



CHEMUNG COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES



February 15, 2023

Call to order

A meeting of the Chemung County Health Department Professional Advisory Committee was held via WebEx on **February 15, 2023 at 12pm.**

Attendees

Attendees included: Christina Standt, Nicole Barton, Jon Keough, Samantha White (Sarah Mattison), Mary Krebs (Mary Ann Baker), Kim Schrolucke-Smith, Susan Larson, Kim Rosenkrans, Courtney Aronstam

Members excused

Dr. Justin Nistico, Rena Terwilliger

Approval of Minutes

The November 16th meeting minutes were distributed for review and were accepted as written.

CHHA Reports

ELECTRONIC VISIT VERIFICATION 2023 (Medicaid)

January 2023 staff started verifying visits through Netsmart Mobile Advisor application to collect electronic visit verification, staff must be physically at patients home to utilize app as it works on GPS mapping, they then obtain electronic signatures from patients verifying that visit was complete. These electronic signatures are sent to state aggregator who forward verification to Medicaid to process payments for services provided.

OASIS E

OASIS-E went into effect in January 2023 the OASIS instrument was revised to increase standardization across post-acute care settings to uniformly collect social determinants of health data and have a standardized quality measure that can be used across different settings. Additionally, the OASIS plays a key role with patient outcomes in the upcoming value-based purchasing environment. OASIS information will serve as a primary data source in calculating up to a 5% bonus or 5% reduction in reimbursements.

VALUE BASED PURCHASING

Value Based Purchasing went into effect in January 2023. Starting in 2023 (this is called Performance Year One), the information that HHAs provide through various measures and statistics will impact payment in 2025 (called CY 2025 Payment Year One). CMS will pay an increase of up to 5% or a decrease of up to 5% to agencies compared against agencies of like size across the country. These payments will track 2 years later. So, 2023 data will have payment adjusted in 2025, data from 2024 will have payment adjusted in 2026, etc.

NYS DOH SURVEY

NYS completed their re-survey on 12/8/22. They reviewed 5 patient charts and identified areas for improvement. The plan of corrections was submitted and accepted as written on 1/3/23. The next re-certification will be sometime in 2025.

QUALITY ASSURANCE PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT (QAPI)/

Home Health Quality Measures

Improvement in ambulation showed an improvement since September 94.2% - January 100% Clinicians continue to be instructed on the importance of utilizing PT services when indicated. No patterns identified. Will continue to monitor admissions and resumptions to ensure that therapy evals are ordered as appropriate.

Acute care hospitalizations increase from 19.4% to 24% above the state and national averages of 18.0% and 15.4% respectively.

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Infection Control:

Infections continue to be monitored, any new infection since start of care is added to tracking form to identify patient with wound, respiratory illness, venous access devices, urinary devices, to identify possible educational opportunities for staff and patients. January it was noted UTIs were more than 50% of new infections, none had a urinary device. UTI teaching continues to be done regularly with patients.

Falls: Falls continue to be tracked to identify therapy/equipment needs and any identifiable barriers. Patients identified were educated on safety and fall precautions and have therapies in place or orders obtained from physician for therapy evaluations.

Continuity of care: This continues to be challenging due to staffing shortages and staff vacations/illness/injury. Scheduler is working closely with case managers to arrange schedules to meet patients visit needs.

Preventing re-hospitalization New PIP item, CHHA requested input from committee on what interventions might be implemented to decrease the amount of rehospitalization

CMS Home Health Compare: Patient Satisfaction

Updated scores were posted on 1/24/23. Star Rating to 4 out of 5 for patient satisfaction. This is a decreased by 1 star since 10/26/22. The data collected for current star rating was 4/2021-3/2022.

CMS Home Health Compare: Quality of Patient Care

Updated Scores were posted on 1/24/23. Our quality rating is currently 4.5 out of 5 Stars, which remains unchanged. The data collected for current star rating was 4/2021-3/2022

We continue to have the highest star ratings of the 3 home care agencies that services Chemung County for Quality of Patient Care and Patient Satisfaction.

Press Ganey

Press Ganey is a third-party patient survey provider, they send survey regarding patient satisfaction to 100% of patient population. January it was reported they sent 164 surveys and 37 were returned. The comments obtained from Press Ganey web site are reviewed by DPS and Public Health Director monthly and distributed to staff.

Staffing: Supervisory Public Health Nurse, and two vacant RN case manager positions, one RN out on FMLS after sustaining fall at home and required surgical intervention.

Referrals:

Referrals are continuing to be sent in large quantities and staff are triaging all referrals, patients discharged from acute care facilities take priority over office referrals. Staff is calling patients and if unable to see timely the staff offer to send referrals to another home care agency.

Incidents/complaints.

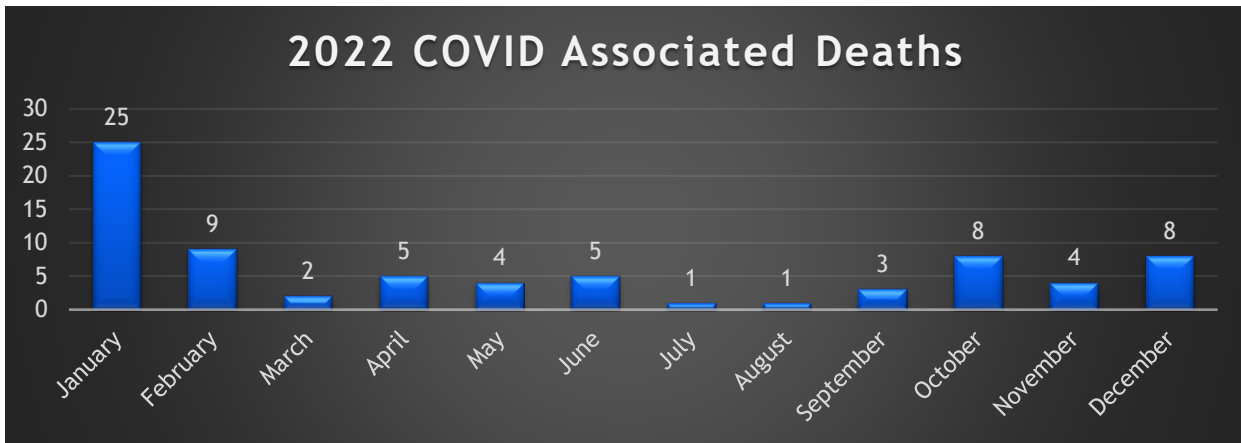
One incident/complaint this quarter, patient called and complained that nurse had poked him with scissors during dressing change, he felt she was in a hurry as bandage didn't remain intact for too long. Patient has asked to have different nurse; his request was accommodated. Nurse was provided education on proper wound care techniques and provided new scissors that were appropriate for dressing changes.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPT REPORT

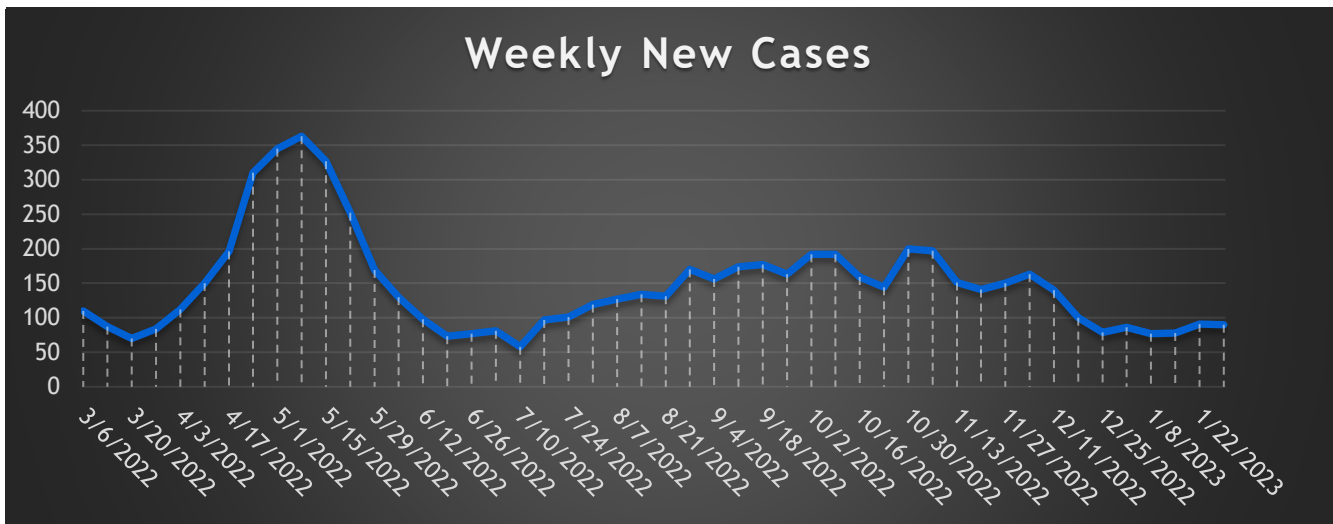
COVID-19

COVID-19 case investigation related activities continue on a limited basis as staffing allows. The COVID Paperwork Portal remains and integral part of our process for the public to obtain necessary quarantine and isolation documents.

Deaths are still occurring among those diagnosed with COVID-19. Deaths associated with COVID-19 for the months of 2022 are as follows:



Chemung County maintained a 7 day positivity rate between 6%-8% in the past week. The average positivity rate for the month of November was 9.74% December was 5.77% and January was 5.91%.



New York State is aligning with CDC recommendations for Isolation and Quarantine in community settings. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/isolation.html>

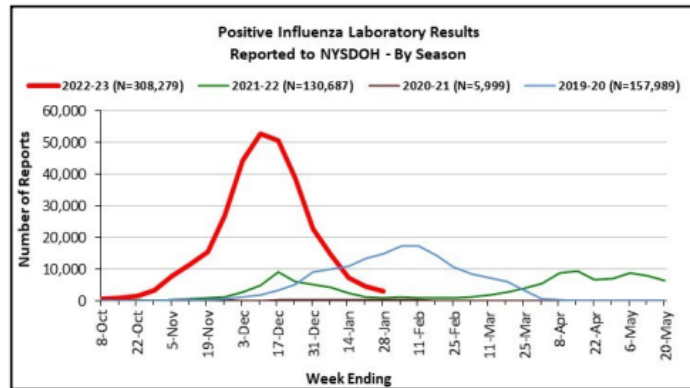
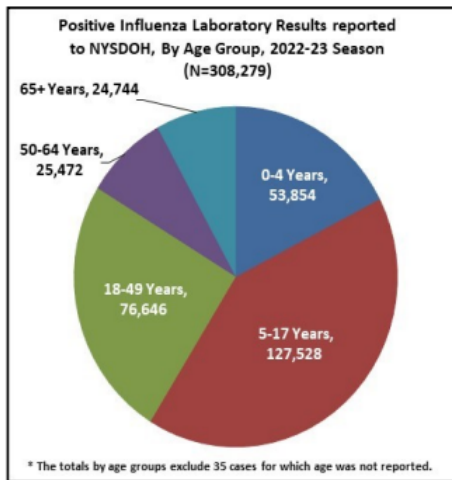
Additional data is reported daily on the County Dashboard here: <https://forms.chemungcountyny.gov/covidmapupdates/map.php>

Statewide data is also reported on the New York Dashboard here: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-data-new-york>

INFLUENZA

For 2022-2023 influenza season, 1259 Influenza A, 5 Influenza B, and 42 H1N1. New York State has had 9 pediatric deaths so far this flu season. The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) collects, compiles, and analyzes information on flu activity year-round in New York State (NYS), and

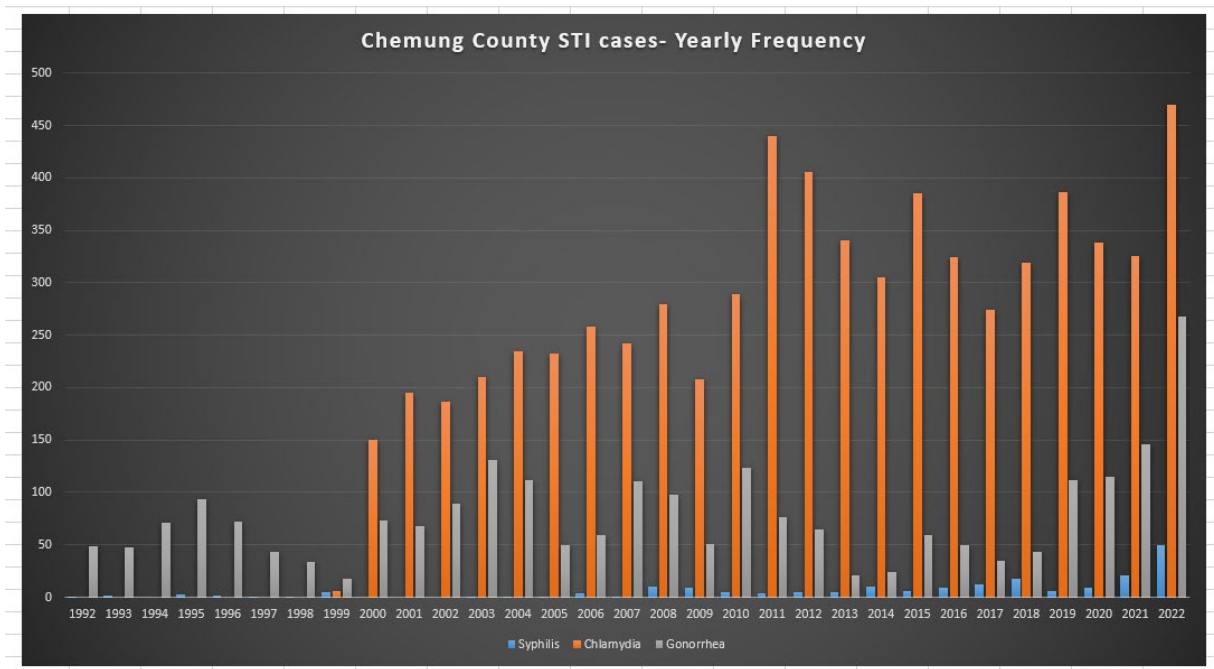
produces a weekly report during the flu season (October through the following May). NYSDOH Weekly report can be found here: <https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/surveillance/>



OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASES:

Public Health has been busy with case investigations. In January, Public Health Nurses investigated a N. Meningitidis suspect case who lived in a group home and had symptoms. It was ruled out that the suspect case had *Kingella Kingae*. Public Health also investigated a Hepatitis A case who had met lab criteria but did not meet case definition for being symptomatic. Public Health did have a confirmed case of Pertussis who was vaccinated with Tdap. Case thought she had Covid and went for a PCR test that resulted in a positive pertussis case. The case did not work with small children or have any involvement with small children so post-exposure prophylaxis was not needed for any contacts. Chemung County collaborated with NYSDOH Regional Epidemiologists, CCHD Medical Consultant, and local hospital Infection Control Nurses to complete case investigations mentioned above.

They continue to see the county's STI rates increase. At the year's end the department recorded a total of 768 STI's that were tested and treated. This number is up significantly from 2021 a total 492 STI's that year. For 2022, Chemung County had 470 Chlamydia cases, 263 Gonorrhea cases, and 50 Syphilis cases.



PUBLIC HEALTH CLINICS

Lead Testing Clinic: The Lead testing clinic at the health department is ready to receive patients. By appointment, the clinic will perform finger-stick lead testing in office where patients will receive immediate results. With each patient, a risk assessment will be conducted. Each patient will also receive information about lead exposure primary prevention, risk reduction, and the Childhood Lead Poisoning Primary Prevention Program (CLPPP+) inspection program.

Immunization Clinic: Friday vaccination clinics have formerly expanded to offer all childhood and adult vaccinations in our inventory. We continue to see students, both new to the area and others who are in process of completing a childhood vaccine series. they continue to see patients for a variety of COVID vaccinations and have a complete COVID vaccine inventory from 6 months to adult. We are the only provider of 6 month to 5 year old primary dose vaccine in this area on the CDC Vaccine finder page at this time (vaccines.gov). They are able to redistribute COVID and Mpox vaccine to other county public health offices and health care organizations affiliated with the state vaccination program which has helped the regional lack of access while leveraging resources. They have recently redistributed Mpox vaccine to a provider in immediate need due to a refrigeration failure.

STI/HIV Clinic: Clinic hours remain by appointment only. However, they accepted some walk-ins with extenuating circumstances such as, reporting symptoms and homelessness. Clinic hours remain Monday

through Thursday 1-3 pm. Covid and MPOX screening continue at this point. Appropriate PPE is provided to patients upon entrance to the building. Cumulative patient counts from 4/22 re-opening of clinic are at: 177. Vaccines for Hepatitis A & B, MPOX, HPV, Tdap, MMR, Meningitis and Influenza are offered through STI/HIV clinic for those uninsured or underinsured. Incarcerated persons are screened for eligibility to receive vaccines.

Chemung County expanded education efforts regarding Expedited Partner Therapy (EPT) in 2022. Education has been provided via zoom to the AOMC Emergency Department, in person at community education events and wellness fairs, at Elmira College wellness events for both students and staff on campus, and through social media such as facebook and Instagram. Since 2022, Chemung County Health Department STI clinic has expanded their EPT to include both Gonorrhea and Trichomoniasis in addition to Chlamydia.

Despite many other LHD's remaining closed for STI /HIV clinic services in 2022, we resumed services in April 2022 and have worked hard to expand out EPT medication in hand throughout this difficult time.

Educational efforts will continue to expand through 2023. An MPH intern is creating an EPT educational platform to provide outreach to the general community, local medical offices, OB/GYNs and ED's with emphasis on measures to implement EPT. Our counties escalating STI rates underscore the need to focus on eliminating the barriers medical offices may be facing while trying to expand their EPT services. Staff from the Ivy Clinic have resumed hosting a table during Chemung County Health Department STI Clinic hours. They will be present twice- weekly to provide HIV outreach, accessing PREP, PEP, insurance assistance to pay for PREP & PEP medications, streamlining referrals from our STI/HIV clinic for PREP referrals. This practice complements new testing and treatment strategies in the clinic. It has become a standard practice to offer three-point testing, and any MSM male with a positive rectal chlamydia will receive a referral for PREP.

The sexual health risk questionnaire provided at the beginning of their visit is useful to dictate 3 site testing. 95-98% of patients coming through this clinic are now receiving chlamydia and gonorrhea testing of the throat. On 1/20/23 we were notified by the NYSDOH of multiple cases of antibiotic resistant GC of the throat. Reduced antibiotic susceptibility to 5 classes of antibiotics has been identified. Positive GC of the throat requires a test of cure 30 days after treatment due to the higher treatment failure rate. We can send specimens for susceptibility testing to Wadsworth if we suspect treatment failure.

IMMUNIZATIONS: Our new Finger Lakes Area Immunization Coalition is fully engaged and our January meeting was held on the 26th. Minutes will be attached if arrive in time. This meeting was limited to the member counties (Ontario, Wayne, Yates, Livingston, Seneca, Schuyler, Chemung, Steuben and Monroe). Our next meeting will be held virtually on February 16th and include stakeholders from all the counties. Pivotal Public Health Partnership is facilitating the meeting.

With the 2022-2023 school year we continue building our school/daycare healthcare partnerships. The nursing offices have seen considerable turnover. Individual education with school nurses continues to be frequent as there are still children returning to the room for the first time since COVID started.

All immunization policies were reviewed and updated on December 20, 2022 during the Pivotal manual review meeting.

We welcomed our new Medical Consultant, Dr Nistico to the office on December 27th. He has completed the annual trainings for the VFA program and is now the provider of record for this program.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & PODS

A pop-up vaccination clinic was held at Elmira College on Wednesday, November 30, 2022. The target populations were Elmira College students and staff but the clinic was also open to the community. A total of 43 vaccinations were given: 13 COVID-19 bivalent boosters, 28 influenza, and 2 JYNNEOS.

Another pop-up vaccination clinic was held at Biltmore Crossing Apartments on Tuesday, January 10, 2023. The clinic was promoted to residents and open to the community. A total of 8 vaccinations were given: 7 COVID-19 bivalent boosters and 1 influenza.

A low-notice communications drill was conducted through FLPHA on Monday, January 9, 2023, testing the nine local health departments' ability to communicate and provide aid in the event of a public health emergency. Emergency Preparedness Coordinators were excluded from participating.

A Chemung County Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2023. Attendees shared recent events, training opportunities, and discussed the upcoming full-scale exercise.

Staff members are receiving initial and refresher training in ICS-700, ICS-100, and ICS-200 which will better prepare them for responding to future public health emergencies and give them the prerequisites to participate in more advanced emergency preparedness trainings.

A full-scale exercise is being planned for Monday, April 3, 2023 in collaboration with Elmira College and other community partners. The exercise scenario will be based on an outbreak of meningococcal disease allowing participants to simulate case investigations, contact tracing, and dispensing medical countermeasures as well as participate in a communications drill.

SOUTHERN TIER TOBACCO AWARENESS COALITION (STTAC)

The Reality Check youth leadership program is in full swing. Our RC coordinator, Trisha, travels to three area high schools (Corning Painted Post, Ernie Davis Academy, and Watkins Glen), 2x a month to meet and educate students on tobacco and its deadly effects on our health and in our communities. In turn, students are learning to become leaders and advocate for change. Three students traveled to Albany with Trisha in February to meet with legislators to advocate for more policy change. Our governor raised the sales tax on a pack of cigarettes another \$1, in addition to banning all flavored tobacco products including menthol.

STTAC continues to work with landlords and local businesses to become smoke free. Spring Meadow apts. in Steuben County is going 100% tobacco free. This includes vapes, e-cigs, and marijuana. We met with Elmira College last month to assist in putting a policy together to present to their board. The campus will become all smoke free this fall. Coming up in March we will promote ‘smoke free movies’ and “Take down Tobacco Day-March 31st”.

STTAC has a position open for Community Engagement Coordinator. This is a FT position, Monday-Friday. Call STTAC at 607-737-2858 to learn more.

CANCER SERVICES

Southern Tier Cancer Services Program posted on social media platforms helpful information during the month of January for Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

The Program continues to reach the uninsured at 5 different locations monthly in Chemung County and will increase those efforts as the warmer weather gets here.

3 New Breast Cancer Patient were diagnosed in January through the program and I was able to sign these patients up for the Medicaid Cancer Treatment Program which covers the entire cancer treatment. Currently I have 22 active cancer patients that I am case managing for this month.

QA/QI

Medical director reviews patient charts on a bi-weekly basis. Constructive criticism was provided and plan of corrections has been made.

PATIENT COMPLAINTS/INCIDENTS

No complaints in STI/HIV clinic this quarter. This is evidence through our patient satisfaction surveys.

WIC REPORT February 2023

Formula Shortage

Calls continue to be received from participants unable to find formula, but the phone calls are decreasing. This seems to ebb and flow. For most of December and all of January participants were unable to find Enfamil Gentlease, which is a very common formula and our second most popular formula that we issue to participants. Word from the State was that there was a problem with distribution rather than production. Also, the thought was people were hoarding because of the limited supply, which also caused gaps in supply. This seems to have stabilized a bit in February, but the supply is still somewhat limited. Unfortunately, starting in March a large majority of the temporary formulas previously approved to alleviate hardships will no longer be accepted.

Discontinuation Date
3/1/2023

Formula Brand(s)
Always My Baby
Bubs Supreme
CVS Health
Kendamil
Up & Up
Parent's Choice
Signature Care
Tippy Toes
Well Beginnings

5/1/2023

Enfamil Prosobee powder
Enfamil Infant 21.1 oz, 29.4oz
Enfamil NeuroPro Infant powder
Enfamil NeuroPro Infant powder
box 36.4oz
Enfamil NeuroPro Infant 6-pack
(8oz) RTU
Enfamil A.R. 19.5oz, 27.4oz,
30.4oz
Enfamil Gentlease 19.9oz, 27.7oz

Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease
powder
Enfamil NeuroPro Gentlease
powder box 35.2oz
Enfamil Reguline 19.5oz
Similac Soy Isomil 30.8oz

7/1/2023

Nutramigen with Probiotic LGG
19.8oz, 27.8oz
Enfamil NeuroPro Enfacare 23oz

Physical Presence Waiver

Because the White House announced the end of the COVID-19 PH Emergency on May 11th 2023 the current WIC Physical Presence and Remote Benefit Issuance waiver will expire August 9th 2023. The USDA announced an opportunity to State WIC agencies to opt in to another nationwide waiver for physical presence and remote benefit issuance granted to the USDA by the American Rescue Plan Act. NYS WIC opted in to the waiver so this allows the program to conduct remote appts until Sept 2026. Even though the waiver allows us to complete WIC appts over the phone and staff are allowed to see participants in-person, if they are agreeable. As an agency discussions are being held to talk about ways to see more participants in-person this continues to be developing.

New Online Nutrition Education

Offering online nutrition education started Monday February 6th. So far it has been well received by participants. The platform for online nutrition education is called WICHealth. The platform contains several 15-minutes modules ranging from pregnancy and breastfeeding to overall health in children. The participant only must complete one module to get credit for a nutrition education session and after completion staff will call the participant to load more benefits on their eWIC card. It will take a few months to fully get comfortable and acclimated with this new system. The participants are currently offered online nutrition education to will have 3 months to complete the module.

Enhancing Nutrition Education

In a management evaluate conducted by the USDA it was determined the NYS WIC Program needed to enhance and improve the nutrition education offered to WIC participants. WIC training center, Cicatelli and Associates, created a NYS WIC Learning Community titled *Is WIC Really SNAP Light? Revitalizing Nutrition Education in WIC at Every Juncture*. Chemung County WIC agency applied and was accepted into the Learning Community. They are working with 11 other WIC agencies in NYS to share best practices, explore how nutrition education is promoted to participants, how nutrition is portrayed in the local agency setting, staff attitudes about integrating nutrition in new and creative ways,

the role of WIC leadership in setting the tone for the importance of nutrition education, and key issues related to staff training and mentoring. They will participate in three virtual workshops and remote check-ins over a six-month period.

WIC Staffing

Currently fully staffed with 1 WIC Program Coordinator, 3 Nutritionists, 3 Nutrition Assistants, and 3 Breastfeeding Peer Counselors.

NEXT Meeting Scheduled for May 17th2023