Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Minutes
April 28, 2026
VIRTUAL

Attendance: *Michael Egly- Food Pantry of Waukesha County; Rosa Zibell- Waukesha Free Clinic; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Rob Shelledy- St. Vincent de Paul; Celine Kleist- Eras Senior Network; Jill Herz- UW-Madison Extension FoodWIse; Lisa Topp- Waukesha County WIC; Kara White- Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin; Soraya Bericoto- Wisconsin Well Woman Program/ProHealth Care; Jessica Kapsos, Amanda Denning- Hebron Housing Services; Eva Platte- Waukesha Head Start; Shana Krause- La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start; Nancy Munoz- Catholic Charities.*

Waukesha County Nutrition Coalition Updates:

This is our first virtual meeting of the year. We will be doing alternating virtual and in-person. Hunger Task Force agreed to host us at their location in West Milwaukee. They will provide a tour of the food bank. They also offered to do an advocacy discussion about their voices against hunger program, and provide an overview of their nutrition education at the food bank and the farm.

Agency Updates:

Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin- Kara White: Kara is now director of financial empowerment. Will be doing Winter Glow program this year in Waukesha County, where we give out winter gear for children who need it. It will be Thursday October 15 12-6 at the Waukesha Public Library. Items will include donated and new winter gear, games, and tabling partners with activities including pumpkins. Will not be doing pre-registration- it will just be open to attend.

St. Vincent de Paul- Rob Shelledy: We serve one of the meals provided at the Hope Center on Monday evenings. We will be providing meals at Roberta Park mid-July to mid-August for our summer meals program.

Hebron Housing Services- Amanda Denning and Jessica Kapsos: Hebron Housing services provides shelter services for Waukesha County. Housing includes one for families- Juno House, and one for singles- Sentry House. Sienna House is a transitional shelter where people can stay who need a bit of extra time to find housing. If you know a single male or female that is street homeless, give us a call and we can do coordinated entry (referral system) to put them on the list for possible housing options. Call 211 and they will get referred to us for help.

Wisconsin Well Woman Program/ProHealth Care- Soraya Bericoto: Providing screening and diagnosis for breast and cervical cancers. They also have some funding through the ProHealth Care foundation to help those who do not qualify for the Well Woman program. Prenatal classes are ending (today is last class). The next class will come in September. There will be an upcoming workshop—Cancer Clear and Simple—on May 14 from 4-6:30 at the hospital. We temporarily moved to Waukesha Memorial because they are doing renovations of the Barstow building. Providing dementia program for the Hispanic community including caregiver workshops. If you know someone who can benefit from these programs, you can call our mainline. We have two psychotherapists for the Hispanic community for adults and for youth. They accept insurance, or you can refer to the HHRC to help with the cost.

Waukesha County WIC- Lisa Topp: We are in phase two of the new food rule. Back in the fall, we rolled out some changes to foods. The new shopping guide will go out to participants and will be available online. Highlights: With families' fruit and veggie dollar amount, they can get fresh herbs. They can get almond and cashew butter. There

are 23 new cereals as options and a vast array of whole grain products (English muffins, wild rice, quinoa, corn masa flour). More plan-based milks are available (previously regular, lactose-free, or soy). Now have the brand "Ripple," "Ripple Kids" and "Silk Kids" which are pea protein and oat based. Changes to yogurt as well. All participants are getting additional milk. We received communication about the 2026 farmers market season. Benefit is the same as last year- $25 (five $5 checks) they can use at the local market. However, will receive fewer total booklets. Hopefully we can serve all who are interested.

Waukesha Free Clinic- Rosa Zibell: Census keeps going up, due to more people losing insurance or falling in between healthcare cracks. Our 49th gala will be this year on Friday, June 5th at the Brookfield Conference Center. This provides significant income for the sustainability of the clinic. Started piloting a new GI clinic- very successful. The provider is excited to be working with us. Will be able to use the services of Carroll College occupational therapy for the summer. Waukesha Free Clinic may be able to host the WCNC meeting in the future and provide an opportunity to tour the clinic.

Waukesha Head Start- Eva Platte: Eva is Family Service Specialist with Waukesha Head Start. Accepting enrollment for this school year, Birth-3 for Early Head Start, 3+ for Head Start. Also have 4K classes. Have a summer program that is a daycare called Summer of Discovery. There is a tuition; Wisconsin Shares will pick up most of it for those who qualify—anyone who qualifies for FoodShare qualifies for the Shares program.

Eras Senior Network- Celine Kleist: Helping seniors in Milwaukee and Waukesha County by providing friendly phone calls and visits, transportation and yard work, and bringing on volunteers to help with those services. Working on spring yard cleanup and getting in volunteers. Let us know if you have folks that are interested in helping battling isolation for seniors with friendly phone calls. Just completed our Tapestry fundraiser and it was a success.
Question: *What do calls typically look like? A: Depends on how much time the volunteer has and the client's needs. Their program looks for common interests between both and try to match them up. Some folks want to talk for a few minutes, some want to talk for an hour…we let them come up with their own schedule and have the volunteer report their hours back to us.*
Question: *How does transportation work? A: We do a lot of medical rides to the doctor and dentist, as well as grocery shopping. Sometimes the client is able and wants to be dropped off and do their shopping alone, sometimes volunteers do the shopping for them, or sometimes they want someone to help. We also help with errands such as the post office, DMV.*
Question: *What is eligibility for the program? A: Ages 60+ in Waukesha and Milwaukee County, and also ages 18+ with social security disability.*

Catholic Charities- Nancy Munoz: Providing behavioral health services, outreach and case management for anyone who needs assistance with accessing resources in the community. Have a Youtube channel for immigration and refugee services- trying to have updated videos. If anyone is interested in what is changing in the law for Hispanic community and also any refugee community, check out our Youtube page under "Catholic Charities refugee and immigration services." Videos are provided in different languages.

Extension FoodWIse Program for Waukesha, Milwaukee, Racine & Kenosha Counties- Jill Herz: It is grant planning season; this is the first year where FoodWIse just has EFNEP funding (no SNAP-Ed). FoodWIse receives EFNEP (Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program) federal funds in Waukesha, Dane, Rock, Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha counties. With this grant, FoodWIse teaches parent groups and youth groups, focusing especially on older youth (middle and high school) and parents/caregivers. This summer, FoodWIse will host a dietetic intern who will be doing some projects and also providing a much-needed extra pair of hands for summertime classes. Our new

Walk With FoodWIse program is a walking and nutrition program that includes cooking activities each week as well as progressively increasing the amount of walking you do. It is best at sites who have indoor places for the group to walk but also it is a great program for going outside in good weather. Also teaching Teen Cuisine workshops, which include hands-on cooking and nutrition for teens. Reach out to Jill for more info.

La Casa de Esperanza Early Head Start- Shana Krause: For the Early Head Start program we are currently full, but we are taking applications for our waitlist. Had our Dental Day on April 9; quite a few people came to that. This Thursday we are doing a lead and hemoglobin day with the WIC department. Nutrition classes are being provided on Wednesdays with FoodWIse. One of Shana's home visit families is starting a free support group for children with autism at the library. It is a chance for parents to come together, and someone will be there to watch the kids. The first one will be Saturday, June 6 from 11-1pm.

Food Pantry of Waukesha County- Michael Egly: On April 18, we just had our successful fundraiser. Gearing up for Stamp Out Hunger, which is the nation's largest food drive on Saturday May 9. That happens throughout Waukesha County. In May, the Senior Stockbox waitlist is going to be lifted, so we can enroll new seniors in the Stockbox again. In the summer, we are participating in the Backpack Coalition with United Way. The Backpack distribution will be in August. We do not have a pre-registration anymore- first come, first serve.

Next Meeting: June 23, 2026

Location: Hunger Task Force

Topic: Hunger Task Force Programs + Tour