



Roundtable news

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

February 2003

REGIONAL MEETINGS PLANNED

Recently Roundtable members have brought to our attention a desire to hold periodic regional meetings for monitors and staff to dialogue about issues of mutual concern, share best practices and positive training experiences. It was their feeling that the regular Roundtable meeting format, though good for its purpose, was not ideal for this kind of in-depth open dialogue. Moreover, the regularly scheduled break-out sessions at Roundtable meetings were not thought the best framework and not long enough to allow meaningful discussion and sharing. Further, members wished to discuss their concerns in a non-threatening environment without representatives from CDE NSD or USDA present. This idea meets a long held Roundtable goal of bringing our forum out to the rural and remote areas of the state to allow all sponsors an opportunity to participate.

The Roundtable field tested the concept in the greater Bay Area on January 12, 2004. In this first session we discussed implementation of the new regulations with an emphasis on the new monitoring and serious deficiency rules. We discussed best practices and compiled a list of questions for NSD which were both presented to NSD representatives at the conclusion of the session.

You are all invited to a regional meeting in your area and encouraged to send as many of your monitors and staff as you can to insure a lively See **Regional Meetings**, Page 2, Column 1

Sacramento, January 23, 2004

CHAIR REPORT

Paula James was absent so Ed Mattson welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. He thanked the Nutrition Services Division for organizing the meeting space.

Earned Income Tax Credit Time: Members were reminded that January is time to get information out to their low-income providers and parents on the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. Information and outreach kits are available from the Center on Budget & Policy Priorities' web site at www.cbpp.org/eic2004/index.html.

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dialogue. Please be prepared to share your ideas, best practices and strategies as well as questions and concerns. Best practices and ideas from these meetings will be reported back to the full membership and perhaps put up on the web site; questions will be compiled and sent to CDE NSD for guidance.

Regional meetings have already been scheduled on February 19 in Redding (contact Cary Steen at 530-895-0561 or Stephanie Thompson at 530-225-2960), March 17 in San Bernardino (contact Karen Kiernan at 909-384-8025 or Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark at 619-427-4922). Additional Meetings are being considered for Santa Barbara, Los Angeles and Modesto. Watch your email for an announcement soon ■

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This is such an important thing sponsors can do for their parents and providers. According to the CBPP, “[i]n 2003, over 20 million workers claimed more than \$36 billion in Earned Income Tax Credits alone. Many of them also received a substantial boost from the Child Tax Credit. These tax credits continue to be vital work supports for employees on low-wage jobs, helping many to make the transition from public assistance into the labor force.” What more needs to be said? Get involved today.

Grants Funds Available - The Salton Settlement Fund: Members were apprised of a new grant opportunity from the California

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.

Attorney General’s office. “The Salton Settlement Fund is the result of a settlement of an antitrust complaint brought by the California Attorney General and other state attorneys general against the Salton Corporation for alleged resale price maintenance and other anti-competitive conduct in the sale of Salton Contact Grills,” according to information made available at the following web site: <http://ag.ca.gov/consumers/alert.htm>. The company reached a settlement and agreed to pay approximately \$7.6 million to resolve claims. California’s share is approximately \$800,000. “Because of the impracticability of identifying grill purchasers . . . the high cost of administering a check refund program relative to the potential average award and other factors,” maintains the site, “the settlement calls for distributing funds on a state-by-state basis to not-for-profit corporations, charitable organizations and government entities to advance health or nutrition-related causes.” Grants will made to private non-profits and public agencies in amounts from \$75,000 - \$150,000 on a one-time basis for specific projects to improve the health and nutrition of consumers in California. Priority will be given to projects designed to: prevent heart disease, stroke, cancer and other serious disease caused by excessive consumption of fat; reduce the incidence of childhood obesity and/or assist consumers in selecting foods and food preparation methods that are healthy and nutritious. Letters of Inquiry must be submitted by March 1, 2004; participants selected to submit a full proposal will be notified by April 1 and the deadline for full proposals will be May 3, 2004.

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 633, San Francisco, CA 94105.

Editor
Edward Mattson

Membership is from Jan 1 to Dec 31 every year. For more information please contact Ed at 530-677-9410 or mred94523@earthlink.net

* * *

Have U Renewed?

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

NSD Request for Training Feedback & Assistance: At the January 12 meeting Karen Gillham shared with us a proposed “fiscal technical assistance meeting agenda” and asked if there was a way for the Roundtable to assist NSD. They wanted our feedback on the proposed agenda items and wondered if we might help them provide the training venues – perhaps even including them as part of our regional meetings. She felt that minimally sponsors might want additional training or technical assistance in the areas of budgets and budget revisions as well as Actual Cost Quarterly Report preparation and/or year-end reconciliation. Members agreed that they have meeting space the state could use for such training in the future but they also felt that the fiscal agenda items would appeal to a different audience than those we are reaching at the regional meetings. Administrators and fiscal staff, not monitors, would need such training. We further thought that such training might be held in conjunction with regular Roundtable meetings and suggested that the March meeting in LA and/or May meeting in San Francisco would be good venues. Working with NSD, the Roundtable has agreed to survey sponsors on the need for fiscal training. If such a need is determined we will try to offer it at the March or May 2004 meetings (the NSD may further survey sponsors to determine additional training needs in the future). Watch for a survey instrument and be prepared to send appropriate staff to the meetings (we will confirm the training date(s) prior to the actual meeting date(s) in case all arrangements cannot be made timely).

AB 529: Late last year the state legislature passed and Governor Davis signed AB 529 which allowed one of the two additional school-age children in family child care homes (expanded capacity from 6 to 8 and 12 to 14) to be younger than 6 years of age if enrolled in and attending kindergarten. The rule was to be effective January 1, 2004. To be eligible a provider had to obtain the parent’s/authorized representative’s written, signed statement that the child is currently

enrolled in and attending kindergarten; and maintain the written, signed statement in the child’s file. At the Advisory Committee meeting we asked NSD what if any documentation would be required by NSD from a CACFP perspective and we asked what if any impact the Governor’s actions might have had on implementation. We were advised that the Governor, as far as anyone knew, had not taken any action to rescind the legislation and there was no particular programmatic documentation, at this time, required above what is required by licensing.

UPDATE: when the editor returned to work after the meeting on January 26 the following announcement from the Child Care Licensing Division was received by email (note underline added in second paragraph):

AB 529, (Mullin), CHAPTER 744, STATUTES OF 2003

Affects: Family Child Care Homes

Subject: Family Child Care Home Capacity

Summary: Health and Safety Code (H&S Code) Sections 1597.44 and 1597.465 are amended to allow the following: allows two additional children in a family child care home, up to eight children in a small family child care home without an assistant provider or up to 14 children in a large family child care home with an assistant provider, as long as one of the two additional children is enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school and a second child is at least six years of age.

Implementation: These amendments are effective January 1, 2004. Therefore, no overcapacity citation will be issued as long as the criteria listed below are met. However, since the Governor’s proposed 2004-2005 budget includes a provision to amend Health and Safety Code Sections 1597.44 and 1597.465 back to pre-AB 529 language, we anticipate these changes will be in effect for a short time. When the statute is amended again after passage of the Governor’s 2004-2005 budget, the effect will be to require the two children to be at least 6 years of age. Because of this situation, the wording for new licenses will not be changed.

Family child care home licensees counting a child who is currently enrolled in and attending

kindergarten or elementary school as one of the additional children in their capacity of eight or 14 children are required to do the following:

1. Obtain the parent's/authorized representative's written, signed statement that the child is currently enrolled in and attending kindergarten or elementary school.
2. Maintain the parent's/authorized representative's written, signed statement in the child's file.

Failure by the licensee to obtain the parent's/authorized representative's written statement prior to admitting the child into care could result in a citation for overcapacity.

CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

Members spent some time discussing their participation these past two months in campaigns to promote the CACFP during the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process. Reference was made to the last Roundtable newsletter and several Email alerts in December and January. Members were reminded of the tremendous effort made several years ago when the programs were threatened with block grants and broken forks by the thousands were sent to Washington. Ed suggested that the idea behind the Forum's "Links" campaign is to have a similar impact on Congress during deliberations on Child Nutrition Reauthorization this spring. Several members admitted to having made the phone calls during the national call-in week in early December urging the administration to reserve \$550 million in additional funding to make improvements in Child Nutrition Programs. Still more members shared how they had been working on the "Links" campaign with their providers and center staffs. We learned that children were being quite creative using stickers and glitter and colored paper. Ed advised that he and Jerry Bowers were planning to join other sponsors at the Forum/FRAC conference in Washington, DC in February and assemble a chain from the links that hopefully will wrap around the Capitol.

In the latest word from Washington, FRAC advised, in their January 23 *Federal Nutrition*

Programs Update, that, "[a]nti-hunger advocates remain hopeful that President Bush will include new funding for child nutrition programs in the FY 2005 budget proposal he unveils February 2nd." You can still get involved by:

- Urging Members of the House and Senate Budget Committees to include in the FY 2005 Budget Resolution at least \$550 million in new annual funding for improvements in Child Nutrition Programs;
- Urging Members of the House Education and the Workforce and Senate Agricultural Committees to communicate to the Budget Committees the request for new funding for child nutrition programs; and
- Urging All Members of Congress to 1) do no harm to the child nutrition programs; and 2) enact positive improvements and expansions to the programs.

Committee Members out west include:

House Budget Committee –

Trent Franks (R-AZ)
Darlene Hooley (D-OR)
Lois Capps (D-CA)
Mike Thompson (D-CA)

House Education and Workforce Committee –

Howard "Buck" McKeon (R-CA)
George Miller (D-CA)
Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)
David Wu (D-OR)
Susan Davis (D-CA)
Ed Case (D-HI)
Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

Senate Budget Committee –

Mike Crapo (R-ID)
John Ensign (R-NV)
Patty Murray (D-WA)
Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Senate Agriculture Committee – Subcommittee on Research, Nutrition & General Legislation –
Mike Crapo (R-ID)

Find your elected representatives easily at the following web sites: House members at www.house.gov and Senate members at www.senate.gov.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ed reported that only 118 members have renewed as of today while 101 former members still need to. Please send those renewal checks in today. Be sure to send them to Ed's new address in Shingle Springs. There is strength in numbers.

Ed also took the opportunity to thank the Advisory Committee members for their help over the past year and to welcome the newest board members for 2004: Marcia Cagigas, Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark, David Paillette, Cary Steen and Jennifer Teer (a complete list of board members and their contact information is available on our web site at www.ccfproundtable.org).

CONFERENCE REPORT

The Roundtable's 13th Annual Conference, "CCFP: A Fresh Attitude" is set for October 25-27, 2004, at the Catamaran Resort Hotel in San Diego. Take a look at the beautiful hotel at www.catamaranresort.com. We were there in 2000 and everyone raved about the facility right on Mission Bay. Planning is underway for the conference.



We are making a few changes this year and hope you approve. We may be starting up earlier on

Monday with the opening session at 1:00 p.m. and wrapping up earlier on Wednesday to allow you to catch your flights without missing any of the great conference speakers. We will wrap up after lunch and the raffle at 1:00 p.m. We will be partnering with the National CACFP Forum to present a pre-conference session on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning. A call for presenters will be

sent out shortly on CACFP-Talk and posted to our web site. If you or a staff member have a topic to present or you know of someone who does, you are encouraged to send in a proposal. Please save the date!

BREAKOUT SESSION

During the breakout members briefly discussed the following topics: 1) what some members have done in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization effort – including legislative contacts, participation in the national call-in week and the "Links: campaign; 2) what monitors check during home visits; and 3) what agencies are doing on unannounced visits when the provider is not home and has not called in. Members discussed how they were handling documentation of provider call-ins and other communication strategies with providers. We had planned to also discuss marketing strategies but folks in attendance were not having much luck in that area. The CACFP is a hard sell just now. Members were reminded that that is the reason for our "Links" campaign with the National CACFP Forum. We want to see improvements made to the program so we need to get involved!

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION

Janice Hunt welcomed the participants and started the state report. She was later joined by Debbie Meeker the new Assistant Director and finally Director Phyllis Bramson-Paul addressed the members.

Application Addendum Coming: Janice advised that the application for new sponsors did not contain all of the integrity provisions now required by USDA. She said this would impact mostly center sponsors. An addendum should be mailed out within the next 30 days.

New Staff: Janice reported on new staff at the Division. Denise Andrews is a new Field Manager for the Southern Region. She has experience with WIC at the local level. Kim Frinzell, who started about 6 weeks ago, is the new Field Manager for the Bay Area. She worked with WIC for two years at the state level in

training and career development and six years with WIC and Head Start at the local level. She was in attendance and advised that she aims to be inclusive and wants our input. A new analyst for the Los Angeles area is Glen Padayachee, Janice advised. Finally, Janice introduced Debbie Meeker, the new Assistant Director. Ms. Meeker has 17 years experience with the Department of Developmental Services as a dietitian plus local experience at Agnew Developmental Center. She addressed the members advising that she is currently working with Field Services in a “learning and listening” mode. She advised that she has an interest in technology and would like to eventually make Management Bulletins available by email. Ms. Meeker went on to say that they have plans to update the web page.

Phyllis Bramson-Paul: Ms. Bramson-Paul advised that they are interviewing for two new managers to replace Bart Aspling and Bill Caldwell. In addition, she reiterated Ms. Meeker’s statement that they have as a goal to get Management Bulletins on line. She said they could save \$200,000 just by not having to print and send out Management Bulletins each year.

Dr. William Ellerby, a new Deputy Superintendent came on board in October. Dr. Ellerby suggested the management team read the book “Good to Great.” The book looked at corporations that excelled and why. It suggested that those that excelled looked at three things: 1) what drives the economy – Ms. Bramson-Paul suggested for NSD it was participation; 2) what are you passionate about – good nutrition she said; and 3) what can you be best in the world at – Ms. Bramson-Paul again said participation was their focus. She sees the keys to increasing participation as outreach plus keeping those already participating on the programs through support. That led the audience to ask, does the organization support this focus? From that framework NSD is taking another look at the organization. When they last reorganized, Ms. Bramson-Paul pointed out, there was concern expressed by recipients (*one expects school districts primarily*) about having to deal with a different person for each program (*school lunch,*

summer food and CACFP). The audience responded that for Field Services to be the single point of contact does not work because they are out of the office performing reviews 60% of the time. Another factor to consider is USDA’s consideration of combining all child nutrition programs into either a school-based or a community-based program. Phyllis wondered how we might feel if they organized like that. She said they recognize some of the problems they have had with the representative of the day (*several members addressed their problems*). Janice commented that Suzanna Nye was very aware of the problems with the representative of the day and that Suzanna is working to resolve the issue. Ms. Bramson-Paul concluded by briefly discussing the management manuals for the School Lunch and Child Care Food Programs. They are developing a contract now to have them updated but she cautioned that it will probably be a one and a half year process.

Editor’s note: There followed a lively dialogue about specific issues prompted by what Ms. Bramson-Paul had to say. The Roundtable suggested that when and if the Division is reorganized, it recommends that as far as the CACFP is concerned the best organization is one where one person, perhaps a program “czar” is responsible for the overall success of the program. Recognizing the challenges, the Roundtable suggested that any additional vertical integration would be an improvement. The closer the application, budget, policy, review, audit closure and training function staffs are to one another the more each can learn from the other’s experience and improve communication and overall program management. Sponsors expressed frustration in having to deal with a number of units and managers to get an answer to their questions and concerns when the rep of the day system breaks down. A concern about implementation of AB 529 was suggested as instructive. It went into effect on January 1 (although now it appears the Governor’s 2004-2005 budget may amend the health and safety codes back to pre-AB 529 language) and sponsors on January 23 did not know what if anything the program would require

with respect to documentation of compliance. A more closely integrated CACFP team might have anticipated AB 529 implementation issues and issued guidance to sponsors before the start of the new year.

USDA

Reese Payton, Child Nutrition Programs Section Chief for USDA, WRO, and one of his staff Joshline McLean gave the following report.

Status of Second Interim Rule: Reese reported that the rule is stalled currently at the Office of General Counsel and they have no idea when it will come back to the Department. After returning to the Department it will have to go over to the Office of Management and Budget for clearance. At this time there is no estimated time of completion or publication. He advised that USDA had begun preparation for training staff and state agencies on the rule but has since held off awaiting word (*editor's note: during our attendance at the upcoming FRAC conference in Washington, DC, we will try to get an update*).

Child Care Assessment Project (CCAP): Reese recounted the background for this upcoming USDA effort. The USDA was audited along with the states and sponsors a few years back and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) made recommendations for each to take corrective action. The USDA responded with the Management Improvement Guide and the integrity rules. The various states and sponsors have responded. In order to really prove, Reese advised, that changes have been made there needs to be an assessment (data gathering). The Food & Nutrition Service is putting together a team from headquarters and the regions to take a look at some sponsors in each region. The intent is to gather information at the sponsor level and at a sampling of family child care homes. They hope to use the outcome from this information gathering to show OIG that improvements had been made. In the next week or so, Reese advised, Lucille Jackson from his staff and two others will go back to headquarters to receive training. They will in turn train the remaining USDA staff. For

2004 they intend to review one sponsor probably in California. He advised that the date collection instrument is to be standardized in 2005 when there will be three sponsors in each region selected. State staff will be invited to participate in the "data gathering."

Ed advised that sponsors were aware of the upcoming effort and in fact the National CACFP Forum was preparing a guide. He clarified that based on information received from the sponsor sampled back east recently by USDA that data gatherers keep in mind when selecting providers to sample that not all providers approved for participation and in a sponsor's file in the state office participate every month or submit claims. He suggested that the team ask the sponsor for a current list of participating providers before scheduling unannounced visits.

Mandatory Training: Reese advised that USDA was working on an effort to help make state training efforts more effective. He said that USDA plans to establish that integrity training attendance is mandatory and that sponsors can be declared seriously deficient for non-participation.

WRO Reorganizing: Reese advised that Special Nutrition Programs in the Western Regional Office is reorganizing as a result of some changes in the Food Distribution Programs. Previously commodity allocations were centralized in headquarters having some impact on workload in the Food Distribution Section. Now responsibility for the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) is being moved out to the FNS Field Offices causing even more. Accordingly, after discussing the plans for a year and a half they have decided to move the remaining Food Distribution functions out into the Child Nutrition units. Staff will work across the board Reese advised.

Reese closed by reminding members that USDA is our advocate too. When asked they advocate on our behalf at national meetings and with headquarters staff. That is why USDA has Regional Offices. At one point he did however suggest that USDA is looking at the current

practice of sending policy bulletins out from the Regional Offices.

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Update on California Budget Picture & Legislation: Members are strongly encouraged to visit regularly CFPA's web site (www.cfpa.net) to find out the latest on the budget battles in Sacramento and state legislation impacting our low-income populations.

CFPA's January 20th Alert made reference to a recent analysis of the Governor's proposed 2004-05 Budget (www.cfpa.net/NutritionAssistanceGocBudget.pdf) which "[m]akes significant cuts to the Food Stamp Program . . .; [m]akes drastic cuts to cash assistance programs (CalWORKS and Supplemental Security Income). . .; rips the nutrition assistance safety net for legal immigrants. . .; and [m]akes very significant cuts to child care...." It suggests there is hope with Proposition 56 which would make needed changes to the budget process in California. It would hold legislators and the Governor accountable for an on-time budget by withholding their salaries; end gridlock by requiring that the budget can be passed by a 55% majority; and require that facts about how money is spent in the budget and how legislators voted on the budget be easily accessible to the public. CFPA asks for your support of Proposition 56.

CFPA also suggests you take a look at legislation recently proposed (AB 1815) to resolve some of the huge budget deficit by boosting tax rates slightly on top earners. The increases would impact individuals earning more than \$136,000 in taxable income.

More Pictures from the Catamaran Hotel – site of our 2004 Conference:



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

FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2004, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Options Food Program

13100 Brooks Drive, Ste 200, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

LODGING INFORMATION:

- Four Points by Sheraton Monrovia-Pasadena, 700 West Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016, (626) 357-5211 - \$84 state rate.
- Holiday Inn Monrovia-Pasadena, 924 West Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016, (626) 357-1900 - \$84 state rate.
- Comfort Inn Monrovia, 1125 East Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016, (626) 358-0430 - \$64.
- Oak Tree Inn, 788 West Huntington Dr., Monrovia, CA 91016, (626) 358-8981 - \$56.

DIRECTIONS: Suggest you look this up on MapQuest

- From LAX: Take 105 east (16 miles); take 605 north (14 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd./Los Angeles St; keep right on Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.
- From Burbank Airport: Take 5 south (9 miles); take 134 east (4 miles); take 210 east (11 miles); take 605 south (4 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd./Los Angeles St. (turn right); turn left onto Lower Azusa Rd, then immediately bear left onto ramp; keep right onto Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.
- From Ontario Airport: Take 10 west (22 miles); take 605 north (5 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd./Los Angeles St; keep right on Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location, Thursday, March 18, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Call Terry Talavera at (626) 338-4165 x 628 for more information.



FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2004, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

USDA Western Regional Office

550 Kearny Street, Room 400, San Francisco, CA 94108

NOTE: More specific hotel information and directions will be published in the next newsletter; this is for planning purposes only.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location, Thursday, May 20, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

Call Ed Mattson at (530) 677-9410 for more information.