

TALWD NEWS

Volume 5 Issue 20

TALWD NEWS

July 2021



TALWD Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Texas Association of Local WIC Directors shall be to act as a vehicle for the expression of ideas on planning, policy, coordination, implementation, and administration of the WIC program on the Local, State, and Federal level; to foster communication between local WIC programs and the Texas Department of Health with the goal of positively affecting the administration of WIC within the state; to bring together administrators of Local Agency WIC Programs, in order to provide peer support, orientation and/or assistance; and to promote professional and public awareness of new and existing Federal and State legislation.

From the Editor: Please contact us, if you have suggestions or story ideas. Hope you enjoy Volume 5, Issue 19.

Jolene Norbert-Harrell, Newsletter Reporter
Email: jolene.norbert-harrell@phs.hctx.net

2021 TALWD BOARD MEMBERS:

President – Eileen Mendoza

Secretary – Nikki Morrow

Treasurer – Guillermo Walls

1st VP of Organization & Development – Sandra Lopez

2nd VP of Operations – Brandy Patteson

NWA Representative – Katherine Galvan

NWA Rep-Elect – Jolene Norbert-Harrell

Newsletter Reporter – Jolene Norbert-Harrell

Historian – Claudia Soto

Past Presidents Council Representative – Tecora Smith

Committee Chairs:

Business & Finance Chair – Margaret Payton

Legislative Chair – Leslie Hibbs

Marketing Chair – Jannette Sepeda

Membership Chair – Amanda Brogdon

Nutrition Education Chair – Kathy Oliver

Breastfeeding Chair – Karen Gibson

Client Services Chair – Jammie Wright

Local Agency Administration Chair – Krystal Seger

Technology Task Force – Brandy Patteson

Funding Formula Task Force – Margaret Payton

Regional Representatives & Alternatives:

Central Representative – Jennifer Ranspot

*Alternate – Alissa Orozco

Panhandle Representative – Margaret Payton

Western Representative – Cristina Eureste

*Alternate – Herlinda Pouliot

Northern Representative – Michelle Cummings

*Alternate – Lois Woods

Gulf Coast Representative – Zahra Koopaei

Southwestern Representative – Melissa Gutierrez

Eastern Representative – Kristi Kilgore

*Alternate – Scherry Barnes

Southern Representative – Clarissa Ramirez

*Alternate – Meliza Garcia

Annual TALWD Conference Update



Note! Plans are underway for this year's conference in October and we are getting excited! Please be on the lookout for an email with a 2nd survey to help us plan accordingly. Save the date and more details about the registration coming soon!



Congratulations are in order for LeTasha Jones, WIC Director for Hardin County Health Services. LeTasha was recently promoted to Assistant Health Director at Hardin County. She will remain as the WIC Director for LA #63.

Legislative Update



Check out this link for information on the WIC for Kid's Act.

<https://www.nwica.org/press-releases/-house-bill-enhances-wics-critical-services-#.YPcg8ehKjIU>

LA# 89 - The Children's Hospital of San Antonio



I have the opportunity and privilege to be selected as one of the seven Health Equity Champion (HEC) across all WIC agencies in the United States. As a HEC I will be responsible of co-leading the programmatic aspect of an 18-month grant aimed at Advancing Health Equity to Achieve Diversity and Inclusion (AHEAD) in WIC. In addition to being selected as a HEC, I'm also part of Cohort 15 of NWA Leadership Academy.

Part of the application process required us to highlight all relevant experience pertaining to implementation of a health equity project. In late 2019, we developed a referral process to promote WIC on Wheels in the community to be present where a WIC clinic is not available. Prior to the pandemic, we also developed programs in the CHEF Teaching Kitchen to help expectant moms learn how to prepare nutritious meals for themselves and their families. By addressing the obstacles and challenges that our clients face, we are able to better connect with them and give them the access and tools that they need.

I'm partnering with NWA to identify practices for integrating a health equity framework into WIC policies, research, and practices. Identify best approaches for engaging WIC staff and coach them on best practices for this project

Now more than ever it is important to use an equity lens in WIC to be able to expand the understanding of how social and economic conditions contribute to or detract from life-long health. Identify pathways and mechanisms that if addressed can reasonably be expected to improve conditions for populations at risk of inequitable health outcomes. It is clear that the times we are living are challenging and unprecedented and the need for health equity has never been more important.

By: Adela Garcia, MHA

WIC Manager

The Children's Hospital of San Antonio

CHRISTUS Santa Rosa WIC LA 89

LA# 17 - UTSPH



Texas WIC Power of Influence

Our team attended the Power of Influence training in May. It was a virtual training, but we all really enjoyed it.

The staff had a difficult time getting engaged in it (virtually), but they had some great comments and ideas as a result of the discussion portions.

Now there are so many things we want to do to better serve our clients with our newfound "power"! It is a valuable training.

By: Karen Gibson, RD

WIC Program Director

Pediatrics/Community & General Pediatrics



IF you haven't renewed your
TALWD membership for
2021.....

Please Visit:

<https://talwd.org/renew-membership>

to do so.

