

## Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes October 27, 2015

**Attendees:** Michelle Bertram- ADRC; Chris Beck- Healing Hearts of Waukesha County; Regina Estrada- Blessings in a Backpack; Charlotte Borchert, Kostyn Pyksinski- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Mary Jo Hamman- Waukesha County Public Health-WIC; Melissa Hernandez-Steier- La Casa De Esperanza; Nancy Munoz- Catholic Charities; Rachel Zuniga- Hispanic Health Resource Center & Community Outreach-ProHealth Care; Joan Reichelt, Barb Jacob- New Berlin Food Pantry; Melinda Stuart-Smart Moves; Jill Herz, Marcy Pichler, Diane Turner, Martha Hubert-UWEX.

### **Introductions, Advisory Committee Update- Michelle Bertram**

At the Advisory meeting today, we will discuss the 2016 calendar. Considering offering meetings every other month. Also looking for suggestions for speakers. Please stay for the advisory meeting; all are welcome. Nov 2015 marks the end of Michelle's 2-year term; she is transitioning out of this leadership role. Please let Regina know if you are interested in the co-leadership role. UWEX will continue to partner by providing meeting space, minutes, WCNC email communications.

**Presenter: Caroline Gomez-Tom —Covering Wisconsin (formerly Covering Kids and Families)** The purpose of Covering Wisconsin is to connect people to health insurance information. *Covering Wisconsin* was changed from *Covering Kids and Families* due to a shift from school-based outreach to the community at large. The Affordable Care Act has contributed to the shift in focus, keeping people up to speed with laws and health care access.

**Open Enrollment:** This year: Nov 1<sup>st</sup>-2015- Jan 31<sup>st</sup> 2016. Past open enrollment periods (2013, 2014) resulted in significant drops in number of uninsured Americans. In 2013, 139,815 people enrolled in the Marketplace. 81,274 were newly eligible for Badgercare+, and 62,776 lost their BadgerCare+ coverage due to state changes. In 2014, 207,349 selected a plan or were automatically reenrolled. 90% were eligible for financial assistance to lower monthly premiums. 78% could purchase a plan for \$100 or less in the Marketplace.

**Affordable Care Act:** Passed in March of 2010, fully implemented in 2014. Included the Health Insurance Marketplace, state changes in Badgercare+, and financial assistance for health care costs. For the law to fully work, everyone needs coverage; this includes employer and private coverage, public programs, federal marketplace coverage.

**The Individual Mandate/Shared Responsibility:** A tax penalty/fee for those who don't have any coverage. In 2014: \$95 per adult or 1% of income; in 2015: \$325 per adult or 2% of income; in 2016: \$695 dollars per adult or 2.5% of income, whichever is more. The fee is half that amount for an uninsured child. There are exemptions (religion, personal circumstance, tribal membership or low income) but will still need to apply for the exemption.

**BadgerCare+:** Wisconsin Medicaid program providing low cost or free coverage for children, families, pregnant women, and non-elderly adults who meet income guidelines. Must be U.S. citizen or qualified immigrant to apply. As of April 1, 2014, Badgercare+ eligibility for adults changed from 200% to 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Child eligibility changed from no income to 300% FPL. No changes for pregnant women (300% FPL), people with disabilities and people age 65+, family care, or other long term care programs. All Badgercare+ members now have standard plan benefits. Young adults leaving foster care eligible regardless of income until age 26. ACCESS system updated with new/modified questions about income/tax filing status. Visit <http://access.wisconsin.gov> to enroll. BadgerCare+ is always open for enrollment.

**Employer coverage:** Large employers (>100 FTE) must offer insurance by Jan 2015 or pay a fine. Medium employers (50-99) must offer insurance by Jan 2016 or pay a fine. Small employers (<50) are not required to offer insurance, but can choose to provide it through the small business health option program (SHOP). "Family glitch" issue: employer plan may vary in "affordability" for a family but is considered "affordable" under the law. In this situation, a family would not qualify for premium tax credits in the Marketplace.

**The Marketplace:** Healthcare.gov. Individuals applying for coverage at Healthcare.gov can choose from a selection of private plans in each county, which must cover essential health benefits. Cost of plans is dependent on tobacco use, geographic location, and age, and vary based on the plan/tier of coverage. Financial assistance available, including premium tax credits and cost sharing assistance. Taxes will need to be filed. 15 insurance companies will offer plans in Wisconsin's Marketplace during open enrollment. It is recommended that individuals visit the Marketplace each year

during open enrollment; many save money by updating their info or finding a better plan. Can apply online (healthcare.gov), over the phone (1-800-318-2596), or by mail (but mail is not recommended). Email addresses are necessary to enroll at healthcare.gov. Language line is available by phone. If enrolled by December 15<sup>th</sup>, coverage starts January 1<sup>st</sup>. Need to pay the first month's premium to start coverage.

For in-person enrollment assistance, call 211 for a full list of sites. Assistance is available at Waukesha Public Library on Fridays 9-12, St. Joseph's Clinic on Mondays 1:30-4:30 and Tuesdays 11-2, and Oconomowoc Public Library Mondays 12-7. In-person assisters are trained by federal and state governments and will not promote a particular health plan.

Questions? Contact Covering Wisconsin at: [info@coveringwi.org](mailto:info@coveringwi.org), 414-270-4677, visit [www.coveringwi.org](http://www.coveringwi.org), or contact Caroline Gomez-Tom at [cbgomez@wisc.edu](mailto:cbgomez@wisc.edu), 414-270-2963. Fact sheets available at <http://marketplace.cms.gov>

### **Agency Updates:**

**ADRC, Michelle Bertram**—ADRC is having an open house on November 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-7 at the HHS building. Attendees can learn about advance directives and planning and receive blood pressure and glucose screenings. Technology students will be available to help seniors with things such as apps, smartphones, and email. The event will be caregiver focused as November is National Caregiver Month. Call the ADRC if you need respite in order to come to the program. No registration or fee is required.

**Rachel Zuniga- Hispanic Health Resource Center**—Flu shot clinic for adults is being offered all day today (10/27) by appointment. The Resource Center also has a waiting list. Will be offering other flu clinics in the near future at the Resource Center, Salvation Army, or other sites. Day of the Dead celebration is taking place on Tuesday November 2<sup>nd</sup>—there will be crafts, light food, and it will be geared around celebrating and remembering loved ones. Also continuing with Advance Care Planning education.

**UW-Extension, Marcy Pichler and Jill Herz**—Have filled two vacant positions; Jill will be transitioning to Nutrition Education Program Coordinator role on November 1<sup>st</sup>. New Family Living Educator will be starting on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

**WIC, Mary Jo Hamman**—Bilingual staff member recently took position with public health, but still available for interpretation and translation. Continuing to roll out eWIC. Clients are excited about the eWIC card; there is a learning curve for client and grocery store use of the card, but the new system is much less cumbersome than the paper checks.

**La Casa De Esperanza, Melissa Hernandez-Steier**—Tomorrow (10/28) La Casa de Esperanza is holding the Hispanic Family Health Fair from 5-7. First aid kits will be made with families. Will also be recruiting for Early Head Start (birth-3).

**Catholic Charities, Nancy Munoz**—Nancy is training to become a certified healthcare application assistant, which requires a test to become licensed. Will be at the Hispanic Family Health Fair on 10/28.

**Healing Hearts of Waukesha County, Chris Beck**- (distributed card and flyer) Please share information with families that could benefit from Healing Hearts. Healing Hearts offers free peer-to-peer grief support. National Children's Grief Awareness Day is November 19. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, ProHealth is partnering with Healing Hearts to offer a free morning program (8-12) that includes 4 breakout sessions on topics such as coping with the death of a loved one, childhood losses, and supporting grandparents and relative caregivers.

**New Berlin Food Pantry, Joan Reichelt and Barb Jacob**—Have sent out letters for those who will adopt families this year. Currently gearing up for the holidays. Recently received \$10,000 check from local business.

**Food Pantry of Waukesha County, Charlotte Borchert and Kostyn Pyksinski**—Produce is winding down—this year received tens of thousands of pounds of produce. Now gearing up to purchase turkeys (will buy certificates rather than turkeys). Also planning for upcoming food drives. Next Tuesday (Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>) 12:30-2:30, offering free flu shots by appointment.

**Smart Moves, Melinda Stuart**—Continuing to be busy boxing and moving for seniors. Please like us on Facebook.

**Blessings in a Backpack**—Fundraiser in September netted \$75,000. Currently feeding 700 kids per week, including all who are eligible at Lowell, Blair, and Banting and 100 who are eligible at Blair (300 kids total are eligible at Blair). Cost is \$100 per child per school year. Thanks to the fundraiser, will be able to feed 700 for another year. There are 4,600 children that are eligible in Waukesha County so looking to grow the program. Nationally, Blessings in a Backpack feeds 73,000 children.

**Next Meeting: November 17, 2015 (1 week earlier than usual). Topic: Free Clinic Panel: Kerri Ackerman—Waukesha Community Health Center, Peggy Brown—St. Joseph's Clinic, Judy Wachowiak—Eagle's Wing Free Clinic, Mary Reich—Lake Area Free Clinic. **No meeting in December.****