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Subject: WIC Update November 11 In this issue... Nutrition Education Materials, MOV Cheese, and more  
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Hello All,

Lots of great resources and information to share this week! Please note that the State WIC Office will be closed tomorrow, November 11<sup>th</sup> in observance of Veteran's Day. Please have a safe and happy holiday weekend.



-Julie Walker

#### Success Story provided by the esteemed RCPC WIC Program

A fun success story that happened internally at the RCPC WIC office came about when one of our clients piqued an interest in becoming a BFPC after success of BF her baby. She did a great job, and once comfortable in the role became familiar with WIC and applied for our open receptionist position. She was hired on as our receptionist, and has expressed interest in becoming a CPA. She has done a phenomenal job and we are glad to have her as a permanent part of our team! Welcome aboard Astrid Ospina!

#### AMCCI Brochure- A Useful Resource for your Medicaid Clients and Families with Medicaid

The Alaska Medicaid Coordinated Care Initiative (AMCCI) helps Medicaid members get the health care they need. This brochure lays out what the AMCCI is about and how they can help. You are encouraged to make this available to participants along with other referral services brochures.

#### SPIRIT Update-State Required 5 Referrals

Because we have been assigning the bundled "State Required Referrals" to participants, we can't inactivate this Referral in SPIRIT. We plan to add "Do Not Use" in front of the "State Required Referrals" to remind staff to select referrals specific to the participant. Please contact Dana Kent at [dana.kent@alaska.gov](mailto:dana.kent@alaska.gov) or call 465-5322.

**The latest news in cheese!** We will begin providing shelf stable Gilman's Vintage Cheddar cheese in Mail Out Vendor (MOV) packages on approximately November 21. The cheese is packaged in 8 oz. bars. We have developed a flyer with information about the cheese that will be inserted into all packages that include it. Bringing cheese back to the MOV has been the number one request from participants regarding food item selections. Credit goes to Elaine Nisonger for searching hard and long to find this product.

**Kudos from the Vendor Unit:** In this season of giving thanks, the Vendor Management Unit would like to thank Procurement Specialist Lois Lemus for her unending and reliable support for the MOV program, Analyst/Programmer Bart Goode for being the vital heart of the MOV, and to all clinic staff, who support us by training participants for WIC transactions and by monitoring authorized WIC vendors. Kudos to all!

**Nutrition Education Materials Available:** We have a great series for nutritional guidance for a baby's first year. These are great for new moms and moms with their first child. I'd like to send these to clinics as sets all together. They can fit in brochure sleeves, small spaces, and envelopes and can be handed out. They are two-sided, colorful hardstock cards that very informative and easy to read. Please send Jenny an e-mail if you would like sets of these handouts.  
[jennifer.mcallister@alaska.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcallister@alaska.gov)



**WIChealth.org certificate update:** Some email providers were recently labeling wichealth.org certificate emails as Spam. In order to resolve the issue, WIChealth.org updated the way they send out email certificates. You should not notice a change in the way you receive or access certificates. If you do experience issues with receiving lesson completion certificates, please contact Jenifer at [jennifer.johnson@alaska.gov](mailto:jennifer.johnson@alaska.gov)

#### Loving Support Award of Excellence:

Applications for the Loving Support Award of Excellence are due Dec. 14th. The award recognizes and celebrates local WIC agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services. Below is a link to the application, instructions and frequently asked questions. If you have questions about the award process, please email [Jen Post](mailto:Jen.Post) or [Trish Barnes](mailto:Trish.Barnes).



## Loving Support Award of Excellence

### Application Period Open

The application period for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service recognition program, the Loving Support Award of Excellence, will be open **until Wednesday, December 14th**.

The Loving Support Award of Excellence was developed to recognize and celebrate local WIC agencies that provide exemplary breastfeeding programs and support services. Local WIC agencies that have operated a peer counseling program for at least one year, which meets all of the required core components of the FNS Loving Support® Model for a successful peer counseling program are eligible to apply.

[View the applications, instructions, and frequently asked questions.](#)

**National WIC Association Volunteer Opportunities:** Being on a committee is a nice first step into being involved with NWA. Having Alaskans on NWA committees helps bring our issues and concerns to this national group. NWA can champion our program concerns and needs to USDA and Congress. We encourage you and your staff to consider these volunteer opportunities.



#### Volunteer Opportunities

NWA is calling for volunteers to fill the committee and task force vacancies. The strength of

an Association is dependent upon the active participation of its members. In the words of Aesop, "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." NWA – your Association – needs your knowledge, energy, and time to serve in a leadership role on a committee or task force. So, raise your leadership voice and join a committee or task force today. Your community needs you. You can find more information about the committees and task forces [here](#).

#### **Committee and Task Force Application**

#### **Committee and Task Force Appointment Process**

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

Standing Committees are ongoing and develop governance at the direction of the Board.

#### **Bylaws Committee**

The Bylaws Committee periodically reviews the bylaws and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors as needed for revisions or clarifications. This Committee also reviews proposed operating policies developed by affiliate Sections.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- 2 At-Large Members

#### **COMMITTEES**

Committees of the Board address broad policy issues to further the long-term mission of the Association, at the direction of the Board.

#### **Breastfeeding Promotion Committee**

The Breastfeeding Promotion Committee works to develop recommendations and standards for the promotion and support of breastfeeding among mothers participating in the WIC Program. This Committee also works to encourage the active promotion of breastfeeding by NWA members.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- State Agency Section Representative (State Director or designee)
- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- Native American Representative
- Local Agency Section (local agency director or designee)
- 2 At-Large Members

#### **Legislative Committee**

The Legislative Committee participates in the development and implementation of regulatory and legislative policy as it affects the mission and goals of NWA and the WIC Program.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- At-Large Member
- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)

#### **Funding Formula Committee**

The Committee will examine the direction that the Association might take to address Funding Formula issues.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- Native American Representative
- Local Agency Section (local agency director or designee)
- 3 At-Large Members

#### **2017 Annual Education and Training Conference Planning Committee**

The Conference Planning Committee develops and plans the conference program and schedule for the Association's biennial conference.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- Co-chair (Nutrition)
- Co-chair (Breastfeeding)
- State Agency Section Representative (State Director or designee)
- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- Native American Representative
- Local Agency Section (local agency director or designee)
- 3 At-Large Members

#### **TASK FORCES**

Task forces are created to carry out the work of the Association at the direction of the Board to address specific short-term goals or initiatives.

#### **ACA Task Force**

The ACA Task Force will examine and create opportunities for synergy between WIC and elements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- Chair
- State Agency Section Representative (State Director or designee)
- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- Native American Representative
- Local Agency Section (local agency director or designee)
- At-Large Member

#### **WHO Code Compliant Infant Formula Cost Containment Committee**

WHO Code Compliant Infant Formula Cost Containment will consider alternative strategies for meeting cost containment requirements under the Child Nutrition Act.

#### **Volunteer Vacancies:**

- Chair
- State Agency Section Representative (State Director or designee)
- Nutrition Services Section Representative (State Nutrition Coordinator or designee)
- Native American Representative
- Local Agency Section (local agency director or designee)
- 3 At-Large Members

#### **Nice to Know:**

#### **MOA Knows how to have fun at Halloween!**

Check out the attached picture of the adorable Halloween staff at the MOA handing out donated tooth brushes and toothpaste to WIC participants. Very fun!!

**CDC Survey of Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care: 2015 Survey State Reports**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducts a national, biennial survey of Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC) to assess the extent to which birthing facilities are implementing evidence based maternity care supportive of breastfeeding. [Alaska scored an 82 out of 100, and ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of 53 state/territories!](#)—see the list reports by state [here](#).

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