

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes

August 22, 2023

Attendance: Lisa Topp -Waukesha County WIC; Katy Maas & Jill Herz- Waukesha County UW-Madison Extension FoodWise; Chloe Bingenheimer - Community Smiles Dental; Michael Egly– Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Marissa Hartzell- Women's Center; Shanna Krause- La Casa de Esperanza; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic; Emily Kenney- IMPACT.

Presentation: IMPACT Connect- Emily Kenney, LCSW, Director of Systems Change

IMPACT covers 9 counties in southeastern WI. IMPACT 211 helps connect people in need to services in their community. IMPACT 211 provides up-to-date info for those seeking services, with the help of local agencies. People can call, text, or chat to receive this info. IMPACT Connect aims to better use their resource database to communicate and follow through when referring and providing services. For example: In the past, IMPACT 211 may refer someone to an agency, but if the agency has no available appointments, that person may hit a dead end. IMPACT Connect is intended to be a community information exchange; a tech platform where referrals can be made to agencies and the agencies can follow up. That way there is closed loop feedback, and IMPACT knows whether it worked for that person and why. Sometimes they have heard feedback saying, "I didn't get help" but it turns out the agency could help, they just needed a form or something along those lines. Hopefully, IMPACT Connect will be a way to connect the dots. It will also help IMPACT see where there are gaps in services, to meet community needs.

How can you become a partner? The best next step is to join an info session, so you can see it in action. The system is free to small nonprofits. You will verify your agency's info in the system and learn the technology. If you have other nonprofit agencies to recommend participating in IMPACT Connect, please reach out.

Question: Is there a way to learn more about what types/categories of calls you receive in certain service areas, or pull other data? 211 Wisconsin has a dashboard with reports, and Emily could send Waukesha- specific reports. IMPACT 211 has seen trends in the past based on what was going on (e.g. COVID policies affecting needs). There are currently over 100 agencies that are on IMPACT Connect, with 70 actively using.

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Agency Updates:

Community Smiles Dental- Chloe Bingenheimer: Still have waitlists at both clinics. Menomonee Falls waitlist smaller. Higher cancellations in the summer. MATC hygiene students will clean adult teeth at the Menomonee Falls Clinic- once in the fall, once in the spring. Fall is already booked, will open in the spring again. Community Smiles Dental prioritizes referrals, and they have emergency appointments everyday if needed.

La Casa de Esperanza- Shanna Krause: Just started new school year at end of July. Accepting children right now, since a few aged out of the program. Accepting home-based applications for Early Head Start.

Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell: Clinic is busy. There has been an influx of people from Honduras. They are finding that these patients' education is lower, so has been harder to communicate and have patients understand. They are changing forms, sitting down with patients, and helping them fill paperwork out. Medical director changed; the current medical director works with the Medical College. Working very hard on mental health issues, because there is not an easy place to refer. Will start to reach out to private clinics to see if they could provide services. There has also been an increased GI need, especially since COVID as people neglected that care. Since patients struggle to find affordable care, they may wait until last minute and the medical need is bigger. More people are uninsured.

WIC- Lisa Topp: Will discontinue issuing Farmers Market checks by September 30 and they should be used by the end of October, when markets close. WIC has an open administrative position that they are hoping to fill soon. Families have returned for in-person recertification appointments as of August 10. Will be back to doing height, weight, iron, and lead testing. Have been using more paperless/electronic signatures; working to get electronic signatures through the WIC app. Breastfeeding coalition updates: Celebrating breastfeeding month with a family-friendly celebration on Wednesday, August 23 4:30-5:30 for any pregnant, current or former breastfeeding moms and their families/friends. (Flyer distributed & attached to email).

UW-Madison Extension FoodWise- Jill Herz: Many summer programs are wrapping up, especially youth programs. Some senior and adult series are continuing through the end of September. October is the beginning of the new fiscal year, so we are working on getting back into local elementary schools and teaching youth series. Will be attending parent nights at a few of the elementary schools to connect to students/families and promote parent programming. Offering parent series (Eating Smart & Being Active and Around the Table) to groups of parents. Both involve hands-on cooking and activities. FoodWise teaches at agencies who work with parents, and also have been offering series at the Library this year. If you work with parents that would be interested, please reach out.

Women's Center-Marissa Hartzell: Provide walk-in crisis services from 9-4, also a 24-hour hotline. Nutrition group that will be starting up on Tuesdays. Need to register for it, so have them contact the Women's Center to get signed up. Some other groups are in the works as well. Wednesday Workshop is every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

Waukesha Food Pantry- Michael Egly: Still have backpacks and school supplies available if you have clients in need of those. They will probably last for another week or so. Available for Prek, K, Elementary, Middle, and High school.

Next Meeting: October 24, 2023 at 9AM
Eras Senior Network
More info will be sent out closer to the date