



# Roundtable news

A bi monthly newsletter on nutrition policy and legislation concerning the child and adult care food program

February 8, 2002

## CALIFORNIA CACFP IN CRISIS?

On January 14<sup>th</sup> the Roundtable sent out an E-mail "Call to Action" to its membership. Based on a series of troubling calls in the weeks leading up to the announcement, it appeared that the Child Care Food Program in California might be facing a crisis. Potentially hundreds if not thousands of children could be losing access to the nutritional benefits of the CACFP. Our concern followed the downsizing of Crystal Stairs, the termination or capping of several Southern California sponsors and the self-termination of CBIA. Who remains in Southern California to step in? We were concerned that providers and centers once sponsored by organizations in the area are finding new sponsorships and not just falling through the cracks. We were to find out later providers in the Palmdale/Lancaster area, for instance, could not find a sponsor. We also wondered whether sponsors felt they had received adequate training and technical assistance to run successful programs.

The call to action asked members to attend the January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting in Sacramento or complete an attached survey form. We only received 19 forms back (the results of which will be summarized and reported to NSD), but the meeting was packed. The meeting itself went well and a lively productive discussion ensued. Below is a summary of that conversation edited for brevity's sake.

Suzanna Nye, NSD's Field Services Unit Supervisor began by thanking us for raising the issue. She reiterated that NSD's goal is both to increase program integrity and outreach. She asked what can we do together to make the program successful?

Janet Allen, USDA's Director of Special Nutrition Programs,

See **Crisis**, page 2

Sacramento, January 25, 2002

### CHAIR REPORT

Paula James welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. She thanked Jeff Tingey, from Quality CACFP for providing the refreshments and the state for the nice meeting room.

**Earned Income Tax Credit Time Again:** Paula reminded sponsors that it is time once again to share information on the EIC with their Tier I providers and low and moderate-income parents. Did you know that according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) most families leaving welfare for work are employed but remain poor because of low hourly wages? Census data indicate that in 1998 the EIC lifted 4.8 million Americans, estimates that 67-80% of former welfare recipients raising children found employment,

See **Chair**, page 3

### INSIDE THIS EDITION

#### REPORTS

Advisory Committee	3
CFPA	7
Conference	5
Membership	5
Nutrition Services Division	6
USDA	7

#### HOT TOPICS

Middle School Eligibility	3
Healthy Families Alert	3
Monitoring Bulletin Update	4
2002 Meeting Schedule	4
Expansion Grants	4
New Food Buying Guide	6
Bank Account Fraud Warning	7
Cal-Pro-Net Training	8

**Crisis**, continued from page 1

suggested that as child nutrition reauthorization is coming up, we should take this opportunity to consider program changes to help ameliorate constraints that may have led to so many sponsors being terminated or self-terminating/downsizing. Are there structural flaws in the current program, she asked. Is there enough administrative money or are there other financial viability issues? She suggested that we consider these when we make recommendations for reauthorization. Someone asked why did Crystal Stairs downsize? Andrea Howlett said that they had felt it was easier financially to downsize to their R & R service area for a number of reasons but essentially it allowed them to better pool funding streams.

A sponsor with both centers and homes offered that their food program was taking a lot of the organization's funds, causing other programs to suffer. They further stated that operating at a \$0 balance at the end of the year also proved difficult. As a result, this sponsor admitted that they too were looking at downsizing. They went on to state that the strict overtime pre-approval policy was unworkable and presented a conflict with Department of Labor rules. They asked for more reasonableness on the issue. Another sponsor later offered that they too have concern for overtime as it relates to reviewing dinner meals and also the high cost of gas in some areas of the state was a concern.

Carolyn Brown pointed out that a lot of these questions will be addressed when NSD conducts its training on the new FNS Financial Management Instruction 796-2. She admitted that NSD is in the throes of implementing the new instruction, which is very proscriptive. They will be training their staff and then they can begin training sponsors. A contract with Cal-Pro-Net to train staff was delayed by the state budgetary freeze but is in process. She apologized for how long it has taken. As the Roundtable is a partner in this training effort, leadership will be involved in the development of sponsor training.

**The CCFP Roundtable News** is a bimonthly publication for members of the Child Care Food Program Roundtable, an affiliate organization of the California Food Policy Advocates, 116 New Montgomery Street, Suite 530, San Francisco, CA 94105 (for more information contact Ed at 925-686-0522).

Editor  
Edward Mattson

Membership is from Jan 1 to Dec 31 every year. For more information on Roundtable membership, contact Ed who is temporarily doing membership at 925-686-0522.

Janet Allen asked that specific concerns with the Financial Management Instruction, such as that with overtime, be put in writing for USDA to consider. She asked what are the parts that don't work "at the street level?" We agreed that sponsors could email their concerns to Ed Mattson at mred94523@earthlink.net and he would consolidate them for transmission to USDA. She then suggested that many of USDA's "proscriptive" rules such as the one concerning overtime and others could best be addressed by sponsors with well documented personnel practices that are uniformly applied to both CACFP and non-CACFP staff. She said by that simple expedient many of the issues and concerns pointed out by OIG could be resolved.

A sponsor then pointed out that she can appreciate that NSD has not yet conducted the financial management training but sponsors are still being held liable for non-compliance. She believed that it didn't seem fair. She went on to ask if sponsor caps are reasonable in cases where providers are not completing their daily paperwork yet a sponsor's corrective action plan has already been approved? The NSD capping procedure also seems to have changed. At one time sponsors could continue to add providers to replace those that had left under the cap, maintaining the level set by the cap. *(Editor's note: this actually has been a discussion issue for quite some time and warrants perhaps an official opinion from USDA and/or (a) recommendation(s) for reauthorization. Many good sponsors have an occasional provider who despite repeated training, review findings, or probation does not always keep up the daily paperwork. Reviews always find the children being fed meals that meet the minimum requirements but on occasion the paperwork is not up to date. What to do? Are all such providers to be terminated? Do sponsors with such providers warrant a cap?)*

In response to the above sponsor, Suzanna Nye said she is working with Peggy Peters, the new Manager of the Program Integrity Unit (PIU). It is their intention to insure that adverse actions taken against sponsors, such as caps, are done so in a consistent and defensible fashion. Field staff must now prepare an intent packet which goes to their supervisor for review. It then must go to PIU who will screen it for consistency. Paula James then asked who, if anyone, is looking to insure that providers have access during this process? There was general discussion and recommendations that 1) sponsors that are terminated or self-terminate or downsize follow written policies and guidelines to insure consistency, and 2) that someone at NSD serve in the provider advocates role when adverse administrative actions

are taken to insure continued access.

Carolyn Morrison asked about the possibility of creating a mentoring program for sponsors having difficulties. However one of the issues in any mentoring program today is funding. There aren't enough administrative funds to pay for it. Janet asked is that the only way it could work? It would be hard now but perhaps it could be addressed in reauthorization. Suzanna offered that she was part of a National Mentoring Program through the ADA which was voluntary.

Back on sponsor caps, Jeff Tingey expressed a concern for when the state agency can not complete a sponsor review during a first visit but finds significant enough findings to place a cap on the sponsor. What happens to providers in the area wishing to come on the program while the state is waiting to schedule a follow-up visit to the sponsor? And should a sponsor have to wait for months under a cap waiting for the state to return? Janice Hunt offered that the new PIU packet would address consistent timing of follow-up visits.

Carolyn Brown then shared an excellent idea for reauthorization. Why not look at outcomes rather than documentation of costs? Treat the administration of the program as a fee for service and measure for outcomes. Perhaps it could begin as a pilot, she proposed.

There followed a general discussion and one suggestion that more effort should be made at the application/renewal phase and less ongoing micromanagement throughout the year. Why for instance do the individual names of staff have to be submitted causing endless name changes as staff come and go? Another sponsor pleaded that we need to give responsibility back to sponsors and lighten up on providers with respect to spotless daily records. This prompted Paula to point out again why it is so important to build our strategic partnerships and alliances. We may need their support down the road such as during the reauthorization process. Another sponsor pointed out that not all sponsors are part of the solution, not all are part of the Roundtable or participate in

training opportunities and activities but all seem to be painted by the same NSD brush. Finally we closed out the discussion with a proposal that state agencies be given more discretion with respect to allowability ■

**Chair**, continued from page 1

but are still likely to be in poverty, averaging between \$9,500 - \$15,000 annual income. The EIC is vital to these families according to the CBPP. For more information on the EIC kit go to CBPP web site at [www.cbpp.org/eic2002/index.html](http://www.cbpp.org/eic2002/index.html). To order an EIC Kit (for a minimal charge) contact CBPP at: [eickit@cbpp.org](mailto:eickit@cbpp.org) or call the CBPP at (202) 408-1080.

**Healthy Families Outreach:** In December NSD sent out a Healthy Families flier in English and Spanish, "Good News About Health Coverage." Paula asked if everyone had received it. She reiterated the importance of this critical effort and encouraged all sponsors to obtain or make copies of the flier and include it in the next mass mailing to their providers/centers. It is such a simple and effective way to do a lot of good. Be sure to put it on your to-do list.

**Getting the CACFP Message Out:** Paula reminded members how important it is, as we approach Child Nutrition Reauthorization, to establish and maintain our strategic partnerships with other community child care and nutrition stakeholders. It is equally important to do the same with our state and federal elected representatives. To help us craft our message Paula pointed out the work that Geri Henchy has recently completed at FRAC. It is a new flier entitled "Expanding Participation in the CACP: An Important Economic Stimulus." The flier's message is crafted in a way to take advantage of the present political environment. Forum members should have already received a copy with their latest newsletter. Roundtable members may download a copy off our web site ([www.ccfproundtable.org](http://www.ccfproundtable.org)), under "What's New."

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**Middle School Update:** Based on information originally sent out to sponsors when tiering first was implemented here in CA, many sponsors have been approving providers for tier 1 using middle school data. The NSD advised quite sometime ago that that was no longer acceptable practice based on clarification of the rule by USDA. Sponsors however have been asking for this significant policy change in writing. Carolyn Brown advised during the advisory committee meeting that a Management Bulletin on this is in de-

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of the Child Care Food Program Roundtable is to promote health and well-being of children in child care through providing leadership and advocating for enhanced and expanded CCFP.*

velopment. It will clarify that elementary schools are to be used exclusively beginning with the new year.

**Monitoring Bulletin Revised:** Ever since USDA issued its All Points Bulletin CAC 01-14 on Review Requirements for Sponsoring Organizations (NSD issued as Management Bulletin 01-210 in August 2001) there has been a great deal of confusion, especially as the policy related to providers added near the end of a fiscal year. Language in the bulletins seemed to suggest that providers approved in July, for example, would have to be monitored 3 times by the end of the fiscal year or September 30. The USDA has issued a clarifying bulletin CAC 02-07 dated January 3 and NSD is working on its version. Bottom line: in the example above, a sponsor would have 12 calendar months (to the following June) to complete the three required reviews, NOT just until the end of the fiscal year.

**2002 Roundtable Meetings:** At the November 19 Roundtable Advisory Committee meeting the 2002 meeting dates and locations were set. They are as follows:

- **March 22** - Los Angeles, Crystal Stairs office on Century Blvd.
- **May 17** - San Francisco, USDA offices on Kearny St.
- **July 19** - South Lake Tahoe, exact location not set yet.
- **Sep 20** - San Diego, exact location not set yet.
- **Oct 15-18** - Conference at Anaheim Sheraton

**Welcome to New AC Members:** Since our last regular meeting in September there has been an election of new advisory committee members and some resignations. Two new members were elected and began officially on January 1. They are Stephanie Clarke from 4C's of Alameda County and Aleida Gordon from San Bernardino Preschool Services Department. Please join us in welcoming them. Remaining members include Jerry Bowers, Carolyn Brown, Doris Fredericks, Rikki Grubb, Andrea Howlett, Paula James, Karen Kiernan, Sandra-Lerma Martinez (currently on leave), Nedy Mercado, Vita Sanchez, Mary Straw, Terry Talavera and Jeff Tingey. The next time you see one or all of them say thanks for all your hard work.

**Food Spec Project Update:** Terry Talavera has been consolidating the many food specs received by member sponsors and working up a list of products and serving sizes.

The Roundtable has a goal to at least simplify the recordkeeping of sponsors by possibly maintaining the source data in one central location. There are potentially some problems with this approach as apparently some products change regularly. That had not been our understanding. In Oregon they also tried to collect specs for all products used but it did not work out. Finally they resorted to making a list of acceptable products and telling providers they could only use products on the list. At the advisory committee meeting we agreed to table further discussion until a task force can be pulled together on the issue. Stay tuned; we are determined to find a way to simplify this process.

**Are You Ready for an Expansion Grant?:** As we have reported here before, there are provisions in the CACFP regulations that allow sponsors to apply for and receive up to \$8,300 in expansion grant funding to recruit up to 50 providers in low-income or rural areas. Carolyn Brown confirmed that grant applications are available at NSD. Stephanie Clarke, one of our new advisory committee members has received an application and is currently working on a proposal, in conjunction with an R & R CCIP grant, to outreach Spanish speaking providers in her community. Roundtable leadership has offered to help her through the process as a pilot project. We hope to use the lessons learned from Stephanie's project to assist other sponsors. Already two others have expressed an interest.

Low-income or rural? Low-income is defined the same as for Tier 1, an area where the local elementary school is at least 50% free or reduced. Rural is defined as not being within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA) or if so then in a documented "rural pocket" or "geographically isolated" area. To obtain SMSA data go to the following web site: [www.census.gov/ftp/pub/population/www/method.html](http://www.census.gov/ftp/pub/population/www/method.html) (Editor's note: I have reviewed the data and found the following California counties are within an SMSA and therefore are non-rural: Kern, Butte, Fresno, Madera, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Ventura, Merced, Stanislaus, Shasta, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Yolo, Monterey, San Diego, Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Napa, Solano, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, San Joaquin, Sutter and Yuba. Now obviously counties like Placer or Yuba might very well have a "geographically isolated" rural area within.)

Call NSD, Stephanie (510-584-3122) or Ed (925-686-0522) for more information.

**Update From DSS, CCL:** Linda Nissen agreed to participate in the last advisory committee meeting to discuss center certificates of operation and whether they could be used in lieu of a license to participate in the CACFP. She reported that as she understood it, a certificate of operation is used only for ownership changes and is usually good for a short time period. Licenses are not transferable. The certificates are issued more or less on an emergency basis to eliminate disruption of service to children during the transition period. The DSS considers centers under such certificates licensed. Carolyn Brown said she would explore the issue of program eligibility.

While Linda Nissen was there, members brought up a scenario in family child care homes where some are now getting a letter in lieu of a profile sheet. Linda advised that only the license or profile sheet is acceptable documentation. Advisory committee members have seen the letters on letterhead stationary and containing a license number and number of children. They may be from Yolo and Sutter Counties, Linda suggested, that at one time were issuing their own licenses and were not under state jurisdiction. She suggested we can look up all facilities on their web site [www.cclld.ca.gov](http://www.cclld.ca.gov) and do a "facility search" to check licenses.

We also briefly discussed provider moves. Linda advised that the DSS rule is 90 days to get a new license when a provider moves. The provider should report as soon as they know they are going to move to give DSS a head start with the paperwork. Linda said she knew some licensers were allowing roll-overs but it is not allowed. The NSD clarified that program effective date is the actual date of the new license.

Paula asked two questions: 1) What to do when a food program calls in a facility complaint and the licensing contact does not agree it is a problem? Linda advised that you should call the supervisor first and then the regional manager if you have to. 2) Is there any gray area with respect to possible over capacity seen in review of a provider's menus? What if a provider has misinformation on license capacity or misunderstands the policy and will not take the food program's advice? Linda suggested the sponsor call the applicable Advocate and ask them to provide the technical assistance.

Finally, Linda advised that due to budget constraints they are no longer giving out applications and regulations at orientation sessions. Providers need to sign an affidavit now before being given the materials.

**Organizational Effectiveness Grant Update:** Roundtable and CFPA leadership have been meeting regularly going through a formal exercise to take us from the Asilomar strategic plan through a comprehensive process leading to development of goals, objectives and work plans. From these we will better be able to discern the best organization and staffing levels to accomplish the Roundtable's work. The process is planned to wrap up by summer 2002.

## **CONFERENCE REPORT**

The Roundtable's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be at the Anaheim Sheraton, October 15-18<sup>th</sup>. The Roundtable is currently negotiating a new rate with the hotel. We are expecting a rate considerably less than last year's. Stay tuned. Members are encouraged to provide feedback on possible workshop topics and/or speakers they would like to see.

**Conference Help:** Putting on the conference is a tremendous task each year and takes many many hours. Advisory committee members are expected and do serve on one or more of the conference planning committees but other volunteers are needed to complete the job. Committees and advisory members assigned to date include: Audio Visual - Jerry Bowers; Hospitality - Andrea Howlett; Workshop Monitors - Aleida Gordon; Packet & Gift - Jeff Tingey; Program - Paula James, Doris Fredericks & Ed Mattson; Publications - Ed Mattson; Raffle/Door Prizes - Terry Talavera; Registration - Diane Butler-Joyner & Nedy Mercado; Sales - Jerry Bowers; Vendors/Exhibitors - Mary Straw & Karen Kiernan. These folks need your help. Please contact Ed or the applicable member listed above if you can help out in one or more of these areas. Be advised we especially need lots of help on registration and workshop monitoring and can always use tips on good workshop presenters.

**Scholarships:** Advisory committee members reviewed and updated the conference scholarship policy for 2002. Six scholarships will be made available this year to members only. A scholarship is one free registration per member organization. Recipients will be expected to volunteer some time at the conference working the registration desk or other duties as assigned to receive the scholarship.

## **MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Ed reported that renewals have been lagging. As of February 4 only about 2/3's of last year's members have renewed. What's up? If you have not yet renewed your membership it is time to do so NOW. If you have not received an appli-

cation please let Ed know. *This will be your last newsletter unless you renew.* If you have feedback on how we might better serve your needs please let us know. Remember, there is strength in numbers.

### **NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION**

As the meeting was in Sacramento, several state staff were able to participate and give separate reports. Carolyn Brown kicked it off by welcoming folks to Sacramento and relaying Marilyn Brigg's best wishes.

**Status of Reorganization:** Carolyn passed out the new organization chart and was pleased to announce that the new management team is just about completely in place. This will free her up to devote more time to the CACFP and the Roundtable. The only vacancy remaining is the Los Angeles Area Regional Manager in the Field Services Unit (FSU). For Child Nutrition, the team includes Cecilia "Chila" Silva-Martin, Child Nutrition Administrator & Assistant Director and Suzanna Nye, Field Services Unit Supervisor. Her regional managers are Jan Barnhouse, Southern Region; Janice Hunt, Bay Area Region; Louise Casias, Central Valley Region; Debbie Dillon-Adams, Northern Region. Violet Henry was the Manager for the LA Region until just recently when she took a position in the Food Distribution Unit. Bill Caldwell is the new administrator for the Program Resources, Education & Policy Unit (PREP) and his new manager in the unit is Linda Rivera. Linda will be the lead CACFP person for the PREP Unit. Peggy Peters is Manager of the new Program Integrity Unit (PIU). Ronna Jakobitz is Manager of the new Compliance, Audit Resolution & Management Assistance Unit. Not too new but a great resource is Angelo Queirolo, Manager of the Resources & Information Management (RIM) Unit. Carolyn reconfirmed that the new management team was committed to customer service and ready to go.

**Field Services Update:** Suzanna Nye addressed the members. She said they want to work with us to make sure we can do our jobs and NSD can meet their obligations for program integrity. She said they were working very hard and implementing new strategies to insure greater consistency. Among them are:

- Rep of the Day - this is a system to be more responsive when you call in on the 800 number. When you give your county the person answering will refer you to the applicable division representative, but if that person is out in the field and not available you will now be routed to the new "rep of the day." The idea is to be sure you get your answer within 30 minutes. The rep of the day

will be tracking all calls and recording them in a database for the managers. So far they have been getting around 2-4 calls per day on the new system. She has asked the rep of the day to call customers back and conduct a follow-up survey on responsiveness. She asks that we not abuse this system.

- Core Agenda - this is a system to develop issues for inclusion in the agenda for the monthly Field Service Unit staff meeting. The process begins on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month and is refined and consensus reached by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday. Participation in the monthly meeting is mandatory.
- E-mail Notification of NSD Representative Change - this is new and was suggested at the Advisory Committee meeting on January 24. It was suggested that when a NSD Representative changes that their customers receive an e-mail notification within the first week after a new representative has been assigned. Suzanna liked the idea and will discuss it with staff to get it implemented.
- Defensible Adverse Administrative Actions - under this new system all intents to take adverse action against a sponsor (caps, freezes, designation as seriously deficient, termination) must be submitted to the regional manager for review and approval and then to the FSU Manager and PIU Manager for final review and approval. The goal is to have better consistency and defensibility.

**Food Buying Guide Update:** Kelley Knapp reported on the new USDA Food Buying Guide. It is now available on line at: [www.schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov](http://www.schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov). All sponsors will receive one free copy this Summer in loose leaf color format in a binder. Additional copies can be downloaded from the web. To do so will take 3-4 floppy disks. You can then take it to a copier service and have it done. The CDE recently spent \$14 to have a copy made at 8¢ per page. It is the same guide for all Child Nutrition Programs. As such it does not contain an infant meal pattern. A new infant feeding guide is expected out this Spring and will be mailed to all sponsors under separate cover. You will also be able to purchase additional copies of the Food Buying Guide from NFSMI. Training on how to use the new guide will be offered at CDE's Fall conference. Information on CN labels is included in the new guide. Sponsors asked what changes are included in the guide and when would they have to be implemented. Reese Payton offered that USDA would re-

view the guide and include in its cover to the states a list of any significant yield changes. Implementation would not be expected until the sponsor receives the new guide.

Kelley went on to advise sponsors that another bargain available from NFSMI is the "What's in a Meal" manual at \$4. For more information go to their web site at: [www.nfsmi.org](http://www.nfsmi.org).

**Expansion Grants:** Carolyn advised sponsors that NSD does have expansion grant application forms. Interested sponsors should contact their NSD Representative to receive one. Sponsors were also invited to request an application by placing their names on a list at the meeting.

**Miscellaneous Numbers & Such:** Carolyn shared some data with members saying it presented some interesting opportunities. Between October 1999 and October 2001 while 14 FDCH sponsors have either terminated their participation in the CACFP or been terminated by the state, providers claiming reimbursement has remained relatively constant only increasing by 625 or less than 3% (from 21,933 to 22,558). According to DSS data there are 43,295 licensed family child care homes. Not all licensed homes continue to care for children but opportunity still exists. Expansion grants might be used to help reach these providers. Carolyn also advised that they are still working on agreement consolidations; many sponsors, for a number of reasons, have multiple agreements. The NSD is trying to eliminate them. Total agreements as of 10/01/01 were 860 (81 FDCH and 779 CCC).

Carolyn went on to discuss briefly the application approval/renewal process. She pointed out that the regulations require careful tracking of applications to insure they are processed and approved timely. To track this, all applications are originally routed through the RIM Unit for logging before going to Field Services for review and approval/denial. This process should guarantee more timely processing in the future.

**Bank Account Fraud Warning:** Carolyn advised that she had recently received a call from Diane Butler-Joyner, Child Nutrition Program of Southern California, warning sponsors about the latest scam that has just happened to her. Someone has taken her bank account number off one of her provider checks and used it to pay bills using electronic funds transfer. Her bank caught the fraudulent activity. Diane was told by police that this is the latest scam and she wanted the Roundtable to know about it. (*editor's note: we will try to report next time safeguards you can take*).

## USDA

Janet Allen gave a brief update on the status of pending regulations and was not willing to provide an estimated publication date because the dates keep slipping:

- The "Improving Management & Program Integrity" rule, issued proposed in September 2000, will come out as an Interim rule which means we will have to implement the changes but there will be a comment period. They still need to re draft this and put it through the review process. It has been designated "significant" so the process is more lengthy.
- The regulation implementing the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA or PL 106-224) is also deemed "significant." It has been cleared up to the Assistant Secretary's level so far and is due out eventually.
- An interim rule on eliminating whole cows milk from the infant menu was published in 1999. It should be out in final soon.
- The "Reimbursement for Snacks in Afterschool Care Programs" proposed rule came out in October 2000; a final rule is in draft now.

Janet expanded upon her earlier comments on Child Nutrition Reauthorization due in 2003. She said it was very timely to begin thinking about recommendations for an alternative program structure. We have discussed some here today. Give some more thought to these and route your ideas back through the Roundtable, CFPA, NSD or USDA who can consolidate them. Reese Payton then also offered that the Western Regional Office of USDA will be putting together good ideas for a consolidated USDA proposal package. We could include our ideas in their package.

## CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Rikki Grubb, CFPA's Director of Child Nutrition Policy gave the following report:

**Governor's Budget Update:** There are several items in the Governor's budget with potential impact on child care and the CACFP including: a) lower market reimbursement rates, b) lower family income level, c) requiring providers to collect the family fees, d) Governor's goal to serve 100,000 more children with the same amount of funds, e) moving families up in the priority list if they contain two working parents (some of these come from the Governor's oft stated

goal of giving low-income working families equal access to Stage 3 as families coming off welfare). One of the estimated implications of these on the CACFP is to make it more attractive as the market rate is reduced. Rikki advised that CFPA has completed a nutritional analysis of the Governor's Budget. You can review it at [www.cfpa.net/2pagebudgetanalysis.doc](http://www.cfpa.net/2pagebudgetanalysis.doc).

### **Update on Ongoing Meetings with NSD, DSS, CDD and Other Stakeholders:**

Rikki reported that so far our dealings with DSS have been very cooperative. They have agreed to: have NSD train their new staff on the CACFP; take CACFP materials out on facility visits; conduct a comprehensive licensing workshop at the Palm Springs Conference; work with us on the effort to sign up Trustline providers on the CACFP. Linda Nissen, our contact, has a great can-do attitude and has followed-up on all commitments made. The CDD sent a new contact person, Sharon Hawley to replace Eloise Bradrick-Talk who retired. Rikki went on to advise members that the State Prop 10 Commission, at a recent meeting she attended, did have a panel discussion on improving quality. The focus is on quality of informal care as more and more welfare-to-work parents are choosing that option. This gives us an opportunity with our outreach efforts aimed at Trustline providers to make a connection (see following paragraph).

**Trustline Outreach Effort:** For a number of reasons, including the fact that it is a huge untapped area for program growth, and picking up on what's happening in the broader child care environment, over the past few months Roundtable and CFPA leadership have been focusing in on outreach to license-exempt Trustline providers. We began by working with NSD to clear away remaining administrative barriers. Now we are working with our strategic partners to find common ground and develop data. Soon we will be ready to begin working with a few sponsors willing to take this project on. We also still need to develop an effective outreach document/brochure. As with expansion grants, we are hoping to work with a few sponsors at first to pilot an effort that can then be duplicated on a broader scale. Two sponsors have already tentatively been identified. If you would like to get involved please contact Rikki at 415-777-4422 x 101 or Ed.

**Legislative Update:** For the latest state and federal legislative food or nutrition program happenings members are reminded to periodically visit CFPA's web site: [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net) or sign up to receive their weekly updates by email. On the state level the most significant issue is the Governor's bud-

get addressed above. On the federal level, CFPA's February 1 bulletin addressing Food Stamp Program changes in the Farm Bill stated, "[t]he latest word from D.C. is that U.S. Senate is likely to take up the Farm Bill on the floor at the end of next week, pass it after a few days of debate, and then have a speedy conference with the House to get the bill on the President's desk by March. The bill to debate on the Senate floor does contain improvements to the Food Stamp Program but it must do more - especially given the needs of Americans who are struggling due to the recession. Senate Democratic leadership can improve the Farm Bill to support our families who are struggling in this recession. They can increase the Farm Bill's investment in the Food Stamp Program. They can help more hungry families with cars by exempting autos from consideration when applying for food stamps. They can push for a **full** restoration of benefits to legal immigrants and push for continuous benefits for unemployed adults without children. Please join a nationwide action to urge the Democrats to do more for the growing number of food stamp recipients in our economic slump."

### **CAL-PRO-NET**

Sandy Queen, with Cal-Pro-Net at San Jose State University made a brief presentation on their upcoming training "ABC's of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans for Child Care." Cal-Pro-Net, even though many sponsors have not heard of it, has a long tradition of working with school food service community at its three centers in San Jose, Fresno City College and Cal Poly Pomona. Their courses are aimed at adult learners and emphasize hands-on involvement. They now have a Team Nutrition Grant from USDA to work with child care on the new Dietary Guidelines. They are offering a one-day train the trainer course at 6 locations throughout the state beginning February 28. The course was written by a dietitian involved in child care centers. For more information and to download a copy of the sign-up form see "What's New" at the Roundtable web site [www.ccfproundtable.org](http://www.ccfproundtable.org) or contact Sandy directly at [squeen@email.sjsu.edu](mailto:squeen@email.sjsu.edu).

### **UPDATES SINCE THE MEETING**

**California Childcare Healthline:** We recently received updated information and a flier from the California Childcare Health Program on their Child Care Healthline. The Healthline provides health and safety information to child care providers, the families they serve, and related professionals in California using a toll-free telephone line. The Healthline team of specialists consults on issues such as infectious disease, health promotion, behavioral health, serv-

ing children with special needs, nutrition, infant-toddler development, car seat safety, lead poisoning and many other issues. In addition, a bilingual public health nurse is available to respond to the Spanish-speaking community. The Healthline serves all of California, Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; services can be accessed by calling 1-800-333-3212.

**WEB SITES FOR Jan 2002: <http://>:**

- **[nal.usda.gov/Childcare/Cacfp/index.html](http://nal.usda.gov/Childcare/Cacfp/index.html)** - CACFP Info page of the Child Care Nutrition Resource System . Find there many helpful things including the meal pattern requirements in Spanish.
- **[nal.usda.gov/fnic/etext/000061.html](http://nal.usda.gov/fnic/etext/000061.html)** - The Food and Nutrition Information Center at the USDA National Agricultural Library now has a new resource page on Community Food Systems. Find here information, for instance, on farmer's markets in your area. Many other great things here. Check it out.
- **[schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/](http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/)** - Find here the complete new USDA Food Buying Guide!
- **[vahealth.org/wic/](http://vahealth.org/wic/)** - Website for VA Dept. of Health WIC Program. Helpful information; see "HealthBites."
- **[cbpp.org/eic2002/index.html](http://cbpp.org/eic2002/index.html)** - Center on Budget & Policy Priorities' web site page dealing with earned income tax credit information.
- **[census.gov/ftp/pub/population/www/method.html](http://census.gov/ftp/pub/population/www/method.html)** - location on web of information on Standard Metropolitan Statistical Areas, used in determining "rural" areas for expansion grants or the Summer Food Service Program for Children.
- **[nfsmi.org](http://nfsmi.org)** - Web site for the National Food Service Management Institute. Find catalogue of publications here and order such great ones as "What's in a Meal?"
- **[cfpa.net/2pagebudgetanalysis.doc](http://cfpa.net/2pagebudgetanalysis.doc)** - Analysis of Governor Davis' budget and its impact on nutrition programs by CFPA.

## Mark your calendars now for the 2002 CCFP Sponsors' Conference



**October 15-18**

**Anaheim Sheraton**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR  
THE NEXT TWO ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2002, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**CRYSTAL STAIRS**

5200 W. Century Blvd., Los Angeles

**LODGING INFORMATION:** The following hotels are convenient and close by.

- *Holiday Inn-LAX*, 9901 S. La Cienega Blvd., \$84 special "Crystal Stairs" rate (book early to get best rate), 24 hr airport shuttle, across street from office, restaurant, 1-310-649-5151.
- *Quality Hotel-LAX*, 5249 West Century Blvd., \$70-126 AAA rate, 24 hr airport shuttle, across street from office, no restaurant, 1-800-266-2200.

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS:** The office is on the southwest corner of Century and La Cienega Blvds. From LAX take Century Blvd. east; turn right at La Cienega; turn right into the parking lot behind the building on the corner. From the north take 405 south; exit Century Blvd. West; turn left onto La Cienega; pass Century Blvd. and enter the parking lot on your right side behind the building. From the east take 105 west; take the La Cienega exit and turn right; turn left onto La Cienega; turn left onto 104<sup>th</sup> St; turn right onto Glasgow; turn right onto Century; turn right onto La Cienega; turn right into the parking behind the building. From the south, take 405 north; take Century Blvd, exit; turn left onto Century; turn left onto La Cienega; turn right into the parking lot behind the building. CACFP is on the 9<sup>th</sup> Floor.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at Crystal Stairs, Thursday, September 21, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

☞ For more information contact Andrea Howlett at (323) 421-1183.



**FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2002, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**USDA Western Regional Office**

550 Kearney St., Rm. 400, San Francisco

**LODGING INFORMATION (RESERVE EARLY):** All these hotels are relatively near Union Square or USDA (You should be able to walk in most cases). All are at least 3 diamonds in AAA and reasonably priced for San Francisco (\$95-165).

- *Royal Pacific Motor Inn*, 661 Broadway, 415-781-6661.
- *Petite Auberge*, 863 Bush St., 415-928-6000.
- *Hotel Vintage Court*, 650 Bush St., 415-392-4666.
- *Hotel Beresford*, 635 Sutter St., 415-673-9900.
- *Cartwright Hotel*, 524 Sutter St., 415-421-2865.
- *Chancellor Hotel*, 433 Powell St., 415-362-2004.
- *Galleria Park Hotel*, 191 Sutter St., 415-781-3060.
- *Beresford Arms*, 701 Post St., 415-673-2600.
- *Shannon Court Hotel*, 550 Geary St., 415-775-5000.

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS** - The USDA Regional Office is on Kearny Street between California and Sacramento Streets. *There is no nearby inexpensive parking.* Your best bet is to park at the city garage on Sutter Street @ Stockton or the garage at Sutter @ Grant; parking will be \$12-20 per day (Inexpensive parking is available south of Market street down near the Freeway between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets, but it's a good long walk). To walk to USDA from the Sutter Street garages, proceed down Sutter (east) 2 blocks to Kearny, turn left (north) and go 3 blocks to 550 Kearny (If you have never driven into San Francisco, call Ed). Public transportation is the way to go! **BART** is very easy. For USDA, get off at the *Montgomery Street* station; it is one block east of Kearny on Market Street @ Montgomery. From the BART station proceed north on Montgomery to California Street, turn left one block to Kearny and right to the office. Or take CalTrain from San Jose or the Peninsula; the station is a good walk so take a #30 Muni Bus to get to USDA's office.

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:** From SFO take Super Shuttle (415-558-8500) right to USDA. It's available at the baggage claim level in front of United and US Air. They come by pretty regularly so you shouldn't have to call. Reserve a return ride from your hotel 24 hrs. in advance. Welcome to the big city!

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the USDA Regional Office, 550 Kearny Street, Room 400, Thursday, May 16, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. See directions above.

☞ For more information contact Ed Mattson 925-686-0522