



May 13, 2003

CHDP Information Notice No.: 03-I

TO: ALL COUNTY CHILD HEALTH AND DISABILITY PREVENTION (CHDP) PROGRAM DIRECTORS, DEPUTY DIRECTORS, MEDICAL CONSULTANTS, NUTRITIONISTS, AND NURSE CONSULTANTS, STATE CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES (CMS) BRANCH STAFF AND REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

SUBJECT: MEETINGS TO PROVIDE INPUT REGARDING INFANT FORMULAS PROVIDED BY THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM

This notice is to inform you of an opportunity to provide input regarding infant formulas available through the WIC Program at two Listening Sessions being held on May 20, 2003, in Sacramento and May 29, 2003, in Irwindale. These sessions may also be of interest to local CHDP providers.

Local programs are encouraged to contact local CHDP providers who may be interested and able to provide their comments. WIC has also sent invitations for these sessions to the California Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Medi-Cal Managed Care (MCMC) Health Plan Medical Directors, Local Maternal Child Health Program (MCH) Directors, California Chapter of the American Academy of Family Physicians Association, National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, California Chapters of American Academy of Nurse Practitioners and California Children's Hospital Association.

Details of the sessions and the meeting locations are on the attached letter. There is also a registration form attached.



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Children's Medical Services Branch
714/744 P Street, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA 94234-7320
(916) 327-1400

Internet Address: <http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcf/cms>

CHDP Information Notice No.: 03-I
Page 2
May 13, 2003

Pre-registration by May 16, 2003, is required for all attendees planning to share verbal comments at either session. Written comments can be submitted by mail or by fax by May 29, 2003.

Original Signed by Maridee Gregory, M.D.

Maridee A. Gregory, M.D., Chief
Children's Medical Services Branch

Enclosures



DIANA M. BONTÁ, R.N., Dr. P.H.
Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services



GRAY DAVIS
Governor

May 2, 2003

NPOS 05-02-03-017

To: Primary WIC Program Contacts
Health Care Providers
Other Interested Parties

I am writing to invite you to attend one of two Listening Sessions in May 2003 to share your input regarding infant formulas available through the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Program, now serving over 60 percent of all infants born in California. As you may know, WIC's current formula rebate contract is coming to a close and the WIC Branch will be making decisions about which formulas to authorize before the new contract begins in August 2003. We welcome your comments about which infant formula products, in addition to the standard contract formulas, we should authorize for the WIC Program during the next contract period.

Representatives from local WIC agencies, grocer organizations, State and federal programs, academia, the nutrition and medical community, and State and local advocacy groups are being invited to gather at one of two sessions:

- **Tuesday, May 20, 2003** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC
12781 Schabarum Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706
- **Thursday, May 29, 2003** (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
California WIC Branch
3901 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834

During these sessions, representatives from the State WIC Branch will have the opportunity to hear comments presented by invitees. To avoid distracting from the intent of the sessions, which is to listen to as many ideas and comments as possible, WIC Branch staff does not plan to respond to questions.

Background

California WIC, in alliance with American Academy of Pediatrics, is proud of its continued commitment to breastfeeding support and promotion, and its contribution to



Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Supplemental Nutrition Branch
3901 Lennane Drive, P.O. Box 942732, Sacramento, CA, 94234-7320
(916) 928-8500 Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov

increasing the breastfeeding initiation rate to 80 percent among postpartum women in California. Despite WIC's efforts to encourage women to exclusively breastfeed, many women choose to give their infants both breastmilk and formula or formula alone, resulting in the WIC Program providing formula to 250,000 infants per month.

Like many hospitals and health maintenance organizations, WIC has sole source contracts for infant formula and some of the other foods we provide. In fact, WIC is required by federal law to obtain a competitive bid on infant formula in order to obtain substantial cost savings. Through sole source contracts, WIC is able to provide nutrition services and nutritious foods to an additional 480,000 California participants each month, twenty-three percent of whom are infants.

On March 10, 2003, the Department of Health Services announced its intent to award the new contract, effective August 1, 2003, to Ross Products, a division of Abbott Laboratories. While the bid is under protest, we are proceeding to make certain decisions in order to implement by the August 1, 2003 effective date. If there is a change in contractor, we will notify all interested parties.

The bid from Ross Products includes Similac Advance (lipid-enhanced) as the primary cow milk-based formula and Isomil (non lipid-enhanced) as the soy-based formula. Participants at the sessions will be able to share ideas and give input related to *which other formula in the following categories should be made available through the WIC program*, keeping in mind that the WIC Program will not receive a rebate on all products:

- Cow milk-based (including lactose free, thickened, and/or non lipid-enhanced) formula
- Casein hydrolysate formula
- Amino acid base formulas
- Premature formulas
- Pediatric formulas (over 12 months of age)

Primary WIC Program Contacts
Health Care Providers
Other Interested Parties
Page 3
May 2, 2003

In addition, WIC is interested in input about *the importance of authorizing "non-contract" products*, i.e. those produced by manufacturers other than the contract manufacturer, including "exempt" or therapeutic formulas. Cost containment is a major factor in authorizing these products, as the WIC program will pay full retail for any purchase of a non-contract formula. WIC appreciates that some infants may need non contract formulas based on a temporary feeding intolerance and/or a medical condition.

Please note that while federal regulations do allow WIC to provide therapeutic formulas, WIC is not a health insurance program, and it is the payer of last resort for most medically indicated formulas. Further, the WIC Program does not provide Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT). Completion of the thorough clinical nutrition assessment necessary to provide MNT is outside the scope and funding of the WIC program, and in most cases, Registered Dietitians employed by WIC do not have access to the participant's medical record.

To Present Verbal Comments

To ensure sufficient time to consider comments, oral presentations will be limited to five minutes. Speakers will be assigned a time slot in the order that Registration Forms are received (on-site speaker registration will *not* be available). Each pre-registered speaker will be notified of their time slot at least 24 hours prior to the Listening Session. If you will attend to present verbal comments, please respond by returning the enclosed Registration Form or by contacting Karla Lingren, at (916) 928-8894, fax: (916) 928-0612 or e-mail: klingren@dhs.ca.gov no later than **May 16, 2003**.

To Provide Written Comments

To ensure all of your comments are incorporated into the dialog, I encourage you to submit written material the day of the session, either along with or instead of a verbal presentation.

If you are unable to attend either Listening Session, I encourage you to mail or fax your comments, of any length, to the State WIC Branch, attention Karla Lingren, by **May 29, 2003**.

Primary WIC Program Contacts
Health Care Providers
Other Interested Parties
Page 4
May 2, 2003

Registration

I do hope that you will be able to join us on either May 20, or May 29, to share your thoughts on this vitally important nutrition program. Please respond by returning the enclosed Registration Form or by contacting Karla Lingren, at (916) 928-8894, fax: (916) 928-0612 or e-mail: klingren@dhs.ca.gov no later than **May 16, 2003**.

Thank you for your consideration, and for the important role that you play in promoting good health and nutrition for California's infants and children.

Sincerely,

Original Signed by Linnea Sallack, M.P.H., R.D., Chief

Linnea Sallack, M.P.H., R.D., Chief
WIC Supplemental Nutrition Branch

Enclosure



Listening Sessions:
Infant Formula Options for WIC

REGISTRATION FORM

***Pre-registration, by MAY 16th, 2003, is *required* for all attendees planning to share verbal comments at either Listening Session**

- I intend to provide verbal comments at the Listening Session.
Please reserve time for me.
- I am submitting written comments only.

Please **circle** the session that you are planning to attend:

May 20, 2003 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
Public Health Foundation Enterprises WIC
12781 Schabarum Avenue
Irwindale, CA 91706

May 29, 2003 (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)
California WIC Branch
3901 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization/Agency: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____ Phone/Fax: _____

Written comments, of any length, can be submitted in person **OR** mailed **OR** faxed, by **May 29, 2003** to:

WIC Branch
3901 Lennane Drive
Sacramento, CA 95834
Attn: Karla Lingren
Fax Number: (916) 928-0612

Thank you for your input.