is potential to spend the money to modernize WIC. Kari Malone vision is for our state to be leading in innovation and other states to learn from us.	
<u>Ad-Hoc Committee:</u> <b>Expanding the shopping experience</b> (Kristina) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- “No Kid’s Hungry” Grant (Kristina/ Jennifer Miller)</li> <li>- Discussion: “WIC Peer Shoppers” (Sarah)</li> </ul>	<b>Expanding the shopping experience (Kristina)</b> <b>No Kid’s Hungry Grant</b> (Kristina/Jennifer Miller) Call with team on national level, 2000 applicants on the call. We got feeling that grant people, did not understand how WIC transactions are processed. Will find out end of March if grant was approved. No online ordering options for right now. <b>“WIC Peer Shoppers”</b> (Sarah) ran out time to discuss.	
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vote on ½ day Spring Meeting (Elisabeth)</li> <li>- Report out from January Regional Meetings</li> <li>- If time permits: Discussion on State contract formula issues (Advanced vs Pro advanced)</li> </ul>	<b>Vote on ½ day Spring Meeting</b> - ran out time to discuss. <b>Report out from January Regional Meetings</b> - ran out time to discuss <b>Discussion on State contract formula issues</b> (Advanced vs Pro advanced) (Sarah) and discussion from all: emailed Western Regional consultant Melissa Dunlap with concerns about babies having hard time adjusting between regular version and pro versions of Similac. Ideal would be for the WIC and hospitals to provide same brands of formula. This issue is more of the state responsibility versus in the power of the local projects to have this changed. Clients are still voicing concerns why WIC does not provide same formula as their local hospital. Some doctors are telling patients to only provide RTF formulas for the first 3 months to reduce risk of infection/illness, not having safe water, etc. RTF formulas cost more and are not offered on WIC on regular bases so it is unrealistic for the clients and causing stress. Formula companies continue to advertise pro version as better to earn more income, even if difference is marginal and the only real difference is in probiotic. WIC is educating families on correct preparation of formula and sanitation. Having more options does not always serves us the best since Similac Total Comfort and Similac Sensitive are almost identical, except one is harder to find in stores. <b>1.5-hour WWA monthly call:</b> Idea was brought up to extend our meetings to 1.5 hours instead of 1 hour. More discussion on this later on.	<b>Elisabeth or Aryn</b> will send out mailchimp to vote on the ½ day for our <i>Spring Meeting</i> to see when people are available. <b>Elisabeth or Aryn</b> will send out survey about extending our meetings to 1.5 hours versus 1 hour.
Next Meeting: <b>April 15<sup>th</sup> , 2021; 12-1 pm</b>	Next meeting will be via zoom platform.	<b>Aryn</b> will send out agenda for our next meeting.