

Monday October 25, 2021

9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Advisory Group Meeting Notes

Time/Agenda Item

9:30-9:50

Welcome & Round Robin Introductions

Tina/AG Chair – Nikki

ADVISORY GROUP (AG) MEMBERS PARTICIPATING:

- Nikki Bennett (St. Louis Co.); Maggie Domski (Washington Co.); Jill Wilson (Hennepin); Katlyn Hubbard (Becker Co.); Marlee Morrison (Hubbard Co.); Wendy O’Leary (Olmsted Co.); Stephanie Olson (Polk Co.); Arlin Penner (Nicollet Co.); Kris Klopp (Mille Lacs Co.)
Jenny Barta – NEW rep for Northeast – Carlton County; Amber Koski (Pine Co.); Miriam Lindblad (Countryside); Lenora Yellow Bird (White Earth Reservation)
- **AG MEMBERS Not Able to Attend:** Wendy Schoon (Otter Tail Co.); Teresa Cooling (Watonwan); Amber Converse (Dodge Co.); Jessica Allred (Winona Co.); Amy Caron (Dodge/Steele CHB);

MDH STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Kate Franken, WIC Director; Tina Breitenbach, Breastfeeding, Training, & Communications Unit Supervisor; Rebecca Gruenes, Nutrition & Clinic Services Unit Supervisor; Tami Matti, MIS & Data Unit Supervisor; Jessie Zins, Food Delivery Unit Supervisor, and Tammie Edmundson, Financial Analyst, Roberta Suski, Office and Administration Specialist, Sr.

9:50 – 9:55

State Staff Updates Kate/Tina *Kate will join us around 10:30 am*

We have 3 positions open in the Vendor Unit, Breastfeeding, Training & Communications Unit and Nutrition Unit. We hope to be hiring for these positions soon. HR is experiencing a high volume of vacancies throughout MDH which is causing delays in the hiring process.

9:55 – 10:00

Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinar Reminders Tina Tina reminded everyone to check out the Great Lakes webinars. We want everyone to take advantage of these webinars & the credits they provide. They can be shared with non-WIC partners as well.

[Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars \(https://mibreastfeeding.org/webinars/\)](https://mibreastfeeding.org/webinars/)

10:00 – 10:10

Everyday Hero Process – Feedback Tina/Maggie

Feedback/thoughts: What works well, what might need improvements, challenges, etc.

Maggie shared the background of the Everyday Hero Award. It is a nice way to recognize WIC staff in various positions. The bulk of the work falls on the WIC Advisory Group Regional Rep. Do the regions feel like they have the capacity? Questions have been raised about continuing the award and/or if we should perhaps consider offering it less frequently? The process was made a little easier a few years ago in that you don’t need a letter of support from a WIC coordinator, just a signature of support. Thoughts were shared about challenges at smaller agencies. It can be challenging to nominate someone if you don’t have a lot of staff and sometimes the same people get nominated. A few counties mentioned they acknowledge staff at the local level and that is well received. The thought is to continue with the award process, but not as frequent. It was shared that when the nominations

have been read to the staff member, it is meaningful, and staff are touched. It seems important to not lose this all together. The process itself seems to work well. The suggestion is to move the award to every other year. AG members agreed with the proposal. **The next year the Everyday Hero Award will be offered is 2023.**

10:15 – 10:25

Conference Feedback/Thoughts Tina

Feedback/Thoughts/Comments:

We are happy to have had a conference, and it is nice that it was pre-recorded. Continuing education was much appreciated, especially the credit for ethics. It was a nice variety of presentations through the day, and it would be nice to have more opportunities for trainings between conferences. Some presenter's styles were liked by some, some more by others. Staff liked the presenter at the end, it was a fun way to end the day. They also liked the live parts and that it was recorded too. It was nice that all corners of the state could take part. There is interest to still have the in-person option in the future but liked having this as well. One agency's staff viewed the conference together & had lunch with time to discuss.

10:25-10:30

October – AG Members Reminder new reps needed

I will be putting a WU in November for applications Tina

The following Advisory Group Representatives have terms ending in 12/2021

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES – 4 openings

- **East Central Region**
- **Southeast Region**
- **Southwest Region**
- **West Central Region**

CASELOAD GROUP REPRESENTATIVES – 4 openings

- **Group 1:** (currently it is Hennepin, *will be Ramsey in 2022*)
Local Agencies: Hennepin and Ramsey
- **Group 3:** VACANT
Local Agencies: Bloomington, Washington, Scott-Carver CAP, Southwest HHS, Kandiyohi/Renville, Meeker/McLeod/Sibley, Morrison/Todd/Wadena, and Wright CAP
- **Group 5**
Local Agencies: Aitkin/Itasca/Koochiching, Mower, Countryside, Nobles, Brown/Nicollet, Norman/Mahnomen/Polk.
- **Group 8**
Local Agencies/Reservations: Bois Forte, Fond du Lac, Grand Portage, Leech Lake, Mille Lacs, Red Lake, White Earth

10:30-11:00

CVB January Increase Discussion Tami

It was decided to issue January CVB w/the lower amount. There was good discussion on pros and cons of various options. The options discussed include don't issue January, issue January w/lower amount, issue January w/higher amount. Most AG members agreed to issue January w/lower amount and if a higher amount is approved for January on Dec 3rd that as a state, we would offer the lower CVB amount for January and increase to the higher amount in February. LAs commented that there is too much work involved in adjusting benefits and w/the holidays and staffing levels, it is too much to ask of staff around the holidays to make these adjustments quickly. Communication will go out this week.

11:30 – 12:30

Health Equity Presentation

- 11:30- 12:15 presentation
- 12:15-12:25 – breakout
- 12:25 – 12:30 – return to report back on breakout rooms

Amy Lopez, MSW Health Equity Planner, Center for Health Equity, Office of Minority & Multi-Cultural Health

The PowerPoint & recording of Amy's presentation will be sent to AG members. There is a resource page & her contact information included.

The AG will continue w/health equity conversations in the future to help keep discovering ways to make improvements and keep health equity at the forefront of our work.

Amy would like to challenge us to consider creating a Health Equity Plan & she can review and provide guidance as needed.

Agenda Items for NEXT, Meeting- January 2022 Tina & All Health Equity – standing item

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