

## Warren County Health Services

### Special Joint Meeting with Cornell Cooperative Extension Services

October 31, 2014

#### Agenda

##### **Discussion of Agency Sponsorship for WIC (Women, Infants and Children's Nutrition Program):**

Sponsorship is approved by the New York State Department of Health for a 5 year contract period.

Contract grants are renewed annually upon approval of a submitted budget and program plan, and the program is 100% reimbursable to the sponsoring agency.

The current sponsorship period will expire on September 30, 2015

Health Services for Warren County has been the sponsoring agency for Warren County, but this is not the case in many counties, and other agencies administer the program without compromise to participants.

A new RFI (Request for Information) has been issued and agencies interested in sponsoring the program must submit their interest in being awarded the contract by December 2, 2014. Because the commitment is for a five year period, informal discussion was had with the County Administrator, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Budget Officer, and Health Services Chairman. It is anticipated that the program will remain 100% reimbursable but there are no guarantees, and because of the importance of the program and the amount of service it provides too many women, infants and children, assuring provision for the future of the program is paramount.

A summary of services provided by the WIC Program as detailed in the 2013 Warren County Health Services Annual Report will be provided at the meeting.

In considering other agencies where the WIC program mission would fit, because of being a nutritional program, and because Health Services and the WIC Program have worked with Cornell Cooperative Extension in past initiatives, the agency was suggested. The County Administrator had conversation with the Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, Dr. Seeley, to solicit the interest of the agency.

##### **Discussion of Cornell Cooperative Extension Interest and Plan:**

Dr. James Seeley, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension, will provide information and comments.

**Purpose of the Meeting:**

**To consider whether Warren County Health Services will submit a RFI to continue sponsorship of WIC.**

If the RFI is not submitted by Health Services, a letter would need to be sent to the New York State Department of Health stating a RFI will not be submitted.

If this is the action the Health Services Committee takes, Health Services WIC Staff could assist Cornell Cooperative Extension in preparing their RFI.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Committee Members:**

To consider any actions needed as a result of committee discussion.

**New York State Department of Health is solely responsible for the decision of who the sponsor agency will be.**

The most important factor is to assure that the same level of services is maintained without compromise to the program participants.

**Women, Infant and Children Nutrition Program**  
**(WIC)**

The Warren County WIC Program is sponsored by the Warren County Health Services (WCHS). Our program maintains eight full-time and one part-time staff. Resignation of a Grade 5 position prompted a promotional opportunity for a Grade 3 position to a Grade 5 position and elimination of the Grade 3 position. This promotion has allowed cross training among three staff who share clerical and programmatic duties more proficiently.

WIC clinics are held at the Municipal Center and nine off-sites located in Glens Falls, Queensbury, Lake Luzerne, Warrensburg, North Creek and Horicon. Hours of operation include early morning, early evening and lunchtime appointments. Enrollment in 2013 was 1,365 participants.

Site	Site Participant Average	% of Total Participant Average
Main Site – Warren County Municipal Center	231	17
First Baptist Church – Glens Falls	268	20
Village Green Apartments – Glens Falls	193	14
VFW Post #6169 – Queensbury	237	17
Montcalm Apartments – Queensbury	83	7
Lake Luzerne Community Center – Lake Luzerne	73	5
Cornell Cooperative Extension – Warrensburg	139	10
North Creek Fire House – North Creek	61	4
Horicon Community Center – Brant Lake	80	6
	1365	100%

WIC supports breastfeeding as the primary source of nourishment for children birth to one year old. A newly hired Infant Feeding Advocate continued with the Breastfeeding Support group offered one time per month at the Main site. WIC mothers who initiated breastfeeding increased slightly to 71%; compared to 66.6% for the Capital Region and 76.2% statewide. Eighteen breastfeeding women were issued WIC funded breast pumps which allowed them to return to work after child birth.

Our office works collaboratively with the WCHS Maternal-Child Health Program, United Health, Fidelis Cares, SNAP, Eat Smart NY, and the Warren-Washington County Head Start Program. All of these agencies attend WIC clinics as supportive community resources. The Maternal-Child Health Program promotes the MOMs Program, Child-Find and childbirth classes. United Health and Fidelis Cares, both Warren County Managed Care Medicaid insurance companies, initiated navigational services for the Affordable Care Act. These services have allowed WIC participants with a seamless application process. A Capital Region Food Bank representative also offers assistance to WIC participants for SNAP applications during scheduled clinics. Access to these essential services allows "one-stop shopping" - saving time, money and transportation for participants with limited resources. WIC also offers a confidential setting to SUNY Adirondack, Empire State College and Russell Sage College nursing students completing their Maternal-Child rotation requirements. Warren County WIC also participated in the 2013 Community Day and the 2013 Village Green Health Fair.

**Warren County WIC is 100% fully funded by the USDA and New York State. The threat of the government shutdown risked the closure of WIC in October 2013 compelling local agencies to plan for participant waiting lists and staff layoffs.**

The Warren County WIC administrative budget for 2013 totaled \$508,270.41 with actual expenditures totaling \$454,906.67. WIC contributed \$31,001 to Warren County for indirect costs. The redemption value of WIC benefits provided to Warren County participants was \$860,888.88 compared to \$958,476.09 in 2012. The NYS Department of Agriculture and Market did not provide the NYS DOH with the annual Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Local Agency and Redemption 2013 Report; however, did indicate the statewide redemption rate increased from 56.8% in 2012 to 58.7% in 2013. As a local WIC agency, designated staff participated in area Farmer's Markets to promote WIC participation