

Vendor Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2008

10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Attending:

Vendors and Guests –

Claudia Knotek (New Seasons Market)
Chris McAllister (Albertsons)
John McConville (Jack's Family Market)
Sharon Pitt (Wal-Mart)
Nancy Lawrence (Southgate Market)
Sharon McFadden (Western Family Foods)
Andrew Jones (Albertsons)

Joseph Baren (Wal-Mart)
Jeff Kleen (Oregon Food Bank)
Kym White (Winco Foods)
Bret Meldrum (Fred Meyer)
Anna Carver (Southgate Market)
Antonio Zavala (El Sol Latino)

WIC staff –

Michelle Aarhus (WIC Vendor Trainer)
Colette LaDue (Vendor Systems Specialist)
Maria Menor (WIC Vendor Team Coordinator)
Sarah Rosenberg (WIC Operations Manager)

Julie Reeder (WIC Research Analyst)
Gina Carter (WIC Contract Specialist)
Karen Cleary (WIC Vendor Trainer) **via telephone**

Welcome & introductions:

Michelle welcomed all in attendance and asked for introductions.

Cash Value Voucher for fruits and vegetables:

Everyone reviewed the presented document. The 3 lines of wording are still negotiable. Participants can use multiple vouchers for single transaction.

First line comments and suggestions:

(\$6 Fruits and Vegetables (Fresh and Frozen))

Vendors suggested we spell out the denomination after the number i.e. (six dollars).

Second line comments and suggestions:

(Shopper may pay amount over \$6)

- Vendors suggested we re-word the line to say “shopper may (can) pay amount over the value of the voucher(s).”
- Paying the difference will be a new concept for participants on the WIC program. It could be helpful to have instructions on the CVV.
- Vendors would like our message to shoppers to be that they are responsible for “paying the difference” of the CVV, although WIC cannot require them to pay the difference.
- Not all States are allowing participants to pay over the value of the CVV.
- The second line of the CVV needs to read the same on all vouchers, therefore cannot show the denomination value of the voucher, for example “Shopper may pay over \$6.”
- Vendors would like the 2nd line to be bolded since the message stating the NTE amount of the CVV under the pay exactly box that was first proposed cannot be on the CVV.

Third line comments and suggestions:

(No change given)

- Vendors like this line as is.
- This wording is consistent with the FDNP checks

2009 minimum stock requirements:

- 2lb. blocks of cheese will no longer be allowed on WIC vouchers.
- The selection of cereals will change.
- Vendors would like a definition of single stores, small chains, and large chains.
- Shelf stable canned juice will no longer be authorized.
- Canned salmon is only allowed in a 14.75 oz. can.

- Kosher milk is still allowable.
- WIC surveyed the small single stores and some select small chains to see if they will be able to meet the 2 fresh fruits and 2 fresh veggies requirement; most will.
- The minimum amounts for baby food fruits and vegetables will be 32 jars for a single store, 48 jars for a small chain, and 112 for a large chain. The minimum amounts of baby food meat will be 16 jars for all store sizes.

Baby food discussion:

- Julie Reeder handed out the results from the local agency focus groups that talked about client preference of baby food.
- We are not going brand specific at this time. Plastic packs are more expensive, but have less breakage issues and are easier to stock. However, glass jars are ok with everyone.
- No desserts or dinners are allowed.
- The maximum amount of jars on a voucher will be 16.
- WIC Trainers may do some checker focus groups and hands on training re: baby food early next year.

Fresh Choices vendor video:

WIC is in the process of writing a script for a new checker training video for WIC. Michelle recruited some volunteers for a workgroup for this project. A draft script will be e-mailed to the VAC reps to review. There is a new software program for DHS called "CAPTIVATE" that can be used to create an online interactive web based training system. Web-based training would be a supplemental tool to help train store employees on WIC.

WIC voucher summary presentation:

Colette presented the voucher summary with information comparing Oct. 06 to Sept. 07 to Oct. 07 to Sept. 08.

Q & A:

Why are canned fruits and vegetables not allowed with the new CVV? The canned option is complicated, as many canned produce contains additives. We will keep the option open to allow canned produce in the future.

When is Oregon WIC moving to EBT? It may be a possibility in the future. Right now, it is too expensive.

Will SOY milk be allowable? Yes. It will state it on the voucher and it is brand specific to Pacific Ultra Soy (plain and vanilla).

Will TOFU be authorized? No.

Will organic frozen vegetables be allowed? Yes.

Will Instant brown rice be allowed? No. This decision is based on product price per ounce.

Next Meetings – dates and agenda:

Meetings for 2009 will be held here at the Portland State Office Building on Jan. 9th, 2009, April 24, 2009, July 31, 2009 and October 9, 2009. All meetings will be in room 1-C from 10 am to 12 pm.

The next VAC meeting is Jan. 9th, 2009 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Portland State Office Building, room 1C.