



# Roundtable news

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

JAN/FEB 2005

## FRAC ACTION ALERT – 2006 BUDGET

We have received the following advisory information from our colleagues at FRAC. We urge you to take action now.

**The Budget:** The President's budget both praises the Child and Adult Care Food Program as a support for "child care, a critical tool for working families", and targets the program for further scrutiny by allocating four million dollars to fund a study and other activities to "help ensure that CACFP payments are correctly made." Aside from WIC, the President's budget makes no changes to the remaining Child Nutrition programs (as expected there was no proposal to cap or limit Child Nutrition Programs entitlement spending.)

Unfortunately, the Administration's FY2006 budget does propose damaging changes including cuts to the Food Stamp Program, and inadequate funding for the Child Care Subsidy and Head Start programs.

It is important to remember that the President's budget, both the good and the bad, is just the first step in the budget process. In the next step, Congress will write its own budget. Congressional leaders continue to express their intent to cap the spending on entitlement programs such as CACFP (in essence block granting the program).

**Action Needed:** The time is right to let your Congressperson know:

See **Action Alert**, Page 2, Column 1

Sacramento, January 21, 2005

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Paula James welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. She thanked Carolyn Brown from the Nutrition Services Division for arranging the meeting space.

**California Childhood Obesity Conference:** Paula was pleased to report that at the recent Obesity Conference in San Diego there was discussion of and agreement that we have to begin to look at the preschool level to get a handle on childhood obesity. This has been our message for some time.

See **Chair Report**, Page 2, Column 1

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- The importance of CACFP to the health and well-being of children and to warn them about the dangers of block granting CACFP.
- The cuts proposed and those Congress is considering, would harm many programs vital to America’s families, leaving many children and parents hungrier and sicker.

For more ideas for actions you can take or additional information please see FRAC’s website: [http://www.frac.org/Legislative/Budget\\_06/index.html](http://www.frac.org/Legislative/Budget_06/index.html) . See also activity ideas under CACFP Week below which can mix well with this important action.

If you have any questions please contact Ed Mattson at (530) 677-9410 ■

**Chair Report**, continued from Page 1

Kelley Knapp confirmed that this was the first time that child care was the focus. She moderated a workshop session on child care nutrition education and physical activity with Connie Evers (24 Carrot Press), Betty Hennessy (LA County Office of Education) and April Cunningham (North Coast Opportunities Head Start). Copies of the handouts are available by contacting Ed. Paula too was on a panel where she stressed the importance of the role of the CACFP. Perhaps of most lasting significance was the establishment, at the conference, by the California WIC Association of a

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

of a California Preschool Institute. Paula and Doris were invited to attend the first meeting and talk about the role of the CACFP. Important too was the fact that CA DHS Maternal and Child Health attended and is now interested in family child care and sees a long term commitment. Members are encouraged to look for ways to involve themselves in the discussion at their local level – Local Planning Council or First Five Commission meetings for instance. At the next conference in January 2007 the importance of the role of CACFP should be even more prominent. Let’s make it so.

**ENACT April 28:** Paula mentioned this event, sponsored by the Strategic Alliance, the California State PTA and the California Parks and Recreation Society. Participants will join forces in Sacramento to promote bills that would improve nutrition and physical activity opportunities in schools and communities statewide. Jessica Reich at CFPA is coordinating. For information visit [www.cfpa.net/ENACT2005/](http://www.cfpa.net/ENACT2005/) or contact Jessica at 415-777-4422 x 129 or [jreich@cfpa.net](mailto:jreich@cfpa.net).

**BREAKOUT**

For the breakout we decided to review portions of a draft report from the first series of Roundtable regional meetings. We reviewed and discussed best practices and questions for NSD in the areas of unannounced visits and the serious deficiency process. We also briefly discussed implementing changes from recent Child Nutrition Reauthorization legislation. A longer more in-depth version of this session will be repeated in the next series of regional meetings scheduled for February and March (see below). Be sure to attend one in your area.

## **USDA REPORT**

Joshline McLean welcomed participants and gave the following USDA report:

### **Training for State Agencies on Second Interim**

**Rule:** Joshline reported that training for western state agencies will be in Denver June 6-10. A disk of the training materials will be sent within two weeks to the states who will in turn be expected to conduct their training of sponsors not later than the end of September. Members asked Joshline whether NSD might be allowed to hold one session of its training at the Roundtable Conference in mid-October. She was not certain but thought at least a makeup session might be possible. She suggested we check with Janet Allen. Kelley Knapp advised that NSD will be working with Cal-Pro-Net on their training. The training for State agencies is three days in length and includes a refresher on items from the First Interim Rule. Sponsor training is expected to be two days in length.

### **Child Care Assessment Project (CCAP):**

Joshline reported that the CCAP effort is in response to the still open Kiddie Kare Audit and is intended to show that the program is fixed. In 2004 there was only one sponsor reviewed; in 2005 there will be three reviewed including two from California. In 2006 seven and possibly eight sponsors in the Western Region will be reviewed because the bulk of the sponsors are out here. She said they have made some changes since the first one. Headquarters staff will be in the office on future reviews while Regional Office staff (some with bilingual skills) will do the site visits. She advised members that Headquarters selects the sponsors and that providers are selected on a random sample basis; therefore sponsors should not notify providers ahead of time. They are targeting meals, Joshline reported, and will try not to visit during nap time.

**Federal Budget Picture:** The Roundtable had asked USDA ahead of time to address what they may know about the 2006 budget and its possible impact on CACFP. Joshline reported that Stan Garnet had advised that it is too early to tell. They

are waiting for the new Secretary of Agriculture and his new staff to see how things shake out.

## **NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION REPORT**

Carolyn Brown welcomed the participants and along with Director Phyllis Bramson-Paul, Janice Hunt and Kelley Knapp gave the state report.

**Management Bulletin Update:** Carolyn was pleased to report that the Division has drafted two critical Management Bulletins Roundtable members have been requesting. Management Bulletin 05-201 will address disbursement of state meal reimbursement, clarifying that sponsors may hold state meal reimbursement for providers until issuance of the next federal reimbursement rather than issue separate checks for such small dollar amounts. This overturns wording in the Management Manual which required disbursement (of state meal reimbursement) within 5 days. She clarified that Federal funds have not been impacted by this change. Sponsors had asked for this fix to reflect what was in fact actual practice and to insure against future review/audit findings.

A new Management Bulletin 05-203 on License Exempt (Trustline) Providers has been a Roundtable priority for a number of years. Under previous written guidance (Management Manual Section 350) the Nutrition Services Division only allowed participation of Trustline providers participating in an alternative payment (AP) program; this bulletin puts into writing a policy change at the Division from a few years back that allows additional providers, not receiving AP subsidy, to participate. *(Editor's note: It has been a long standing goal of the Roundtable to increase the numbers of children receiving the benefits of nutritious program meals and quality monitored child care environments. With welfare reform more and more children were moving into unlicensed care and away from such benefits. This small but significant step works to overcome that trend. Sponsors are encouraged to find ways to make it happen for license-exempt providers in their area.)*

**Plans for Implementing Child Nutrition Reauthorization/Second Interim Rule:** During the Advisory Committee meeting members asked NSD to address their plans for implementing the recent program changes. Carolyn and Janice Hunt reviewed them with the members. Under Child Nutrition Reauthorization the following changes have been addressed in a series of Information Sheets dated September 2004: permanent sponsor-provider agreements (#8), age limits in emergency shelters (#12), proprietary center eligibility (#13), exclusion of housing allowance for military households in privatized housing (#4), and duration of Tier I eligibility (#9). Regarding permanent agreements Carolyn further clarified that additional guidance is expected out soon. In the interim, sponsors should continue what they have been doing. When the new document comes out use it for new providers. When it is time to renew remaining providers use the new form. All providers must have permanent agreements in place by July 1, 2005. They are waiting further guidance from USDA on the audit disregard issue.

Guidance on Second Interim Rule changes is coming. However, state agencies will not be trained by USDA until June. Guidance on provisions requiring implementation upon enactment, such as standard review elements and the new review cycle for sponsors should be out soon. Guidance on household contacts (4/1/05) and meal claim edit checks/block claiming (10/1/05) will be worked on with feedback from the current Serious Deficiency Guidance Ad -Hoc Work Group of the Roundtable Advisory Committee.

**Unliquidated Facility Reimbursements:** This issue came up at the Advisory Committee meeting. NSD agreed to discuss it with Child Nutrition Fiscal Services and get back to us (*Editor's note: a review of 796-2 Rev 3 found Section IX E 2 j 1 on pg 104 – "Prior to the deadline established by the bank, the sponsor must make a good faith effort, acceptable to the State agency, to determine why the check remains uncashed... Once the bank's date for honoring the check has passed, the institution must remit the amount of the payment to the State agency with an explanation, and the State agency*

*must remit that amount to FNSRO, or if within the same fiscal year, apply the repaid funds to current CACFP obligations. Should the sponsored facility request a replacement check, the institution must request the funds from the State agency."*)

**Jack O'Connell's State of Education Address:** Phyllis Bramson-Paul joined us and reported on the Superintendent's January 24 address. She stated that two of his top priorities would be pre-school education and improving child health and nutrition (*editor's note: read more about it at [www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/se/yr05healthychildrenwp.asp](http://www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/se/yr05healthychildrenwp.asp)*). She went on to state that momentum is building to address obesity at the pre-school level. The California WIC Association has established a Preschool Institute (using vitamin settlement dollars). The focus up to this point has been on school-age but eating habits are actually formed at an earlier age.

**Division Update:** Ms. Bramson-Paul reported that they are about to release a report to the state legislature stating that the Division is out of compliance in 21 areas. The challenge is how to come back into compliance when for instance federal administrative dollars do not rise concurrently with state pay raises. This \$2.4 million fact has resulted in 20 positions being held vacant. In order to begin coming back into compliance they will need at least \$1- 1.5 million. She said they may have to work with USDA to set priorities. To help deal with this she said they are reorganizing the Division. Some time ago the Division was organized along program lines; then it went to a functional organization scheme. Now they have modified the plan again with CDE approval. The biggest change is the creation of separate policy supervisors, under a Nutrition Program Administrator - one for school programs and another for community based programs. They are hiring the new manager now. Delays in implementing the reorganization were due to budget priorities.

**Nutrition Update:** Kelley Knapp made several announcements. She handed out a new Management Bulletin 05-200 Clarification on

Acceptable Infant Formulas. It is in the form of a Q & A from USDA and is dated January 2005. She handed out a warning letter from the Department of Health and Human Services that clarifies that Kraft American Singles' label changed from "pasteurized process cheese food" to "pasteurized prepared cheese product." This is important because in the *Food Buying Guide* a cheese "product" does not meet the requirements for a meat or meat alternate. She cautioned sponsors to look closely at the labels on their Kraft Singles products. Finally, in response to a recent email from a member, Kelley provided information on where to find WIC approved cereals for children: [www.wicworks.ca.gov/resources/wafl/wafl\\_EN\\_July2004.pdf](http://www.wicworks.ca.gov/resources/wafl/wafl_EN_July2004.pdf).

### ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

**CACFP Week is March 13-19:** Members are strongly encouraged to do something to market the CACFP this week! Do it in conjunction with your action alert activities on the 2006 budget. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper (a sample is posted under What's New on our web site), invite your legislator to lunch at your center or family child care home or visit their local office and bring along your "take a picture tell a story" we have discussed so many times before (find information on this at [www.cacfpforum.org](http://www.cacfpforum.org) under the Advocacy and Legislation Tab). Or you might wish to send home something to the parents on the CACFP explaining how it is a quality indicator for child care (find more on this at [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org) under the Federal Food Programs Tab click on CACFP and then at the bottom of the page click on "CACFP: A Building Block for the Future") and how obesity prevention begins right in your center or family child care home(s) where children are first introduced to nutrition education concepts and meals that meet federal nutrition standards. Use your imagination but get the word out. This is so critical now in this environment of huge federal budget deficits and entitlement programs on the chopping block.

**Roundtable Meeting Changes:** Over the years the Roundtable has considered the idea of changing the day of its meeting because Friday is generally such a bad traffic day. In addition we have often

discussed whether a training component should be added to the meetings which would inevitably make them longer and further underline the importance of day of the week traffic. The latest iteration of this discussion was at the November Advisory Committee (AC) meeting. As a result, Ed agreed to survey CA sponsors. The results indicated that most members wished to change the day of the meetings. Accordingly, the AC chose **Thursdays** (the day with the slightly highest number of votes over Tuesdays and Wednesdays). We agreed to make the change beginning in May. The March meeting in Baldwin Park will remain on Friday so as not to conflict with a previously scheduled Regional Meeting in Temecula, California. We set the 2005 meetings as follows: Friday March 18 at Options in Baldwin Park; Thursday May 19 in Hayward; Thursday July 21 in South Lake Tahoe; and Thursday September 22 at CDA in San Diego.

Survey respondents also indicated a desire to add a training component so members agreed to have the Dairy Council training – *Deal Me In...food and fitness* – in May and again possibly in September in San Diego. We are considering various options for training at the March meeting, including legislative advocacy. It would fit nicely into the FRAC/Forum campaign against possible cuts to entitlement programs this Spring. We still need to plan training for Lake Tahoe; if it is still timely we could repeat the March session for Northern CA sponsors in July. We might also consider that members have frequently asked for NSD to conduct fiscal training in July related to budgets; the Roundtable will work with NSD on this.

**Regional Meetings Planned:** Plans are underway to begin a second year of regional meetings throughout California. You may recall that the Roundtable began this process last year, in response to member feedback, to offer an opportunity for sponsor staff to meet in an informal setting and discuss their issues and concerns related to implementing the new rule changes. Traditional Roundtable meetings were thought not the best environment for this sharing process and there is never enough time. Our goals were to come away with some best practices we could share and to

compile a list of questions for NSD. The first series of meetings were a huge success. Members discussed unannounced visits, the serious deficiency process, and provider notification. The Roundtable is just now finalizing a report from this first series which we will post to the web site after NSD has reviewed it. In the second series we plan to continue to address staff concerns with implementing the serious deficiency and hearing process, add new topics on recruitment and retention of providers and implementing the most recent changes from Child Nutrition Reauthorization and to a limited extent (due to lack of guidance) the Second Interim Rule.

Meetings are usually four hours in length, from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a working lunch. Members are encouraged to bring a bag lunch. Confirmed meetings to date include:

- Los Angeles – February 25, at International Institute of Los Angeles, 3845 Selig Place, Los Angeles, CA 90031. Contact Tito Lujan at 323-224-3800 x 243 for more information.
- Bay Area – March 24, at 4C's of Alameda County, 7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 601, Oakland, CA 94621. Contact Stephanie Clarke at 510-584-3122 for more information.
- Southern California – March 16, at the Temecula Public Library, Community Room, 41000 County Center Drive, Temecula, CA 92591. Contact Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark at 619-427-4922 for more information.

Watch for an email invitation and RSVP please.

**Marketing to Children Update:** From time to time the Roundtable has kept you apprised of the ongoing fight against major food companies marketing to children. Well the battle has been joined. CNN recently reported in a January 26 report entitled “Child Food Ad Alliance?” that “U.S. food companies and advertising agencies

have created a lobbying group to defend the right to advertise to children ....” Read more about this at [http://money.cnn.com/2005/01/26/news/fortune500/food\\_lobby\\_reut](http://money.cnn.com/2005/01/26/news/fortune500/food_lobby_reut) . If you would like to join with the Campaign For a Commercial-Free Childhood and sign on to “[a] Statement on the Rights of Children, Families, and Food Marketers,” go to [www.commercialexploitation.org/actions/statement\\_onrights.htm](http://www.commercialexploitation.org/actions/statement_onrights.htm) .

## **ROUNDTABLE REPORT**

### **Short Announcements:**

1. 2005 Dietary Guidelines Released – The 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans have been released. Find information at the Center for Nutrition Policy & Promotion [www.usda.gov/cnpp/](http://www.usda.gov/cnpp/) .
2. ERS Publication – Effects of Food Assistance and Nutrition Programs on Nutrition and Health – USDA’s Economic Research Service has released the above informative study. Chapter 7 deals with the CACFP. Find a copy at [www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr19-3/](http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/fanrr19-3/)
3. Speaker Resource – Angela Russ, the speaker who presented the well-attended workshop “Just Don’t Bore Them! Music and Movement for Ages 2-6” has offered her services to interested sponsoring organizations. Her resume and contact information is posted on the Roundtable web site under “Resources.”
4. Meal Pattern in Spanish – Go to this web site: [http://www.nal.usda.gov/childcare/Cacfp/mealpatterns\\_spanish.html](http://www.nal.usda.gov/childcare/Cacfp/mealpatterns_spanish.html)

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT

[www.ccfproundtable.org](http://www.ccfproundtable.org)

FOR THE VERY LATEST INFORMATION.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Ed reported that a number of members have not yet renewed their membership for 2005. He reminded everyone that their membership helps the Roundtable advocate on their behalf and publish the newsletter. Non-renewing members were reminded that this will be their last newsletter unless they renew shortly. The remaining newsletters for 2005 will be placed on a new members-only directory. Thanks for renewing. There is strength in numbers.

## CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES REPORT

Ken Hecht was unable to attend the meeting so we report here noteworthy items from CFPA's January 18 *Nutrition Action Alert* and Ken Hecht's report to the Advisory Committee:

### California Working Families Policy Summit:

This January 7 event was hosted by the California Center for Research on Women and Families. Over 500 policy leaders attended including CFPA (read more about it at [www.ccrwf.org/working/](http://www.ccrwf.org/working/)). Ken said there was a fair amount of discussion on obesity prevention. CFPA's policy recommendations, while not specifically mentioning the CACFP, did include three policy objectives aimed at Food Stamps and School Nutrition Programs: 1) strengthen nutrition at schools to prevent childhood obesity, 2) maximize the infusion of federal funds into California by removing barriers to participation in the nutrition programs, and 3) improve customer service to maximize participation in the nutrition programs (*read more about these strategies at the above web site; click on "Federal Food Programs..." under 2005 Summit Materials heading*).

**Governor's Agenda:** Ken reported that despite the grim budget picture the Governor is interested in obesity prevention. His proposed budget does not propose cuts to the major nutrition programs such as Food Stamps or school meals. It does propose to withhold cost of living adjustments in CalWORKS and SSI/SSP. The Governor is however calling for a \$6 million investment in obesity prevention, proposing to fund improvements in school nutrition,

health care services, workplace initiatives and healthy community design efforts. Ken reported that the Governor has three themes this year: 1) getting junk foods out of schools, 2) taking advantage of federal funds, and 3) providing good service through state government (one aim of the performance review effort).

**CFPA's Legislative Agenda:** Ken briefly mentioned their legislative agenda for 2005. It includes three initiatives:

- *The Food Stamp Rejuvenation Act of 2005* – would streamline paperwork, eliminate unnecessary office visits, expand eligibility and boost participation. It is carried by Assembly Member Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park).
- *The School Lunch and Breakfast Improvement and Integrity Act of 2005* – would automatically enroll Food Stamp recipients into school meals, make sure school breakfasts include fruit, require school breakfast in all schools and take steps to boost school breakfast participation. This bill is being authored by John Laird (D-Santa Cruz).
- *HealthierCalifornia School Nutrition Standards* – This bill would make the federal "Healthier US Challenge" standards mandatory in all public schools in California. The Healthier US standards increase fruits, vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy products and low-fat entrees while eliminating snack foods that are extremely high in fats and sugar.

Read more about any of these items in CFPA's January 18 *Nutrition Action Alert* at [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net); click on "Action Alerts" in the "Quick Find" box.

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

**FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 2005, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Options Food Program**

13100 Brooks Drive #200, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

**TRAINING TOPIC:** Still in development

**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 17, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

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



**THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2005, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Alameda County Office of Education**

313 West Winton Avenue, Hayward, CA 94544

**TRAINING TOPIC:** Considering “Deal Me In ...Food and Fitness, a new after school program for grades K-6” – from the California Dairy Council.

**LODGING INFORMATION:**

- Discovery Inn, 333 Jackson Blvd., Hayward, CA 94544, 510-886-7111.
- Hampton Inn, 24137 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA 94544, 510-247-1555.
- Comfort Inn, 24997 Mission Blvd., Hayward, CA 94544, 510-538-4466.

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS:**

There is parking on site. From Oakland Airport, San Francisco or points east or north take 880 south to Winton Ave exit cloverleaf; at light turn Right (east) on Winton; location is ½ mile up on left (turn left at the first stop light and right into the parking lot).

[Alternate Route: take 580 exit on Foothill Blvd (238) continuing until it turns into 92 turning right on Winton.] From San Jose take 880 north; exit on Winton Ave turning right (east) at bottom of exit; location is ½ mile up on left.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at Stephanie’s Office, 7700 Edgewater Drive, Suite 125, Oakland, CA 94621, on Wednesday, May 18, 10:00 AM. Directions: From San Francisco or Contra Costa take 880; exit on Hegenberger; turn right at Edgewater. From south take 880 north; exit on Coliseum Way/Hegenberger; turn left at bottom of exit and left at Hegenberger; go under Freeway and right at Edgewater.