

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

October 24, 2023

Attendance: Judith Amorsen- Eras Senior Network; Chloe Bingenheimer - Community Smiles Dental; Jill Herz- Waukesha County UW-Madison Extension FoodWise; Michael Egly- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Shanna Krause- La Casa de Esperanza; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic; Ellen Kind- Waukesha Head Start; Abby Bussen- Waukesha Public Library.

Agency Updates:

Eras Senior Network-Judith Amorsen: Running low on volunteers and struggling to recruit volunteers. Many volunteers are also aging out and need their services. Eras continues to provide their phone call program and yard cleanup program. Eras serves both Milwaukee and Waukesha County. New Executive Director in April, and last month hired new Development and Marketing director.

Waukesha Public Library- Abby Bussen: Looking to see how library can help support community needs. Library hosted a volunteer fair that went very well, with great responses from community agencies. Working on coordinating a resource fair in January of 2024, to bring together agencies who offer resources- shelters, food pantries, clinics, etc. and have them share resources with each other. Will be sending out more information on this fair. There are many older adults who spend the day at the library, as well as many unhoused/homeless. Always looking for more opportunities/resources to offer these populations. Those who have been staying at shelters often need someplace to go during the day, and the library offers that.

Group discussion: This Thursday 10/26/23 from 10-3 at Carroll University, there is a community event called, "Project Homeless Connect" will help provide resources such as health screenings, health and hygiene items, haircuts, cold weather items, and other resources for those experiencing homelessness. Rosa has the flyer and will send it to Jill to share to the WCNC email list.

Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell: Dealing with limited volunteers and staff, no volunteer coordinator, and have had a hard time finding new people. To become a volunteer, you do not have to speak Spanish; there are always people in the clinic who can speak both and it would be helpful. Will be continuing to provide same services but increasing neurology and pain management, which decreased after COVID. Navigating some recent changes; have struggled with different providers and who will cover cost of services. Have had changes to board members. Moving locations and renaming the clinic from St. Joseph's Clinic to Waukesha Free Clinic has been great, since people don't have to call to ask about cost, or whether they have to be Catholic to receive services. They have seen a big increase in new patients. Shift in the population as well; before, the main populations the clinic saw were mostly female, white, Mexican...now there is a shift to less Caucasian and more Hispanic patients, especially from Guatemala, Honduras. Patients' level of education is lower than those coming from Mexico. Patients may not be able to read or write in Spanish and medical care is heavily needed since they may have never seen a doctor.

Waukesha Food Pantry- Michael Egly: Getting ready for the holidays. Doing Thanksgiving distribution for 2 weeks. Turkeys and sides will be distributed with regular groceries. Same during Christmas. Have seen an increased need for services. 33,000 household visits last year, 93,000 people served. Food donations are going down. Figuring out how to maintain services to meet the need. Need for volunteer drivers. Just serve.org is a volunteer recruitment/online service- this may be a good resource for those around the table who are looking for volunteers.

Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingenheimer: Community Smiles Dental has two clinics- one on Barstow in Waukesha, one on Appleton Ave in Menomonee Falls. Serve children up to 200% federal poverty level. Also have other programs for those with special health care needs, adults for emergencies, and a program for pregnant moms. Wait lists are shorter currently, especially at the Menomonee Falls clinic. MATC hygiene students will be coming into the clinic to see adult patients. Seeing a full schedule of patients every day.

Head Start- Ellen Kind: Had a successful Fall Fest last night. There are 20 slots left for enrollment. They have some children on waitlist who are waiting to turn 3- so hopefully by December they will be at full enrollment. Also dealing with lack of volunteers. Looking for classroom volunteers to spend time in classrooms, play, read with the kids.

La Casa de Esperanza, Early Head Start- Shanna Krause: Spooktacular Trunk or Treat will be taking place on October 27 2:30-5, and it is open to the public (flyer distributed). Currently have openings for both center-based and home-based Early Head Start program. Staffing has been low, but it has improved, which has allowed them to have subs available. Recently had a Health Fair for families- it was not open to the public but next year it will be.

UW-Madison Extension FoodWise- Jill Herz: Wrapped up fiscal year in September and started up with new programs in October, including many youth series at Waukesha elementary schools where greater than 50% of the student population receives Free/Reduced-price lunch. Coordinating with 4H program to offer hands-on nutrition afterschool programming. Educators have been busy becoming trained in a variety of curricula/programs, including Strong Bodies which is a strength-training program designed for seniors. Will be teaching Strong Bodies at a few different sites this year. Offering parent series including Eating Smart & Being Active, Around the Table (a mindfulness-based nutrition series), and we will have a new 6-lesson series called Create Better Health to offer to parents as well. All programs have hands- on cooking and activities.

Emailed updates:

Sussex Outreach Services- Jennifer Waltz: Our food pantry is client choice, allowing our clients to shop on their own. We then weigh the total amount of food they have chosen. Our usage is up, like most food pantries. We are purchasing more food than ever before and delivering to more people. Our clothing and household area is very popular with clients and we are just wrapping up our winter gear and Halloween costume drives. Thanksgiving meals are distributed on 11/18 and our Christmas event is 12/16. Thanks and wishing all a very healthy and happy holiday season!

WIC- Lisa Topp:

- The WCBFC (Breastfeeding Coalition) is excited to report that we received funding from United Way to renew our membership of the pumpspotting app which offers free breastfeeding education and support (and more) to all families of Waukesha County. If you know families that can benefit, please share the flier attached.
- WCBFC speaker recorded webinar for anyone interested in listening:
 - Kristen Fox presented a webinar on Wednesday, October 11, 12:30-1:30pm on "Supporting Women in Recovery During Pregnancy & Postpartum. Dr. Fox is a ProHealth Care physician specializing in Addiction Medicine, Family Medicine and Family Medicine with Obstetrics. She provided an overview of Bethany Recovery Center and how women are supported during and after pregnancy including lactation support and prenatal breastfeeding education. Here is a link to the recorded presentation: Recording
link: <https://prohealthcare.webex.com/prohealthcare/ldr.php?RCID=f786bee40e9281e6e6bd2e399bae69cd>
- WIC families have received an inflationary increase to the CVB for fruits and vegetables as part of their benefit package.
 - \$26 for children
 - \$47 for pregnant and post-partum women
 - \$52 for partially breastfeeding women
 - \$78 for fully breastfeeding women
- This farmers' market season, we issued all of the checks provided to our clinic by issuing the last booklet to a walk-in client that was enrolled at the end of the last day.
- WIC continues to offer hybrid services. We have worked through the transition process and are happy to see more families on site.

- We are continuing to recruit for the following LTE positions. Please share with anyone that may be qualified and interested:
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/waukeshacounty/jobs/4199117/public-health-technician-lte>
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/waukeshacounty/jobs/4199152/registered-dietetic-technician-lte>
<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/waukeshacounty/jobs/4153460/administrative-assistant-wic-lte>

Next Meeting: February 27, 2024 at 9AM

Location TBD

More info will be sent out closer to the date