



Roundtable news

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2005

2005 CONFERENCE ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS!

The Roundtable's 14th Annual CACFP Sponsor's Conference in Anaheim is over but not forgotten. In all, 425 people came together during the third week of October to learn how to make their CACFP programs a little better. They also learned ways to improve their own lives in ways that will help make them more effective as CACFP managers, directors, monitors, and staff. We can still feel the energy. People learned, they networked, they were motivated and empowered to return home and get started on a new future for the CACFP.

There is so much opportunity right now to impact the lives of thousands of young children. Childhood overweight is indeed a crisis of staggering proportions but 425 more people have brought home a message of what they can do and how the CACFP can help. They in turn have access to thousands of child care providers, center staff and parents. In 2006 CACFP sponsors and institutions will continue implementing program integrity changes brought about by the First and Second Interim Rules. Four hundred and twenty-five more people may find the task a little easier as a result of the work of our workshop presenters and general session/keynote speakers. Thank you so much. We truly can all make a difference.

We plan to have handouts from most of the workshops and general sessions available on our web site by mid-November (not all materials were

Chula Vista, September 22, 2005

CHAIR REPORT

Paula was on vacation so Ed Mattson welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. He thanked Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark, from Child Development Associates for providing the refreshments and the nice meeting room.

Taking Action for a Healthier California: Released in conjunction with Governor Schwarzenegger's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity, this plan by the Strategic Alliance makes recommendations to improve healthy food and activity options in CA.

See **Chair Report**, page 3, column 1

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available in an e-version). Be sure to visit www.ccfproundtable.org

The Roundtable would like to acknowledge and thank this year’s sponsors without whose generous financial contributions the conference would not have happened this year.

**Our Co-Sponsor
CA Department of Education,
Nutrition Services Division.**

**Our Nutrition Break Sponsor
Libby’s® Juicy Juice®**

**Our Conference Supporter
Minute Menu**

We also would like to acknowledge and thank our planning committee including: Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark, Jerry Bowers, Carolyn Brown, Diane Butler-Joyner, Marcia Cagigas, Stephanie Clarke, Doris Fredericks, Paula James, Karen Kiernan, Joan LaRocque, Sandra Lerma-Martinez, Ed Mattson, Dave Paillette, Phyllis Bramson-Paul, Cary Steen, Mary Straw, Terry Talavera, Jennifer Teer and Geraldine Henchy. We hope you enjoyed our 14th annual CACFP conference.

Opening Session/Plenary Notes: Some of the messages coming from this important session included those from:

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.

- Phyllis Bramson-Paul, Director of the CDE’s Nutrition Services Division – stated that they have been focused entirely on the serious deficiency process lately, are nearly completed with the division’s reorganization, and will devote more time to training, technical assistance and nutrition education in the future. The Superintendent has made nutrition and child health a priority; they will be completing a strategic assessment of what needs to be done to improve nutrition in child nutrition programs soon.
- Keith Churchill from USDA’s National Office – highlighted what the Department has done in the areas of program access (tiering determinations from 3 to 5 years, permanent agreements, permanent for profit eligibility provisions, privatized military housing, age increase in emergency shelters to 18, and the Nebraska rural eligibility pilot) and integrity (CCAP, tiering study, new minimum SAE grants for state agencies and the overpayment disregard increase to \$600).
- Carol Griffith, Past President of National Professional’s Association – said their mission was to support state agencies with the resources to provide maximum organizational effectiveness, influence legislation and policy before it happens and get more stakeholders involved by building partnerships. Their concerns are for the continued decrease in viable community-based sponsoring organizations, decrease in licensed child care providers and the loss of audit funds.

See **Conference**, page 3, column 1

Conference, continued from page 2

- Ed Cooney, Executive Director of the Congressional Hunger Center – congratulated the 32 Victory Against Hunger awardees and thanked the Department of Agriculture for their nutrition assistance efforts for recent Hurricane victims. He admonished every one of us to make a phone call (to the Emergency Campaign for America’s Future at 800-426-8073) to stop \$3 billion in cuts from Agriculture programs in the ongoing budget reconciliation process in Washington. Due to hurricane relief cuts are now expected to be in the \$50 billion range.
- Cathleen Logan, President of the National CACFP Forum – encouraged everyone to become a member of the Forum and highlighted the Forum’s recently completed Self-Assessment Tool which can help prepare sponsors for a CCAP.
- Geri Henchy, FRAC – asked that we not let the new regulations overwhelm us and instead appreciate what successes we did achieve in the process (from the proposed rule back in 2000)■

Chair Report, continued from page 1

It is predicated on the belief that “factors that influence eating and activity are shaped by the decisions of businesses and government – decisions that are beyond the control of individual parents or families.” The Strategic Alliance believes that the crisis can be solved but “only if business and government leaders join us in promoting what works.” Ed briefly shared highlights from the plan that sponsors might adopt including:

- Adopting standards for the provision of healthy food at all meetings and events;
- Providing incentives to employees who walk, bike or use public transportation to commute to and from work;
- Encourage physical activity through such practices as encouraging stairway use, providing bike racks, lockers and showers, and offering flex time or breaks for physical activity;

- Ensuring that a significant percentage of prepared and vending machine foods sold at worksites are healthy and affordable;
- Maximizing the use of local, regional, and sustainably produced foods in food-service operations; and
- Posting and enforcing organizational policies that support breastfeeding on site.

Find out more about the plan at www.preventioninstitute.org/SA/

BREAKOUT SESSION

The breakout session in September was on Second Interim Rule implementation issues. Kelley Knapp and Josh McLean joined with Ed in leading the discussion.

Online Training Feedback: Kelley shared with members the following facts about their recent online training on the rule. Ninety-eight individuals took the training for day home sponsors (only three sponsors did not complete the training) as of September 15, 2005. Six hundred eighty center agencies completed the training as of September 15, 2005. One hundred eighty-five center agencies did not complete the training and will receive notices of serious deficiency. Kelley advised that the system will be brought back online in mid-October to accommodate those receiving the notice with a second opportunity to take the mandatory training. The system will be available to all CACFP agencies from October 19 to November 23, 2005. Kelley also shared online feedback received during the training. Forty-four percent thought it was easy, 44% pretty easy, while only 1-2% found it difficult. Seventy-eight percent found navigating through the course was easy; 86% rated the difficulty as fair to fairly easy. Kelley stated that the notification process would be easier if they had everyone’s current email address. For 2006, Kelley reported that integrity training will be live with Cal Pro Net and NSD staff. They do however plan to have some smaller programs of study online such as menu production records and income eligibility.

Roundtable members also shared their feedback directly with Kelley. One member did not like it while most of the others felt it was okay. All

agreed that face-to-face interaction where questions can be asked is the preferred method. One sponsor appreciated the savings in travel money and time however. Another member didn't feel that the training flowed well and felt that the quizzes and tests were a bit too much. Some also felt that for 2-3 questions the answers given seemed wrong. Finally, members mentioned that they would have preferred some sample scenarios on block claiming.

Implementation Issues and Questions:

Members shared the following concerns and questions (several of these were also brought up at the conference workshop on the same issue):

- Do board members need to be trained? Members suggested that a definition of "key staff" would be helpful; it was not included in MB 05-207.
- Five-day reconciliation needs a clear written explanation and sample forms; a Management Bulletin was suggested.
- On block claims one member asked for a good written definition of "consecutive" day. Is it straight calendar days or only days in which day care is provided? Even though most believe it to be the latter, it is not in writing anywhere. Members were not up to speed on the parameters of pre-validation reviews and whether they were a one-time only fix for August-September 2005 or ongoing (*USDA seemed to indicate in Anaheim that they were one time only*).
- Members wanted a better explanation of the center alternative for updated enrollment forms – parent sign-in and out records.
- Overall, members would like to see timelier issuance of Management Bulletins on the key elements of the Second Interim Rule. Many questions remain even after the online training.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

A number of issues were discussed by the board even though NSD was unable to send anyone. They included:

Sponsor Crisis in CA - Legislative Action Possible: The board expressed grave concern for

the state of CACFP in California (*none too soon; see details of October 5 meeting in San Francisco below*). It seems that every day another sponsor self terminates or is targeted for elimination as seriously deficient. A palpable climate of fear has settled over the landscape. Sponsors wonder who's next. Administrative costs are skyrocketing with implementation of the integrity rules. Multi-service agencies and R & R's can no longer afford to subsidize the CACFP and are considering dropping out. Members shared a concern for the fate of providers as well as their fellow CACFP staff. Ed agreed to do some basic research of the numbers and has found out (from FNS 44 Reports) that since 1996 family child care sponsors have dropped from 110 to 68, nearly a 40% drop. Total day care homes have dropped to their lowest point in over a decade (20,455 in March 2005, a 15% drop since March 1997). While Tier I homes have remained somewhat steady the drop has been primarily amongst Tier II providers who are no longer willing to put up with the paperwork and the suspicion of fraud for a few cents a day. The program's once valued nutrition education component and importance in the national childhood overweight debate has all but been abandoned as sponsors concentrate their dwindling resources on serious deficiency letter writing, block claiming, annual enrollments and Food Stamp reporting.

Ed asked sponsors if they haven't already established a good working relationship with their elected officials, both state and federal, to do so now. We just may need those contacts to save the CACFP in the near future. Legislators, as we have said many times in the past, need to put a face on the CACFP and realize it is their constituents whose children are in child care and most likely on the CACFP! A Legislative Advocacy 101 workshop was presented at the conference; more need to be conducted.

Finally Ed and board members stressed that we are in this together. Sponsors in trouble only need ask.

(Editor's note: an emergency session was called during the conference to discuss this very real concern. Janet Allen from USDA and Phyllis

Bramson-Paul from NSD attended and agreed to work with us as much as they can. But the bottom line is that it may be up to us, our providers and their parents to make things happen.)

Meetings for 2006: Members discussed a number of meeting issues and plans for 2006.

- Shall we have a Nov meeting this year? Members agreed to try to have an Advisory Committee-only meeting in November this year, either in the Bay Area or at the location of a 2006 conference hotel. We tentatively set November 10 as Minute Menu training is the 14-16th. Jennifer Teer volunteered her office in Emeryville after the meeting.
- Are we happy with Wed-Thursday? After some discussion members agreed to keep the meetings on Wednesday and Thursday in 2006.
- Shall we try to locate nearer our sponsors? Ed shared with members a map of California upon which he had plotted the locations of Roundtable members and suggested we might do a better job of bringing our meetings closer to our membership as a way to improve sagging participation and offer more technical assistance and networking opportunities for members. There are (excluding military) 15 in the greater Bay Area, 14 in greater LA, 9 in very northern California, 8 in greater Sacramento, 7 along the central coast, 7 in the central valley, 3 in San Diego and 2 in the inland empire. Ed suggested we consider a meeting in the Redding area once a year if sponsors up there agree to drive down to the meeting (he agreed to survey members). Members further suggested that if we go there we try to coordinate with CAPP or other meetings they might be attending. He also suggested Fresno area and asked whether Tahoe was really necessary. Members agreed that participation at Tahoe has dropped off dramatically in recent years due to high travel costs and squeezed administrative budgets; we agreed to cancel it this year.
- Shall we go back to 6 meetings? Members agreed to try having 6 meetings in 2006 to try to

cover more geographic areas: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep & Nov.

- Preliminary dates & locations for 2006 – Here is the tentative schedule we agreed to but with some possible changes based on further discussions with NSD and others:
 - Jan 18-19 in Sacramento – NSD to host (final)
 - Mar 15-16 in LA Area – Marcia at East LA College to host (final)
 - May 17-18 in Redding (if area sponsors will attend) or San Francisco – USDA to host (tentative).
 - Jul 19-20 in Santa Barbara (final , exact location to be determined)
 - Sep 20-21 in San Francisco – USDA to host, or Redding. The NSD Day Care Home Team advised that they cannot attend a meeting this week and would prefer September 6-7 (date and location not final).
 - Nov 15-16 in Fresno or location of 2007 conference (tentative).
- Training ideas/topics – Members felt that training topics should be finalized on an as-you-go basis and suggested that in January NSD and/or USDA might provide more training on block claiming concepts (*Editor's note: Ed met with the new Day Care Home Team on October 4 and they too are interested in providing training at regular and/or regional meetings.*)

Hurricane Katrina Policy Memo: Ed shared with members a recently released USDA policy memo on emergency feeding in the CACFP in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. As victims may have been resettled in California the following USDA policies would apply (quoted from CACFP-05-11):

- In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in other areas where there are significant numbers of persons displaced by the disaster, to the extent that enrollment and income eligibility forms cannot be obtained from displaced persons, center officials or the day

care home provider may document free meal eligibility for displaced participants being served by compiling and retaining a list (roster) of such persons.

➤ In areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina, and in other areas where there are significant numbers of persons displaced by the disaster, to the extent that enrollment and income eligibility forms can be obtained from displaced persons:

- Households certified for emergency food stamps are automatically eligible for free meals in centers or tier I meals in family day care homes;
- Displaced individuals may be considered homeless, and automatically eligible for free meals in centers and tier I meals in family day care homes, even if they are temporarily residing with another family. However, the host family would have to provide a revised application (and can include those displaced by the disaster as long as any income provided to the host family is also included on the application) in order for the host family's children to be eligible for free or reduced price meal benefits;
- If an income eligibility statement cannot be obtained from a displaced household, a center official or the family day care provider may complete an application on behalf of the displaced participant, based on the best available knowledge of the household's economic circumstances.

Mileage Reimbursement: Members discussed the fact that many sponsors are still using \$0.34 despite 796-2 allowing a higher "reasonable" rate. At this meeting we discussed the issue. The majority of AC members present admitted to using the IRS rate which was until just recently \$0.405 (and is now \$0.485). However AP still uses the CDE current rate of \$0.34 and sponsors that do AP or are R & R's must use the lower rate. Sponsors that use \$0.34 for AP have been advised not to use a higher

rate for CACFP (*we are researching the source of this restriction*). We had agreed that this might be an issue to approach both NSD and CDD with at an ICCOG meeting (*however at a 10/5/05 meeting with the NSD Day Care Home Team, Ed was advised that the entire Department still uses the \$0.34 rate*). Despite this, sponsors that can should use a higher more reasonable rate such as the IRS rate and be sure to modify their budget as appropriate.

Application/Health & Safety Issue for Trustline

Providers: Some members wondered how to deal with certain license-exempt providers with large numbers of children in care. The original concern was for how to complete the site application license capacity line item but it became a discussion too of health and safety. Apparently, even though a license-exempt provider may only care for children from one family the safety of all seems to be in jeopardy when some have numerous distantly related provider's own children enrolled. For instance, what if a provider has 4 children of her own, 5 of her sister's plus 2 AP kids? Members reported seeing instances of 14-20 children in some cases. How shall they answer the capacity question on the site application and what about health and safety? They cannot report unsafe conditions to licensing. Ed suggested that sponsors have an obligation to make a judgment call about capacity concerns and suspend the provider if there are just too many children in care per the regulations (*This issue will need to be readdressed at the next meeting where NSD is in attendance*).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Time to Renew Membership: Ed reminded members that it is NOW time to renew your membership (if you have not already done so as part of your registration for the Conference). The membership year is January 1 to December 31. All membership renewals MUST be accompanied by a completed membership form so that we may update our membership database with your latest contact information. Be sure to include your clearly printed Email address! If your fiscal office is sending the check, please be sure they include the renewal form

with the check. A membership/renewal form is attached and is available on our web site at www.ccfproundtable.org under the Membership tab.

Advisory Committee Seeks Nominations: It is time to elect/approve your Advisory Board for 2006. A typical board is made up of 15 members elected from the general membership in California and serving a three-year term. There are no term limits and generally board members seek reelection every three years but vacancies do happen. To insure consistency the board is divided into thirds with 5 coming up for re/election each year. This year there are only 4 members up for re/election: Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark, Cary Steen, Terry Talavera and Joan LaRocque (Diane Butler-Joyner resigned recently and the board appointed Joan to serve out the rest of her term). Lorraine has indicated that she will not stand for reelection. Board members decided on September 21 that fresh new ideas are good and agreed to try to recruit *two new members with an emphasis on centers and/or Head Start* to bring the board back up to 15 members. We also briefly discussed attendance expectations with the high cost of administering the current program. We agreed that AC members should expect to attend at least three meetings in their half of the state and one outside their half or 4 meetings total per year.

If you would like to support the Roundtable or see changes in the way things are done please consider joining the Advisory Committee! If you are with a center or Head Start sponsorship you are especially encouraged to apply. Help us set the agenda at meetings, at the conference, in negotiations with NSD! If you are interested ask for an application today (send inquiries to mred94523@earthlink.net). Applications are due ASAP. We hope to have the new board set before the Holidays.

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION

Kelley Knapp welcomed the participants and gave a brief state report, responding to questions on the September 21 Advisory Committee meeting agenda.

Status of Renewals: Kelley reported that the new Day Care Home Team was hoping for a 30-day turn around. However there were more problems than anticipated. They found many problems with the public release for instance (*the Roundtable had asked NSD to explore issuing a statewide public release but due to the large numbers of centers in CA the task would be difficult if not impossible they admitted*).

Status of Sponsor Closures: A number of sponsors have shut down in the past few months including 4 C's of San Mateo, Bridges and Berkeley Albany Licensed Day Care Operator's Association. The Roundtable is concerned for the status of the providers. Kelley reported that 114 providers from 4 C's were still not re-signed with a new sponsor and 76 with Bridges. Members speculated that they must have been Tier II.

(Editor's Note: On October 5 Ed attended a meeting in San Francisco where the city's two remaining family child care sponsors – Children's Council and Wu Yee – asked for financial assistance to keep from shutting down immediately and leaving 5000 children without the benefits of CACFP! It appears likely they will receive short-term aid. But a more permanent solution needs to be explored. Accordingly, a special session at the Conference was called to discuss the "impending crisis in California's CACFP family child care." Participants agreed that action needs to be taken to reduce the administrative burden on sponsors and insure those that do remain are give technical assistance, as necessary, to remain on the program. The serious deficiency rhetoric and climate of fear, especially aimed at "sole source" sponsors, needs to be toned down.)

Serious Deficiency Guidance: Roundtable Advisory Committee members spent a great deal of time throughout the past year working on a serious deficiency guidance package. Members had asked its status. Kelley reported that a Management Bulletin had been written and was scheduled to go out to duplicating the week of September 26 (*while the Management Bulletin does contain the regulatory requirements and sample provider*

letters it does not contain the guidance piece we had worked on).

What's Up at NSD? Kelley reported that some NSD staff is moving to new units as the re-organization nears completion. The physical move will occur in the next several months. NSD will remain at 560 J Street and will acquire more meeting space as a result of the move.

USDA

Joshline McLean, from USDA WRO, gave the following brief report. She advised that USDA is preparing for the third round of CCAP visits. They are planning 6 of 7 in California. Two will be lead by WRO staff and the remainder by 4 other Regional Offices but with at least one WRO and/or CDE staff member. They hope to complete each in 4 days – Monday through Thursday. Sponsors scheduled for a CCAP this year will receive a letter written by the responsible Regional Office.

CALIFORNIA FOOD POLICY ADVOCATES

Ken Hecht was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following written report. On Thursday, September 15, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver convened the Governor's Summit on Health, Nutrition and Obesity. This was a high level commitment to improving nutrition for California's children, and, regardless of the content, makes a powerful statement about the Administration's dedication to the problem and to finding effective solutions.

At the summit, the Governor signed three bills that represented his nutrition initiative: SB 12 (nutrition standards for competitive food in schools) and SB 965 (eliminating sodas in high schools -- and thus completing the elimination in all schools) and SB 281, the bill that originated with CFPA, to put \$18.2 state funds into increasing the availability of fresh fruit in the School Breakfast Program. CFPA has been asked to participate in CDE Nutrition Services Division's speedy implementation of the breakfast fruit initiative.

Still pending on the Governor's desk as of September 22 were two bills, AB 696 (*vetoed*), food

stamp reform including elimination of finger imaging, and AB 1385 (*signed*), developing a statewide computer matching system to implement direct certification of food stamp families' children for free school meals. AB 1392, closing loopholes allowing schools to avoid serving lunch to their summer session students, also is pending; CFPA has played a key role in developing this bill and is strongly supporting it. All bills had to be signed or vetoed by October 9. Ken asked for Roundtable members' support -- letters, faxes, etc. – and pointed to ideas and help in doing this on their web site www.cfpa.net .

WEB SITES FOR September 2005:

- www.preventioninstitute.org/SA/ - web site for information on the Strategic Alliance's "Taking Action for a Healthier California."
- www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2005/050923.htm - Web site for Agricultural Research Service and the article "New Guidelines for Managing Children's Weight."
- www.nutraingredients-usa.com/news/ng.asp?n=62880-usda-mypyramid-dietary-guidelines-atherosclerosis – Web site for American Heart Association article "Eating habits for a healthy heart must start early."

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

THURSDAY, JAN 19, 2006, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Location to be Determined
Sacramento, CA



THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
East Los Angeles College
Monterey Park, CA

More details will be coming soon on the above meetings



CHILD CARE FOOD PROGRAM ROUNDTABLE MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION

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

As a member of the Roundtable there are several benefits including receiving current information on state and federal issues, legislative alerts, and regular newsletters; having an opportunity for direct dialogue with state and federal administrators, and networking with experienced sponsors and state and national policy advocates; leadership opportunities, and annual conference discounts and scholarships. Membership is annual and on a calendar year basis.

To join or renew, please complete this form and return it with your check (made payable to the California Food Policy Advocates) to:

CCFP Roundtable, c/o Ed Mattson, 4772 French Creek Road, Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Membership Fees		
<i>Check all that apply (If you check more than one category, pay only the highest fee).</i>		
Fees:	Sponsors of:	# of Sites:
\$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Centers or Head Start	1-5
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes	1-150
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Affiliate (newsletter only)	
\$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Centers or Head Start	6-15
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes	151-500
	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Affiliate (full membership)	
\$75.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Centers or Head Start	16-25
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes	501-1000
\$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Centers or Head Start	26+
	<input type="checkbox"/> Homes	1001+
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Agencies	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporations	

<u>Member Information</u>	
Org. Name:	
Org. Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Contact:	
Tel. Number:	
Fax Number:	
E-mail:	
No. of Sites/Homes:	Amount Enclosed:
	\$

For more information call (530) 677-9410