

October 2019



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Monthly Update: WIC Developmental Monitoring Project



You are receiving this monthly newsletter because you are a part of the ASPHN WIC Developmental Monitoring Project. This newsletter will feature updates from states within the project about what they are doing and successes and challenges they have had, information about upcoming trainings, and other news. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, you can reach out to Amber Brown at AmberBrown@asphn.org. Thank you!

• **Upcoming Events**

- October 17th, 2-3pm EST - ASPHN's MCH Council Webinar, details below
- October 21st - State Updates and Networking
- November 18th - Topic TBA
- December 16th - Effective Communication with Low-Income Populations

ASPHN and CDC Updates



Coming Soon:

The Training Video and Implementation Manual (web version) from CDC are almost ready for your use. An email will be sent to you with links to these when they are ready.

ASPHN's MCH Nutrition Council Webinar Details:

October 17th, 2-3pm EST

During this webinar participants will learn what LTSAE is as well as hear from Arkansas, Massachusetts, and Nevada WIC programs about their experiences implementing the "WIC Developmental Monitoring Project" so far. Webinar details are below:

MCH Council Quarterly Webinar:

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/599148893>

You can also dial in using your phone.

United States: +1 (646) 749-3112

Access Code: 599-148-893

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<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/599148893>

Quarterly Progress Reports Due

Quarterly Progress Reports for the 3 funded states are due on October 31st. Instructions with a link to fill out the report will be sent to those states a couple weeks before the due date.

Supplemental Information

An article from the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ) was shared with me, titled, "The Act of Making a Referral is Not Enough". There is some very interesting information in it that may be of interest to each of you as you are implementing the "WIC Developmental Monitoring Project" in your states. Doctors are doing similar work as we are in monitoring for potential developmental delays in their patients and are having similar issues with referrals. This article lists potential ways to improve the referral process. Click on the link below to read the article:

["The Act of Making a Referral is Not Enough"](#)

State Updates

Arkansas State Updates

Arkansas WIC has implemented LTSAE in the three pilot for almost 3 full months now. We are still gathering the feedback we've received from our participant surveys and we will be sending out a staff survey in October at all of the pilot sites. Staff have mentioned the amount of time it takes for participants to complete and review the checklists being a barrier to incorporating the program into the WIC certification appointments. We are currently working on ways to decrease time spent by staff by monitoring appointments to evaluate flow and processes. WIC State Office staff have attended several conferences and symposiums in September for increased outreach of our program to pediatricians and other health care providers across the state.

Massachusetts State Update

The Massachusetts WIC Program is very excited to be working with ASPHN and CDC to implement developmental monitoring in our WIC clinics. Seven local WIC agencies

across the Commonwealth, representing more than 25% of our statewide caseload, eagerly volunteered to participate in our pilot project. We have a diverse, experienced group of staff from the Department of Public Health acting in an advisory capacity and we are working closely with our MA Act Early Ambassador as we design, launch, and evaluate the project. Pilot implementation is underway and evaluation data is beginning to be collected and analyzed.

Nevada State Updates

No new updates since the September Newsletter:

One of the trainings for pilot implementation was professionally recorded. The recorded training will later be used as an online training when we roll out statewide in 2020. The online training will be followed by a live Q&A webinar to address any questions or concerns before implementation.

The Nevada pilot started officially on August 19, 2019. All agencies have received their initial shipment of pilot materials and additional ones are being ordered in preparation for statewide roll out.

Nevada WIC will use Survey Monkey to administer our post participant and staff surveys. Nevada will distribute the survey to pilot and future LTSAE participants via One-Call-Now which is our newly implemented text service. Dr. Rock at the University of Nevada - Reno will be helping us process the data collected from our paper surveys that are done during pilot. We're hoping to come up with a way to collect the data electronically for statewide implementation.

Iowa State Updates

Iowa has started a pilot at three of its WIC clinics as of October 1st. We have held individual 1:1 call's with each coordinator and shared the ASPHN webinars and educational video's with the coordinators to help them gain a better understanding of the program and help educate local staff that will be implementing the program. We have established a partnerships with Iowa's CDC's Act Early Ambassador to Iowa who is assisting with the pilot program and has already provided education to all of our 20 WIC coordinators in Iowa. Iowa is also looking at a partnering with Early Childhood Iowa a state organization that's mission is to positively affect the lives of all children in Iowa from ages 0-5. Three project calls have been scheduled between all three pilot sites, Iowa's CDC's Act Early Ambassador, and the majority of Iowa's State Nutrition Consultants who assist with the WIC grant management to discuss the pilot at the beginning, mid and end points of our scheduled 6 month pilot to assess if it is feasible to roll out state wide sometime in 2020.

Maine State Updates

All 60 WIC locations in Maine are using the milestone checklists during the appointments. They had a statewide training May 31 and the forms went statewide June 1, 2019.

A few quotes from clinic staff in Maine about their experience with LTSAE so far:

- "I do not go over them in detail with parents but am providing and briefly reviewing to almost all at recerts and mca's. So far they have been receptive and may even download the app in the near future."
- "I've given them out a couple times and parents seem to really like the visual of what milestones their baby/kid should be about and seem to get really

excited when they see they have already started hitting the milestones. They also have made a great addition to our 5 year old packet."

- "Right now I have only been using them if the parent has a question or concerns about the development. At that point, I think they are great to have. I just referred a client to CDS yesterday."
- "I did get a little feedback from one Nutritionist soon after we got the developmental handouts. She said that it was an excellent resource and the conversation happened organically. The mother had questions and the Nutritionist celebrated milestones with her and provided the handout and applicable referrals."
- "I've heard a few of the counselors go over them with caregivers who expressed concerns and they seem to be a really helpful tool."

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