



Roundtable news

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

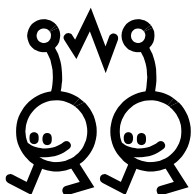
JULY/AUGUST 2004

THE SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE IS JUST ELEVEN WEEKS AWAY!

Eleven weeks? Yikes! Where did I put that registration packet with the black and red cover? I know it's here somewhere. Oh God! I hope the hotel still has rooms. What's the number? How do I get to San Diego? Can I still get that discount airfare? What about that state workshop I have to go to?

Is this you? Well, if it is, you're still okay. You have a little time left. If you cannot find the registration form, go to www.ccfproundtable.org and click the conference tab and download the registration packet in PDF format. Fill it out and send it in today! The early bird deadline is September 13. If you haven't called the hotel yet, there's a little time. You have until September 30, but good rooms are going fast. Call 1-800-422-8386 or book on-line at <http://shop.evanshotels.com/chi1023.html>. Oh, and that mandatory CA state training for family child care sponsors? It is now also being held in San Diego on October 27, the last day of the conference. That will save you some time and money. Whew!

Here at conference central we are working like little elves to make all preparations for another



epic conference experience! For instance, center sponsors will have an entire track of 6 workshops this year plus several that are geared for all.

See **Conference**, Page 2, Column 1

South Lake Tahoe, July 16, 2004

CHAIR REPORT

Paula James welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. She thanked Carol Ledesma, from CDI/Choices for Children for arranging the refreshments and meeting room and Harrah's for donating the food. She apologized for our miscommunication with USDA over the date of the meeting which led to them being unable to attend even though they had every intention to be there. She then said she had three exciting things to announce. First, that the new federal rates of reimbursement were released on July 15 with increases in family child care home administrative

See **Chair Report**, Page 3, Column 1

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The following sessions are set: "Nutrition Policy For Centers," with Mary Ann Ferrera from Contra Costa Child Care Council, Concord, CA; "Procurement for Child Care Centers," with Charlotte Oakley from NFSMI; "Food Safety & Sanitation: Keeping Food Safe During Preparation and Service" and "Menu Planning: Variety, Good Nutrition, Acceptance," with Jeanne Callahan and Barbara Harmon, Merced County Community Action, Atwater, CA; "Best Practices in Center Training & Monitoring" with Genevieve Pyeatt from CDI/Choices for Children, Sacramento, CA.

Everyone is talking about Ellyn Satter. Did you hear? Ms. Satter will present two pre-conference sessions (due to the cost a separate fee will be charged): On Sunday, October 24, she will present a session aimed at family child care providers, parents and others without experience or knowledge of Ellyn Satter principles. It is entitled, "Helping Children Eat and Grow Well." It is from 1-5:00 PM, sponsored by the National CACFP Forum, and cost only \$30. On Monday, October 25, she will present a session aimed at primary care professionals who have been well exposed to her principles. It is entitled, "Feeding Dynamics Education and Intervention in Child Care." It is from 8:00-2:30 PM, includes a box lunch, and cost only \$45. Wow!

Some of the workshops you don't want to miss this year include: "Distance Learning for CACFP" with Kelly Rosenleaf from Child Care

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

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.

Resources in Missoula, MT; "Implementation of Child Nutrition Reauthorization" with Stan Garnett from USDA and Geri Henchy from FRAC, both in Washington, DC; "Peer Coaching for Maximum Performance" with Doris Fredericks from CDI/Choices for Children here in CA; Tina Wade's "Fat Chance!"; she hails from Willow Creek Nutrition Program in Helena, MT; "The Connection Between Brain Development and Attachment and Bonding," with Deya Brashears-Hill from Diablo Valley College in CA. Angela Russ brings back her "Combining Music, Movement and Activities for Ages 2-6." If the second interim rule comes out as expected late this summer, USDA will review it and answer questions over two sessions on Tuesday. Others to look for include: "World of Food Through a Child's Eye" with Diana Dixon from CDA in Chula Vista, CA; "Infant Nutrition in the CACFP" with Kelley Knapp from CDE Nutrition Services Division; "Best Practices in Provider Training" with a panel of experts lead by Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark of CDA in Chula Vista, CA; "Preparing for an Audit: The Importance of Internal Controls" with Bob Gray, USDA OIG (retired). Patty Kimbrell is always fun; she comes back with "Have Fun and Be Healthy." You wanted to hear about vegetarian meals in the CACFP? We have brought back Katie O'Neill from Scottsdale, AZ.

We are very pleased to present a two part extremely important workshop on Wednesday. It is "Best Practices in the Serious Deficiency/Corrective Action/Hearings and Appeals Process" with an expert panel including: Lynn Goering, Family Service, Lincoln, NE; Pat Gattke, Rainbow Valley, Bellevue, WA; Judy Pittman, Quality Care for Children, Atlanta, GA;

Kathy Brenden, Montana Department of Public Health Services; Keith Churchill, USDA; Carol Griffith, Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction; and Rod Hofstedt, President of National CACFP Forum. And there is still so much more! Don't miss out. Now where did I put that phone number?

Chair Report, Continued from Page 1

and Tier II reimbursement rates (except snacks)! Second, that Rod Hofstedt, President of the National CACFP Forum, was able to join us! And third, that Child Nutrition Reauthorization (PL 108-265) was finally signed!

New ERS Study – “Maternal Employment and Children’s Nutrition: Paula highlighted a new USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) study on “Maternal Employment and Children’s Nutrition,” briefly addressed in the latest Roundtable News, on page 11. She said the study was significant in that it showed that children with working moms in child care and on the CACFP have better nutritional status than children with non-working moms. She went on to advise that Linda Ghelfi from ERS will present a workshop on the study at our conference. According to the abstract, “[t]his study analyzed differences in nutrition outcomes among children whose mothers work full time, part time, and not at all, and the role USDA’s Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) plays in meeting the nutrition needs of participating children, especially those whose mothers work.” Find this important study at www.ers.usda.gov/publications/efan04006.

Symposium on Marketing to Children: Paula concluded her opening remarks by briefly mentioning that the CA Center for Public Health Advocacy will have a Symposium on Marketing to Children. On August 12, 2004, Senator Sheila Kuehl and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy will convene a symposium on food advertising and its critical role in the growing epidemic of obesity among children. Ten experts will address the issue at the Sheraton Grand Hotel

in Sacramento from 8:45 to 11:45. To find out more go to www.publichealthadvocacy.org.

**BREAKOUT –
SPECIAL GUEST ROD HOFSTEDT**

Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Rod said the process began well over a year and a half ago. A year ago last March he testified before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition & Forestry. In the intervening months, the cost of the war in Iraq became a huge factor in what the advocacy community could ask for. They decided to focus on non-cost improvements to the program. Rod said he worked with Senator Dayton from his home state of Minnesota who is friendly towards family child care. All of the Senator’s children are enrolled in family child care so he did not have to begin by explaining it to him. They worked together on non-cost items many of which ended up in the final bill.

Rod summarized the now familiar CACFP provisions of the bill:

- The pilot in Nebraska (2006-07) of reducing Tier I area eligibility in rural areas from 50% to 40%. Nebraska, Rod said, was chosen for a number of reasons including the involvement of their Senator and the fact that there are not many people in the state to push the cost of the pilot up.
- Tier I eligibility determinations extended from 3 to 5 years.
- Permanent Agreements between sponsors and state agencies and sponsors and providers.
- Audit disregard to be consistent with other child nutrition programs increased from \$100 to \$600.
- Paperwork reduction taskforce will look at the over prescription of paperwork in the program. He said they will be active

with their legislators to be sure to impact the process.

He went on to say we didn't quite get all we wanted. For instance, audit funding for state agencies, used by states to help pay for sponsor audits is scheduled to go from 1 ½% to 1% for 2005-07. Rod admonished that what the states don't pay for sponsors must make up with their own limited administrative funds. He said our next steps are to hammer away on Tier II rates which remain low.

Family Child Care Serious Deficiency Process:

Rod said the next big issue is the problem with the serious deficiency rules as witnessed in the current lawsuit in Utah. In this case a sponsor terminated a provider for serious deficiency. The provider appealed and lost. The appeal was heard by a panel comprised of other sponsors. The provider then sued the sponsor, the appeal panel members and the state for \$350,000 claiming denial of access to an entitlement program. Rod reported that as of the week of July 5 the members of the appeal panel, joined by the state staff, had asked the judge for a summary judgment, stating there was no basis in law to bring the suit.

Rod pointed out that our concern is with the entire serious deficiency process, the national disqualified list and the seven year ineligibility period. Sponsors are very vulnerable when putting providers on the list and denying their access, for a number of reasons. He said his own policy was to not terminate a provider unless he could go into court and prove theft. He would ask himself the question, if I'm sued, what is the jury going to say? Rod then spelled out the reasons:

- Defining significant pattern of noncompliance or submission of false claims: There is no definition; it is open to interpretation and as such is subject to lawsuit. Who defines what is seriously deficient? What is a false claim?
- Seven-year disqualification: Why seven years? Is this reasonable? He said there

were no guidelines for being taken off the list.

He went on to report that the Forum is considering a letter to USDA on these concerns. At Thursday's Advisory Committee meeting, as well as at a recent Forum Board meeting, members agreed to not ask for standards of reasonableness because USDA may give us more than we want. But he said we will ask for state agencies to be the hearing official. Ultimately the states or the USDA are the final hearing officials anyway. He pointed out that the issue won't be resolved tomorrow. In the interim sponsors need indemnification, insurance or state agency hearings. Nothing will stop a lawsuit, Rod warned, but the more difficult you make it the less likely you will be sued. In the meantime, he suggested, ask yourself can you defend your case in court? Is it reasonable to deny access because of a bookkeeping error?

Rod said the biggest problem is legal defense costs. Ten thousand to forty thousand dollars is not out of line. He recently spent \$11,700 on a 2-day hearing over licensing. He said you can get directors and officers (D & O) insurance but it has strong limitations. First, it is a claims-made policy meaning the policy must be in force when the claim is made. Second, such insurance is very reactionary, meaning if you file a claim you will likely have a rate increase or be dropped. If claims begin to mount up, carriers may begin to exclude the food program.

That was the end of Rod's presentation. Paula thanked him and advised that the Roundtable and the Forum will work together on this important issue.

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION

Janice Hunt and Carolyn Brown welcomed the participants and Janice gave the state report. She extended regrets from Nutrition Services Director Phyllis Bramson-Paul and Assistant Director Debbie Meeker for being unable to attend the meeting.

Child Nutrition Reauthorization: Carolyn thanked Rod Hofstedt, the CCFP Roundtable and all others involved in the Child Nutrition Reauthorization process. Rod, in his capacity as President of the National CACFP Forum testified before Congress as well as worked closely with Senator Dayton from Minnesota. Many others took an active role by sending in letters and emails, making telephone calls and visiting their elected representatives at appropriate times.

Since Janet Allen from the USDA Western Regional Office was unable to attend, Carolyn shared with members four recent USDA bulletins implementing the new law (PL 108-265):

1. **Duration of Household's Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determination:** This memo clarifies that beginning July 1, 2004 households will no longer be required to report changes in circumstances, such as an increase in income of \$50 per month (\$600 annually), a decrease in household size or when the household is no longer certified eligible for Food Stamps or TANF (CalWORKs). **NOTE: USDA has clarified that this applies only to the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs and NOT the CACFP – contrary to what was said at the meeting!**
2. **Exclusion of the Housing Allowance for Military Households in Privatized Housing:** Effective July 1, 2004, privatized housing allowance for military households is permanently excluded from income when determining eligibility for meals served in all child nutrition programs.
3. **Duration of Tiering Status for Family Day Care Homes in the CACFP:** "Sponsoring organizations of day care homes are now required to redetermine the tiering status for day care homes based on school data every five years

instead of every three years. Thus, the tiering status of newly participating homes, with signed agreements as of June 30, 2004, will be redetermined in five years (2009). The tiering status of currently participating day care homes, whose tiering status is based on a three-year redetermination cycle, may be extended by two years for a total of five years."

4. **For-Profit Center Eligibility in CACFP:** For-profit centers may participate in the CACFP if at least 25 percent of the children served are eligible for free or reduced-price meals. They may also participate if at least 25 percent of the enrolled children or 25 percent of licensed capacity received Title XX compensation.

(Editor's note: You may get a copy at the USDA web site at:

http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Governance/policy/Reauthorization_%20memos_04/Reauthorization_2004.htm)

Status of Reorganization/Staffing Updates: Janice reported on some of the staffing changes at the Division. The Healthy Nutrition Environment and Professional Development & Training Unit has a new manager. Her name is Dr. Shirley Hazlett. She has a PhD in health education and has been an employee of CDE for a long time. She retired from the School Health Unit in April and was hired by NSD this month. She will begin in August. Angelo Queirolo, the RIM Unit Manager retired recently; Janice Kirwan has returned as a retired annuitant; and Kathy Mackey, who worked in Summer Food and Adult Day Care, passed away recently. The reorganization plan for the Division, due to be completely implemented by December 31, 2004, is currently going through the internal CDE clearance process. Final approval is required from the Deputies before it can go to the Department of Personnel Administration.

Janice further reported that ten analysts currently in the field doing CACFP reviews will be transferred to the policy unit. In addition, the Division has been given approval to interview and hire ten new child nutrition consultants (CNC) to replace them. However, authority for the positions is tied up in the state budget negotiation process. Once the budget is approved, and if it contains authority for NSD to expend federal funds to pay their salaries and benefits, NSD will have only 90 days to hire them. Janice reported that the Division is very pleased to have approval to hire these positions from the legislature.

Family Child Care Sponsor Update: Janice reported that three more family child care sponsors in California have decided to self-terminate participation in the CACFP. The Division is working with each of them to ensure a smooth transition for their providers onto another program. The three are:

1. Child Care Information Service in Pasadena (**note: change from RT meeting**), effective September 30, 2004
2. Quality Child Care Food Program in Woodland
3. Infant/Child Enrichment Services in Sonora, effective September 30, 2004

Family Child Care Licensing Update: In this issue from the last meeting (*see May/June newsletter pg. 8*), Janice reported that the Division has clarified its position on responsibility for ensuring providers are licensed. The regulations provide that it is the responsibility of the sponsor but factors in place in California's system make it actually a joint responsibility of both the sponsor and the state. She advised that for the immediate future NSD will continue to provide license revocation information obtained from CCLD and the counties that license providers, as it has in the past. Sponsors, however, should follow the system they have identified in their approved Management Plan. Roundtable leadership and NSD staff agreed during the Advisory Committee

meeting to try to reestablish the quarterly meetings between CCLD, NSD and the Roundtable (*the Roundtable issued a formal request to NSD on July 27*). At the first such meeting the issue of licensing will be brought up with a goal of getting something in writing on the process out to all sponsors.

Status of Trustline Bulletin: Janice reported that the Division is still working on this. She asked if sponsors were having a problem getting Trustline providers approved in the Division. Several sponsors expressed concern that language in the current Administrative Manual contradicts the new policy as everyone understands it, and they would like the current procedure put in writing. Current procedures only require proof of Trustline status and a completed Health & Safety Self-certification form. Another sponsor said she had been asked for a California driver's license number for her Trustline provider. (*The Roundtable agreed at the Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday to send a formal request to the Division for a clarifying bulletin. It was sent on July 27.*)

The conversation then turned to how sponsors with exempt/Trustline providers reached them and the supposed issue of instability. For outreach sponsors mentioned licensing orientation sessions, work with local R & R's and the use of fliers. Contrary to popular opinion one sponsor found their exempt providers to be very stable.

Serious Deficiency Rules & Procedures: In another issue from the last meeting (*see May/June newsletter pg. 5*) Janice reported that the Division is considering pulling together an ad-hoc group to develop best practices in the serious deficiency process. Everyone agreed that some form of guidance is necessary to insure consistency between sponsors and NSD reviewers.

Training Update: Janice clarified the training being offered by NSD and apologized that the Management Bulletin announcing the training has not been disseminated to all sponsors. Mandatory CACFP integrity training for this year will be held

at a number of locations across the state and will be four hours in length. Sponsors should plan to have at least two representatives in attendance as there are two concurrent tracks. There will be four sessions for family child care sponsors and ten for child care centers in 2004:

Family Child Care Homes:

- August 19 Sacramento
- August 25 Hollywood
- August 31 Woodland Hills
- October 27 San Diego – RT Conference**

Child Care Centers:

- August 13 Fresno
- August 19 Sacramento
- August 25 Hollywood
- August 27 Bakersfield
- August 31 Woodland Hills
- September 8 San Diego
- September 13 Redding
- September 17 San Jose
- September 22 Ontario
- September 29 South San Francisco

(Editor's note: At the Roundtable Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday we agreed to submit a formal request to the Division to hold an additional mandatory FCCH training in conjunction with the Roundtable conference in San Diego. It was to be part of a larger request for greater cooperation and partnership between the Roundtable and NSD on sponsor training. On July 29, while working on a draft of that letter, we were advised that a fourth session for FCCH sponsors will in fact be held on Wednesday afternoon, October 27, at the Roundtable Conference in San Diego).

Janice further stated that sponsors may choose to attend the Promoting Integrity Now (PIN) course as an alternative to the above and she clarified that PIN is designed for new sponsors and staff, and/or sponsors found to be having problems. The PIN training is generally 4 days in length and covers all aspects of the CACFP.

Thanks for Input: Carolyn Brown acknowledged all of the sponsors that took the time to give input on the various surveys the Roundtable sent out for NSD last month. She specifically mentioned input on the renewal forms and recognized Jerry Bowers and the others. She also thanked the Roundtable for working with the Division to provide both space and trainers for new sponsor orientations. Finally, she thanked Ed and Paula for their frankness (*We agreed to continue to provide feedback to make CACFP in California the best it can be*).

USDA National Nutrition Conference: Carolyn advised that the National CACFP Professionals Association (State Agency staff primarily) is assisting with planning the second Food and Nutrition Service National Nutrition Conference sponsored by USDA. Last year's conference had people from all USDA nutrition assistance programs in attendance and the CACFP was under represented. This year, as childhood obesity is a very important topic, and the CACFP is in the spotlight, it is critical that we emphasize the CACFP contributions to the nutrition education of young children. She suggested that what we are doing here to enroll exempt providers on the program may be a good topic for a workshop, and invited others to watch for the opportunity to submit proposals on topics of importance. *(Editor's note: for more information on this conference go to www.usda.gov/Newsroom/indexNOPC.html).*

Obesity Conference: Carolyn and Paula both mentioned the upcoming California Childhood Obesity Conference facilitated by the Center for Weight & Health at U.C. Berkeley and sponsored by a variety of organizations including the CDE, NSD. The NSD will have a track at the conference and has called upon the Roundtable for input on the preschool agenda. Thanks to Doris Fredericks for representing the Roundtable in planning this track of the conference. The conference is January 9-12, 2005 in San Diego. Both Paula and Doris Fredericks attended the last conference. Find out more about it here:

<http://nature.berkeley.edu/cwh/news/announcements.shtml#2005>

Food Stamp Nutrition Education Funding Update: Carolyn advised members that in her new role she is interested in increasing participation in the Food Stamp Program and streamlining access to all child nutrition and food assistance programs. She asked members for their input on ways to use the CACFP to get word out on other programs aimed at low-income Californians. One suggestion, from previous Roundtable strategic planning with the Interagency Child Care Outcomes Group was to develop a brochure on the various programs that could go out to providers (in reimbursement checks) or parents. The idea never materialized for a number of reasons but should be considered now.

Carolyn went on to briefly mention that a new proposed “Food Stamp Nutrition Education Framework” published by USDA seems to limit the use of these funds. *(Editor’s note: In its July 13 alert, CFPA stated, “California currently receives \$80 million in federal Food Stamp Nutrition Education funds, which find their way into communities throughout the state via the California Nutrition Network. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed a “Framework” which will radically change and narrow the ways the funds can be used. Such narrowing will likely severely stem the flow of federal funds. CFPA’s bottom line is that we need increased resources in California for nutrition, not fewer. Please check out an analysis of the proposed framework provided by DHS, which demonstrates the financial impact on the state. Please also see CFPA’s comments to USDA.” Read more about this important issue for California at www.cfpa.net/Alerts/7.13.04.htm and be sure to comment.)*

Q & A:

During the NSD Report several questions were asked. They are listed below:

1. **Q.** When will the 2005 budgets come out?
A. Day care home renewals and budgets are expected to be mailed out the last week of July. A hard copy will be sent only to sponsors that do not have an email address on file in NSD or upon request. They may be returned electronically except for the signature page. Janice acknowledged the input from members of the Roundtable.
2. **Q.** Is the state meal reimbursement rate changing?
A. We expect this information about one week after the state budget is signed.
3. **Q.** In light of the new paperwork reduction effort in Child Nutrition Reauthorization a sponsor asked if USDA might consider revising the reporting requirements. For instance, the Tier II High designation is very infrequently used and creates a burden on sponsors to report it.
A. Carolyn said that most reporting requirements have been negotiated by USDA with EIAC, a committee representing chief state school officers. She did offer that this might be a good time to begin a list of things to include when the task force is established. She further suggested that the Roundtable might begin the survey process. *(Editor’s note: the Roundtable has agreed so members should look for an email alert within the next few weeks).*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Ed briefly summarized some of the issues discussed at the Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday. In addition, he thanked CA members that responded in June to a number of email surveys on forms and training.

Many of the issues addressed in the NSD Report above, including family child care provider licensing, training, and written guidance on license-exempt provider eligibility were topics of discussion at the AC meeting and reflect the outcome of those discussions. Additional discussion topics included:

School List: Advisory members suggested that sponsors are having problems with the new school list. Eligible schools on the list last year are now missing. They wondered if they can contact the school to get information. Carolyn Brown admitted that NSD and USDA are taking a stricter approach now on letters from school officials. They have a concern that the school official may not be using correct data or applying the percentage correctly to enrollment versus participation. Accordingly, such letters are not accepted. Carolyn went on to state that the problems with the school list also impacts Title I eligibility. The Roundtable will continue to seek satisfactory resolution of this matter.

Regional Roundtable Meetings Update: Beginning last January the Roundtable began holding regional meetings to discuss issues and best practices in implementing the new regulations. The idea behind the meetings is to provide a more localized opportunity and a “safe” environment for sponsors to send their staffs who may not be able to attend regular Roundtable meetings. Meetings have so far been held in the Bay Area, Northern CA, the Central Valley and the Inland Empire/San Diego. Advisory members briefly discussed whether we should go forward with the regional meetings in the two remaining areas of the state, Los Angeles and the Central Coast. We agreed that it was important to continue. Members agreed to try to find meeting space in downtown Los Angeles and try to get a group together in the Central Coast area. California members are asked to watch for emails on the topic in the coming weeks.

MEMBERSHIP

Recently the Advisory Committee has formed an ad-hoc membership committee to discuss ways to increase membership, especially amongst California’s many thousands of child care centers, and center and Head Start sponsors. If you have an interest in this area, have some ideas, please join with us. Contact Ed Mattson at mred94523@earthlink.net.

Advisory Committee Nominations: It is time once again to elect new members to the Roundtable Advisory Committee (see note below). You may recall that we have 15 members that serve three-year terms, five of which come up for re/election each year, plus occasional ad hoc members. The members whose term expires this December are: Marcia Cagigas, Stephanie Clark, Sandra Lerma-Martinez, Dave Paillette and Jeff Tingey. Jeff, after many years on the board and in the CACFP has decided to move on. His position will be filled in 2005 by our alternate Jennifer Teer. The rest have indicated that they will seek your approval to serve another term. In addition, Elvira Sanchez is stepping down so we have one other vacancy with a term expiring at the end of 2005. Accordingly, we are asking all members that are interested in becoming a board member to complete an Advisory Committee Nominee Application and *return it not later than August 30, 2004* (contact Ed and a copy will be E-mailed/faxed to you). Ballots will be E-mailed/faxed in early September and due not later than the September 30th. Nominees may introduce themselves to the members at the September 17 meeting in Santa Barbara. The new 2005 board will be announced at the Conference and in the November newsletter.

Advisory Committee membership is open to all Roundtable members with a willingness to serve and the financial resources to attend the meetings. Members must be willing to participate on one or more conference planning committees each year, such as the program, vendor, hospitality, sales, packet, registration, and monitor or raffle/door prize committees. In addition, members must be willing to: 1) contribute their ideas and feedback when asked; 2) participate in at least four of the six AC meetings; and 3) contribute to other ad hoc committees as necessary. It is a lot of work but a great opportunity to develop your leadership and communication skills, to communicate with state and federal administrators and to become active in setting the future direction of the Roundtable. (Note: Advisory members are generally but not exclusively from California as the meetings and the conference are here. Only California members may vote for AC members.)



CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES
CA Legislative Update:

- *AB 1796* – would restore Food Stamp benefits to rehabilitated drug felons. It is currently stalled in Senate Appropriations.
- *AB 2013* – this bill would eliminate costly and ineffective finger-imaging in the Food Stamp Program. It would save a cash-strapped California \$8.5 million per year. This bill died due to a great deal of opposition form among others the CA District Attorney’s Association.
- *AB 2686* – this bill would improve the nutritional quality of school meals and give parents information on the nutritional content of their children’s school meals. This bill has been amended twice and is slated for a third reading in the Senate on August 4.
- *SB 1566* – implements SB 19 with some modifications. It sets standards for competitive food sales in schools and removes the SB 19 funding requirement. It is scheduled for a hearing at Assembly Appropriations on August 4.
- *SJR 29* – This legislation requests federal, state and local officials and private industries to take actions regarding food & beverage marketing and advertising to children. It has passed in the Senate and the Assembly and gone back for Senate concurrence.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE
RESERVATIONS FOR
THE NEXT ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2004
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Santa Barbara County Education Office
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

LODGING INFORMATION

Closest hotels/motels and AAA star rating:

- ****Holiday Inn*, 5650 Calle Real, Goleta 93117, 805-964-6241
- ***Mountain View Inn*, 3055 De La Vina St., SB 93105, 805-687-6636
- ***Sandman Inn*, 3714 State St., SB 93105, 805-687-2468
- ***Sandpiper Lodge*, 3525 State St., SB 93105, 805-687-5326
- *Motel 6*, 3505 State St., SB 93105, 805-687-5400.

PARKING & DIRECTIONS:

Be sure to park in the upper lot.

From the South:

- Take 101 north;
- Take State St. Exit towards 154/Cachuma Lake;
- Turn left onto State St.;
- Turn right onto San Marcos Pass Road;
- Take the 192/Foothill Roads ramp towards Cathedral Oaks;
- Turn left onto Foothill Road/Cathedral Oaks Road/192;
- Stay straight onto Cathedral Oaks Road.

From the North:

- Take 101 south;
- Take Turnpike Road Exit;
- Turn left onto N. Turnpike Road;
- Turn right onto Cathedral Oaks Road.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location, Thursday, September 16, 10:00 AM.