



Roundtable news

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

April 15, 2002

USDA TO LISTEN TO US

Janet Allen, Director of Special Nutrition Programs for USDA's Western Regional Office, reported that USDA is currently considering its own Child Nutrition Reauthorization recommendations. To facilitate that process they have created nine "legislative outreach sessions" across the country to hear what's on people's minds. The Western Region's session is on May 8 in San Francisco. It will be an invitation only event but they will also be accepting written comments, which are due May 1. The Roundtable has been invited to give oral testimony. Speakers will be allowed 2-3 minutes each to testify. They are concerned more for the quality of the comments, Janet stressed, than the quantity.

For those interested in providing written comments, they are due May 1st and should be sent to:

**Office of Public Affairs
USDA FNS, Western Region
550 Kearny Street, Room 400
San Francisco, CA 94108**

You may also submit comments by Email which are due not later than the day your region is holding their hearing. For the Western Region that day is May 8. Send them to: pam.phillips@fns.usda.gov.

For assistance in formulating your comments you might want to refer to a document completed at the recent FRAC/Forum National Leadership Conference, "The CACFP: A Key Building Block for Good Nutrition & Quality Care." This document contains the recommendations of the Forum board members, Roundtable leadership and FRAC (for more information see Chair Report below).

Los Angeles, March 22, 2002

CHAIR REPORT

Paula James welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. She thanked Andrea Howlett, from Crystal Stairs for providing the refreshments and the nice meeting room.

Linda Clark Remembered: It was with sadness that Paula announced to the members that recently Linda Clark, who with her husband Tom ran T & L Computer Systems, Inc., passed away suddenly. On behalf of the Roundtable, flowers were sent extending our deepest sympathies and condolences. Linda was known and loved by many sponsors and friends nationwide and she will be missed.

FRAC/Forum Leadership Conference: Paula announced that FRAC, Second Harvest and the National CACFP Forum were co-sponsoring a National Leadership Confer-

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ence in Washington, DC, April 6-9, 2002. Paula, Ed Mattson and Carolyn Brown were scheduled to attend. She asked if anyone else was planning to go.

Conference Report -

Two critical areas covered at the conference were Child Nutrition Reauthorization (slated for 2003) and USDA's Management Improvement Initiative. With respect to the latter, USDA national policy staff gave a series of workshops on their Management Improvement Initiative and the status of program regulations and guidance. These lead to several program questions and discussion. One of the issues of gravest concern involved implementation of the provisions of PL 106-224 requiring sponsors to terminate providers for serious deficiencies and offering appeal rights. In states where these new provisions have already been implemented there were many issues and concerns addressed. One which received a lot of attention had to do with problems some sponsors are experiencing in finding affordable liability insurance coverage, now that they are in a position to place seriously deficient providers on a national disqualification list. USDA also announced their plans to conduct additional state agency training on the interim regulations and the Management Improvement Guidance in Fiscal Years 2003-04.

CN Reauthorization & USDA Listening Sessions -

Of greatest concern to sponsors in attendance was reauthorization of the CACFP. Forum board members and Geri Henchy, with feedback from all sponsors present, worked on a comprehensive set of recommendations/proposals for improving the program. The resultant document, "The CACFP: A Key Building Block for Good Nutrition & Quality Care," is available on the Roundtable's web site for sponsors to use when submitting comments for their regional USDA listening session or contacting their elected representatives in support of the CACFP.

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.

Carolyn Brown President Elect of NACACFP: Paula briefly announced that Carolyn Brown is the new President elect of the National CACFP Professional's Association. The Association represents state program managers and directors and other CACFP professionals. The Roundtable recently became an affiliate member. Paula went on to say that she looked forward to the opportunity to collaborate. The organization communicates well with USDA and promises to raise the professionalism of all involved.

CACFP & Childhood Obesity Prevention Linkage:

Paula shared with members her deep conviction that CACFP can play a critical role in helping to prevent childhood obesity and now is the time to make the linkage to the broader child care and childhood obesity prevention communities. Concern for childhood obesity is at an all time high. It will receive the lion's share of funding and legislative attention in the near future. We need to make the linkage to stay viable Paula feels. She briefly cited two recent examples. In a February 19, 2002, NY Times article, "An 'Eat More' Message for a Fattened America," the author cited Dr. Nestle's new book, *Food Politics*, that America is fattening up at an alarming rate; 35% of adults, 12% of adolescents and 14% of children are overweight. This is in part due to the omnipresent "fast food" advertising blitz we can no longer avoid in mass media as well as the trend to "supersize" portions. Members briefly discussed some of the ads and products including promotion of "baby's first fry" during the Olympics broadcast and the recent invention of colored and flavored french fries.

Paula also shared with us Dr. Harold Goldstein's January 18 report to the Working Families Policy Summit which made recommendations to promote nutrition and physical activity for children and adolescents, describing "an epidemic of childhood obesity." Statewide in California "30% of children are at risk or already overweight; in some school districts, 40-50% of children are overweight." The report goes on to describe the "staggering long-term effects" of poor nutrition and physical inactivity, including its impact on the economy and on cardiovascular disease, cancer and diabetes rates.

Paula feels strongly that we in the child care/CACFP community are well positioned to serve as strategic partners in the campaign to combat childhood obesity. Nutritional awareness, good eating habits and physical activity should begin in pre-school. *(To receive a copy of the full report members should contact the California Center for Public Health Advocacy at www.PublicHealthAdvocacy.org.)*

Finally, Paula mentioned that the Roundtable Advisory Committee, in support of the above effort, has agreed to endorse State Senator Deborah Ortiz's soda tax legislation, SB 1520. The bill would impose a small fee on the sale of soft drink syrup (about 2 cents per 12 oz. can) the proceeds of which would go to schools to help them remove the vending machines. Members are encouraged to do the same.

Children & Families First Commission Funding Opportunity: Paula briefly discussed the "community-based organization grant program" through the California Children & Families First (Proposition 10) Commission. Proposals were due March 27. Members were advised to hurry if they hoped to take advantage of the opportunity. The larger point of the announcement was to underscore that the commission seems to be more receptive now to proposals from food programs than in the past. This change provides another great opportunity to establish a CACFP linkage in your community. You might use the funds for instance to recruit license-exempt Trustline providers. To further enhance this favorable trend and to help get the CACFP on your community radar screen multi-service sponsors/organizations are encouraged to train all staff (not just CACFP) on the value of the food program. Our message should be more about CACFP's role in prevention than intervention.

BREAKOUT SESSION - CA CACFP CRISIS II:

Because of the level of concerns expressed about the program at the breakout session in Sacramento in January, we decided to give Southern California sponsors an opportunity to express some of their frustrations, concerns and issues here. By way of brief background, you may recall from the last newsletter that in the period leading up to the January meeting Paula had received a number of troubling calls from desperate sponsors, as well as just the thought provoking recent news that several sponsors were either downsizing or self-terminating in Southern California. She wanted to know how many providers and/or small independent centers were now out looking for new sponsorship and

how many found themselves with no access at all.

One sponsor reiterated a theme from the January meeting. They had been determined to be seriously deficient during a review last fall and had not been able, six months later, to receive a timely follow-up review to document that corrective action had been taken. In the interim, still determined to be "seriously deficient" they were not included on the list of potential sponsors and were unable to add providers from the recently self-terminating sponsorship. This was extremely frustrating to the sponsor especially since they had many providers already in the same areas.

This led to a discussion about one of the key findings leading to determinations of serious deficiency among several area sponsors, namely the issue of providers maintaining their daily paperwork. How bad is bad? What level of non-compliance is acceptable and when should providers be terminated? How much training can a sponsor do on this issue? How much is too much? A related question was what level of missing records should require follow-up reviews? One day? Three days? A week? Sponsors cannot afford to follow-up on every provider who does not have her paperwork caught up to the day of the visit. Meals are disallowed. Why can't state reviewers be consistent here? One area sponsor asked for ideas on how to get providers to keep up the daily paperwork; they had clearly run out. They had been advised that they needed to terminate some to send a message. Another sponsor asked if this was really the goal of the program. The emphasis seems to have changed from nutrition and healthy meals to paperwork. Is this really what's best for the community? For the children? Sponsors proposed that we share best practices in this area.

This discussion then led to one on keeping the "bad seeds" off the program and the frustration sponsors currently experience with providers dropped for cause being picked up by someone else. Current systems to keep them off have not worked. One Northern California sponsor complained that she has just recently gotten two providers dropped for cause elsewhere and wonders how that could happen? Sponsors expressed hope that when CA implements the new provisions of PL 106-224 with respect to seriously deficient providers that it works better than the current system.

Finally, there was a great deal of support for the idea of seeking a waiver or perhaps a pilot project under CN Reauthorization, which would allow sponsors and providers to seek alternatives to the current overemphasis on daily paperwork. Such a pilot might seek to enhance the program's

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.

nutrition emphasis perhaps through additional unannounced monitoring visits. Another pilot project discussed was one centered on the concept of desired results used in the subsidized programs; while still another was on the concept of fee for service. Sponsors expressed a keen interest in “out of the box” thinking as a better solution.

BREAKOUT SESSION - CN REAUTHORIZATION

We also wanted to hear from members their ideas for CN Reauthorization. We advised them that although Roundtable leadership generally coordinates its comments on proposed legislation with national advocacy organizations such as FRAC and the National CACFP Forum, we do add our own regional comments and concerns. In the few minutes we had remaining in the period we encouraged members to brain storm. Some of the comments and suggestions included:

- Reimbursement rate help, especially Tier II.
- Sponsor administrative reimbursement based not just on total numbers of providers but also capacity; providers with 12-14 children take twice as much time to review. The trend after welfare reform is for providers to run their day care more like a business with many more children. Reviewing the paperwork is becoming harder and much more time consuming as a result.
- Pilot project ideas from above.
- One sponsor made an impassioned suggestion that providers receive food vouchers rather than reimbursement checks. She further suggested that they be calculated based on capacity rather than daily meal counts thereby freeing up the sponsor to concentrate on nutrition and health training issues. Food vouchers this sponsor believed would remove the incentive for fraud that cash can engender. She even suggested that we might follow some sort of outcome based measures and work more directly with parents.

Rikki concluded the session by commenting that sponsors, especially those in districts whose representative is on the House Education and the Workforce Committee (George Miller, Loretta Sanchez, Hilda Solis and Susan Davis), need to get in touch with their legislator and start the process. We have discussed this before; remember your recent “take a picture, tell a story” projects. They need to be taken out, dusted off, polished up. Don’t wait until the last minute to start making the CACFP connection now for your elected officials. When its crunch time next year, and we have a CN

Reauthorization bill we want to support they need to already know who you are and what the CACFP means in their districts. The future of the CACFP may depend on it.

USDA

Janet Allen, Director of Special Nutrition Programs for USDA’s Western Regional Office, gave the USDA report.

Regulation Update: Janet reported that they had some tentative release dates since the last meeting:

- 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. It is expected out by January 2003.
- The regulation implementing the Agricultural Risk Protection Act (ARPA or PL 106-224) will also come out as an interim rule. It is expected in July 2002. Janet pointed out that the Department is issuing both as “interim” to give folks a second opportunity to comment and because Child Nutrition Reauthorization may tweak the rule here and there. After CN Reauthorization they intend to put the two together in a final rule.
- 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 that will separate the NSLP (school lunch) and CACFP provisions.

Childhood Obesity: Janet briefly touched on USDA’s concern for childhood obesity and nutrition which are now a huge priority. Integrated nutrition promotion across all programs is seen as a goal. *This is certainly welcome news to the Roundtable.*

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION

Carolyn Brown welcomed the participants, introduced Louise Casias, Central Region Manager, Field Services Unit (FSU) and gave the state report.

Middle School Eligibility Management Bulletin Update: Carolyn reported that this bulletin has gone out. It clarifies that middle schools cannot be used for tiering determinations. Sponsors must use elementary school data for all new providers and providers requiring recertification at the end of their 3-year eligibility period.

Monitoring Management Bulletin Update: This bulletin has also gone out clarifying that child care facilities requiring three (or 6 as applicable) reviews per year may meet that requirement over a one calendar year period, not by the previously misunderstood end of the fiscal year within which the facility was approved. Louise pointed out that the burden will be on the sponsor to be able to document for state reviewers that all facilities are on a review cycle to meet the regulatory requirement (but not necessarily the same review cycle Carolyn clarified).

Field Services Unit Update: Louise updated members on a recommendation coming out of the January meeting. At that meeting it was recommended that FSU consider implementing an email-based contact list by county or geographic area so that notification of the frequent changes of Nutrition Services Division (NSD) Representative could possibly be sent out more timely. She reported that they have discovered that many sponsors do not yet have email so they have had to make alternative plans. Having finally received a set of mailing labels, Louise reported that they will be sending out the long awaited contact letter to each sponsor.

In a related matter, she also reported that some NSD Representatives would prefer voice mail to email to insure they can provide for prompt replies. Finally Louise mentioned that ongoing staffing shortages have been exacerbated by the freeze. There are currently two FSU regional manager vacancies - LA and South, and four NSD representative vacancies.

Sponsor Serious Deficiency Process Update: Louise addressed sponsor's concerns for timely close-out of administrative reviews of seriously deficient sponsors. As reported at the last meeting, a new Program Integrity Unit (PIU) is assisting Field Services in working with seriously deficient agencies. They now have procedures and time lines to adhere to that should ameliorate the problems recounted during the breakout sessions in Sacramento and Los Angeles. She admitted that there have been some delays, but PIU is tracking sponsors now. They really do want to offer technical assistance to seriously deficient sponsors Louise stated. The staff shortages and manager vacancies

may have contributed to some of the problems in the past.

CN Labeling/Food Spec Update: At the last meeting a task force was put together to work on this issue. During a recent February conference call there was a healthy discussion of differing points of view among the task force members but no consensus. It was pointed out that an informal survey of states on CACFP-talk revealed that some are not treating the issue as critically as is California. As the regulations and policy do not even require providers to complete menu production records, food specification documents seem to some as overkill. The call concluded without agreement but with a tentative plan to pursue a possible waiver. After the call Carolyn related how she thought more about a waiver and wondered what regulation would we request to waive? She decided to ask USDA to reconsider the issue.

Q & A:

Q. A sponsor asked if USDA or NSD were planning a workshop on the new Food Buying Guide that is not very user friendly especially to family child care providers. It does not contain family size packaging for instance. The old Simplified Buying Guide was easier to use. **A.** Janet Allen advised that NFSMI (National Food Service Management Institute) will be putting together training on it and she further pointed out that there will be a separate infant feeding guide. The implementation date of the new guide is not until 2003. They are being printed now, or you can download one off the web at <http://schoolmeals.nal.usda.gov/>. Louise pointed out that another resource, "What's in a Meal" with guidance for sponsors is available through the NFSMI. A workshop session on the use of the new Food Buying Guide will be held at the Roundtable's conference in October 2002.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Membership Update: Members were briefly reminded that the new membership year began JAN 1. Thank you to the 172 members who have applied/renewed so far this year. Remember, members receive legislative updates, informative newsletters as well as conference discounts and scholarships. This newsletter is only available to those that renewed. Thanks.

School List Effective Date Discussion: NSD hopes to release the new school list on the web and in hard copy sometime in mid to late April. The question discussed during the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting was when should

it be effective. There has been a lot of discussion on this since last year and NSD would like our feedback. Should it be effective April 1, May 1, June 1 or July 1? Some sponsors have said they wanted it effective as soon as possible so April 1 is best; others don't want to go back and recertify new providers so May 1 is best; while still others like to complete the process when the income eligibility applications are completed in July. We agreed the best approach is to let sponsors decide any month between April 1 and July 1 to best suit their needs insuring that determinations are within regulatory timeframes. Carolyn advised that they still need to get guidance from USDA on what flexibility they have to set the date. Ed agreed to do an Email survey of members to determine if there is a preference (*Editor's note: to date 30 responses received, 12 favored July 1, 7 May 1, 6 sponsor choice, 4 April 1 and only 1 June 1*).

New Expansion Grant Approved: Board Member, Stephanie Clarke, from 4C's of Alameda County, announced that her expansion grant request had been approved. She was to begin outreach activities on April 1. Members wishing to discuss their own expansion grant ideas may contact Ed (at 925-686-0522) or Stephanie (at 510-584-3122). Let's use these funds and sign up new rural and low-income providers (or license-exempt Trustline providers).

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Resource Sharing: Dave Paillette, from Ventura County Day Care Association, announced at the meeting that he has a spreadsheet program that sponsors may use to calculate both federal and state meal reimbursement. It is in Microsoft Excel. He is willing to share it and may be reached at 805-644-2399 or Dpaillette@aol.com.

CACFP-Talk: Members are reminded of this great resource. The USDA has established a listserv on the Internet where folks in the CACFP community can write in and ask for ideas and assistance from their peers or share resources (it is not to be used for policy advice however). The USDA uses it to post information on new web sites, the release of relevant reports or program materials. It is a great tool and everyone should sign up. To do so, address an Email message to: majordomo@nal.usda.gov. Leave the subject line blank and in the message portion write "subscribe cacfp-talk." That's all there is to it. Then every time someone writes in to the listserv you will receive a copy. Its fun its easy.

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Roundtable's 11th Annual Conference, *CCFP: Taste the Magic* is preparing to kick off October 15-18, 2002, at the Sheraton Anaheim. Perfectly located in the heart of sunny Southern California, the Sheraton Anaheim is neighbor to the most popular family attraction in the world.... Disneyland. The hotel is located just minutes away from some of Southern California's most stunning beaches and finest shopping centers. Combining soft Mediterranean colors with the grandeur of an old English manor estate, the Sheraton Anaheim features 489 spacious rooms and suites. The full range of amenities and services includes a superb restaurant and banquet facilities, on-site fitness center complete with weight machines, treadmills, and stairclimbers and of course, a sun-drenched pool.

The Sheraton Anaheim Hotel is one of the best -located hotels in the county, convenient to both Los Angeles International Airport and John Wayne Airport. Disneyland is a mere three minutes away via complimentary shuttle. You'll welcome the close freeway access to all Southern California's exciting attractions, including Universal Studios Hollywood, Knott's Berry Farm, and the Long Beach Aquarium. The hotel is offering a great \$99 rate good for 3 days prior to and after the conference! Start making those plans now.

We are planning another great conference. We will again offer 48 workshop slots under 8 tracks. The tentative tracks are: Good News About the CACFP, Tasting the Magic, Centers & Head Start, Personal Growth, Preventing Childhood Obesity, Skills for Monitors, Sponsor Administrative Issues, Program Issues. Speakers under consideration include: Dr. Carl Winter, the "Sinatra of Salmonella" in a return engagement; Barbara Storper, FOODPLAY productions; Laurel Brannen and Janice Fletcher from U of Idaho; and many many more.

Please Note: We are currently seeking workshop proposals following the above tracks and keeping in mind this year's theme. Presenters attending the conference may be eligible for reduced registration. If you think you might be interested in presenting a workshop, you may obtain a workshop proposal form at our web site. For more information contact Ed Mattson at (925) 686-0522.

Be sure to visit our web site soon to check it out (www.ccfproundtable.org).

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Rikki is Leaving: Rikki Grubb, CFPA's Director of Child Nutrition Policy, has announced that she is leaving CFPA, effective April 15, for personal reasons. She has been spending the interim time since her announcement writing memoranda to the files and briefing staff so that the transition will be as smooth as possible. Rikki's contribution to the Roundtable, even in such a short time, was substantial. She was the key person behind the quarterly stakeholder meetings, for instance, and she will be sorely missed.

February 27 Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting Report:

We have briefed members on the major elements of these meetings in the past, including customer service issues, data development and outreach to license-exempt providers. Rikki reported the most significant outcome from the recent meeting was the decision to hold off, at least for the immediate future, on plans to develop an outreach flier to be mailed with subsidy checks or used by various staffs throughout CDD and DSS/CCL. The reason for the delay is that plans for an 800# at NSD fell through. It is not presently feasible to staff such a line although Carolyn Brown did say the issue is not entirely dead. Meeting participants agreed that any outreach efforts in the immediate future would have to be conducted at the local level. Despite the setback, Linda Nissan from CCL did advise that childcare advocates would continue to promote the food program in their work.

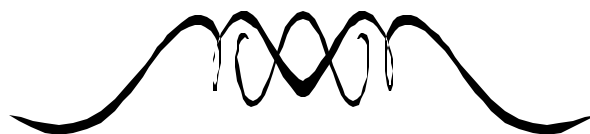
Outreach to License-Exempt Providers Update: Rikki briefly mentioned some initiatives going on in the Packard counties. Doris Fredericks, from Choices for Children and Nedy Mercado from 4Cs of San Mateo are involved. She also underscored the efforts to recruit license-exempt Trustline providers by Carey Steen from Valley Oaks in Chico and Rosie Stemper from North Coast Opportunities in Ukiah. All members are encouraged to look for ways to reach this community. Rikki stressed that Roundtable and CFPA leadership are also working with our partners and stakeholders to try to procure additional funding for these efforts.

Data Update: CFPA has been trying to find a way to develop a comprehensive list of unserved providers by county and by eligibility status for quite a while. They have been working with the R & R Network, CCL and NSD to develop the data but it has been hard slogging. The latest problem seems to be disagreements between NSD county profile data and that developed from other sources. Rikki and Ed, for instance, have been trying to find a relationship between monthly USDA participation reports (FNS-44s) and

the county profiles. NSD staff are researching the source of some of the numbers on them. Melinda suggested that another potential source for data would be CAPP. The data is important because it helps us see where the need is greatest and will help all of us target our outreach efforts.

WEB SITES FOR March 2002:

- www.4children.org - Web site for Action Alliance for Children. Is an on-line community to connect and inform children's advocates, service providers and parents about issues affecting children and families in CA.
- www.healthy-start.com/index.htm - Healthy Start web site.
- www.asfsa.org/newsroom/nutrition-article.asp - ASFSA web site highlight of media articles on child nutrition issues.
- www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/translations/spanish/spanish.htm - USDA materials in Spanish: Who Knew?
- nrc.uchsc.edu/CFOC/index.html - Obtain information about and a copy of DHHS "Caring for Our Children: National Health and Safety Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care," 2nd edition.
- www.cdc.gov/ncidod/hip/abc/facts01.htm - Information on asthma in the child care setting is available from this CDC web site.



Many of the parents and/or family child care providers you provide CACFP benefits to are also eligible for other Federal and state nutrition programs. Stay in touch with what's happening on the legislative front and in the battle, for instance, to increase Food Stamp and Summer Food Service Program participation. Refer to CFPA's new reformatted web site at:

www.cfpa.net

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

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2002, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
USDA Western Regional Office
550 Kearney St., Rm. 400, San Francisco, CA 94105

LODGING INFORMATION (RESERVE EARLY): All these hotels are relatively near Union Square or USDA (You should be able to walk). 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 2nd and 5th 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) for \$12 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.



FRIDAY, JULY 19, 2002, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
To Be Determined
South Lake Tahoe