



Roundtable news

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

MARCH 2006

FRAC/FORUM CONFERENCE REPORT

Ed attended the February 24-28 conference this year and had a great deal of information and materials to share with members from the various board meetings, workshops and general sessions he attended.

The Big Picture: From my perspective there is just a lot going on right now that impacts or could potentially impact the CACFP. Not the least of which are the huge federal deficit and the 2007 budget battles that it has spawned. The federal deficit, swollen by the cost of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, renewal of the tax cuts and Hurricane Katrina funding, is at an all time high. This cannot continue indefinitely. Congress and the Administration are proposing a number of program cuts for 2007. In the opinion of some, it cannot be long before CACFP and other child nutrition programs are impacted (however Ed Cooney did suggest that we are probably safe this year, it being an election year). Add to this the rather dismal results so far from USDA's CCAP effort and OMB PART Analyses categorizing CACFP as "not performing" – "results not demonstrated" and one can see the need for marketing the program and building partnerships – the theme of this year's conference.

This is not a new message but it has certainly become more urgent. We need to redouble our efforts at marketing the program through media, legislative and parental contacts. We need to redouble our efforts at marketing the program

See **FRAC/Forum**, page 8, column 2

Monterey Park, March 16, 2006

CHAIR REPORT

Ed Mattson welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. He thanked Marcia Cagigas, from East Los Angeles College Child Development Center for providing the meeting room and parking.

New Childhood Obesity Study: Ed reported on a recent article worth reading on "The Role of Child Care Settings in Obesity Prevention." It was written by Mary Story, Karen Kaphingst and Simone French, and is in the latest issue "Childhood Obesity" on the www.futureofchildren.org web site. The study

See **Chair Report**, page 2, column 1

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concludes, “[l]argely ignored in the nation’s obesity dialogue so far has been the food and physical activity environment in child care settings. But child care represents an untapped rich source of strategies to help children acquire positive healthy habits to prevent obesity. The infrastructure already exists within Head Start and CACFP child care sites to incorporate healthful eating and exercise into these programs, thus reaching many low-income and minority children who are at greatest risk for obesity. But regulations and standards governing physical activity and nutrition need to be strengthened. Child care settings also offer a way to reach parents to make healthful changes at home to reinforce and support healthful eating and regular exercise.” This is an excellent resource and could be used in many of our CACFP marketing strategies. Check it out.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

Block Claiming: Ed led the discussion on block claiming. He started with the basics:

- Definition of a block claim – a block claim is a claim for reimbursement submitted by a facility on which the number of meals claimed for one or more meal types is identical for 15 consecutive days within a claiming period.
- 15 consecutive days – refers to operating days. If a facility is providing child care every day of the week (Sunday-Saturday), a block claim could occur in just over two weeks of

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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.

claiming the same number of meals for a meal type. However if a facility operates five days a week (Monday-Friday), the same block claim pattern would be established at the end of the third week. [See USDA CACFP Policy Memo 06-04 (referred to hereinafter as Q & A # 2) question # 19 – NSD has not yet published this document]

- What to do if a block claim is found? The sponsor must conduct an unannounced visit of the facility within 60 days to examine the facility’s meal counts and to validate the facility’s claim for reimbursement. The sponsor must determine whether the block claim is legitimate or whether it is based upon claiming errors. If the sponsor determines it is legitimate the reason for it must be documented and suitably explained. [See MB 05-211 and USDA CACFP Policy Memo 05-03 (referred to hereinafter as Q & A #1) question #3 – NSD has not yet published this document]
- Some legitimate reasons for a block claim -
 - A statement that the facility provides drop-in care so that it is always filled to license capacity on each day it is opened, or
 - A statement that it is the provider’s policy to accept children even if they are ill, or
 - A statement that the provider cares for one or two nonresidential children whose single parent has no sick leave benefits, or
 - A statement that a provider is located near a low wage factory

that specializes in care for sick children of factory workers, or [Q&A #1 question #6, Q&A #2 question #16]

- Acceptable documentation of a legitimate reason for a block claim – a note placed in the sponsor’s monitoring file should be adequate. The sponsor must put enough information in the review file to explain why a facility might regularly submit block claims for a specific meal service, or why there might be block claims submitted for all its meal services. [Q&A #1 question #5]
- What you do if the block claim was the result of claiming errors - the sponsor must assess the frequency and severity of the problem to determine the course of action. The sponsor may decide that further training and oversight will correct the problem, especially if the facility is new to the program. The sponsor may also decide that the claiming errors are grounds for a declaration of serious deficiency. If the facility is a family day care home, the sponsor must follow the serious deficiency process for providers. If the facility is a center, the sponsor must correct the problem, because centers do not have a specified serious deficiency process. Uncorrected center problems may be grounds for NSD to declare a sponsor seriously deficient. [MB 05-211]

He then highlighted other important questions and answers from the literature:

- In examining the reasons for a block claim, if the provider states that she always cares for sick children, how should the sponsor document the accuracy of her statement? The sponsor will be able to assess this statement when it conducts the unannounced follow-up review, examines the enrollment forms, and observes the number of children in care. In addition, even if the sponsor determines that the provider has a legitimate reason for the block claim, the subsequent unannounced review will allow the sponsor to observe the number of children present and

further confirm, or refute, the provider’s statement. The sponsor may also wish to use household contacts to obtain additional information about the number of children typically in care for a particular meal service. [Q&A #2 question # 30]

- Does the unannounced review have to include observation of the meal service that triggered the block claim edit check? USDA recommends that, whenever possible, the unannounced review triggered by the block claim include an observation of the meal service that was block claimed. [Q&A #1 question # 11]

Members were referred to the Q & A from the January meeting in Sacramento published in the February 2006 *Roundtable News* for further guidance. Tim Thole clarified questions from that meeting requiring further USDA research.

- 14. Situation #2 – On a site visit at the end of December while looking over the paperwork the monitor can see provider is a block claimer. Can the monitor validate on site now? This would help us not have to do a follow up visit the following month. **A.** USDA has now agreed to allow such a validation to meet the requirement without the additional unannounced visit provided that the visit was unannounced.
- 19. Situation #7 – Detect block claim – 2 kids dinner – perform follow up visit validate. However tow months later comes up as a block claimer for a different meal. Another visit to validate the new meal? **A.** No, once you validate a block claim you are not required to conduct another unannounced visit for a year. USDA has determined that the year referred to in this question is sponsor’s review cycle (e.g., calendar year, fiscal year, whatever year period the sponsor uses).

A sponsor asked one further question: **Q.** Where must the block claim validation documentation be stored? Provider file or separate file? **A.** It is up to the sponsor but it must be retrievable. However,

making information readily available for the state or federal reviewer is always a good idea.

Five Day Reconciliation: Janice discussed five day reconciliation. She referred to the discussion in the last *Roundtable News* and reread the regulatory citation at 7 CFR Part 226.16(d)(4)(ii), which is self explanatory:

Reviews must examine the meal counts recorded by the facility for five consecutive days during the current and/or prior claiming period. For each day examined, reviewers must use enrollment and/or attendance records to determine the number of children in care during each meal service and attempt to reconcile those numbers to the numbers of breakfasts, lunches, suppers, and/or snacks recorded in the facility's meal count for that day. Based on that comparison, reviewers must determine whether the meal counts were accurate. If there is a discrepancy between the number of children enrolled or in attendance on the day of review and prior meal counting patterns, the reviewer must attempt to reconcile the difference and determine whether the establishment of an overclaim is necessary.

Janice went on to explain that sponsors should begin using the term "review" for what generally has been referred to in the past as a "monitoring visit" or "visit." It establishes a more professional relationship, she maintains, and coincides with wording used in the regulations. In response to a question concerning documentation of the reconciliation Janice referred to a sample review form recently developed by Karen Gillham which will be emailed out to sponsors. (*Members from other states that have a good form are asked to send Ed a copy at mred94523@earthlink.net.*)

NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION

Janice Hunt welcomed the participants and gave the state report. Also in attendance from NSD were Karen Gillham, Ruth Cardiel, Esther Ho and Bose Labisi.

Staffing/Organization: Janice reported on the following staff changes. Debbie Meeker, Phyllis'

deputy has left. Susan Smith a new CNC and Osborn Christian the past Manager for the Field Services Unit have recently passed. Esther Ho is a new CNC for the San Gabriel Valley; Bose Labisi is a new CNC in Los Angeles; Amy Lins is a new CNC for the Bay Area and Linda Prescott is a new CNC for the Northern Region replacing Carol Hall. Kari Sachs is a new staff information systems analyst. The Field Services Unit has been split into 6 regions. The new region includes parts of LA, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties. A new manager has not yet been found.

Miscellaneous: Janice reported that –

- They hope to get CNIPS for CACFP up by 2008.
- A serious deficiency task force within the division is looking at streamlining processes for sponsors and developing standards to insure consistency.
- An auditor will be a part of any day care home sponsor review team this year.
- The reorganization is completed. The new program unit, separated from the Field, will be available to provide technical assistance.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT



National CACFP Week, March 12-18, was a perfect opportunity to do the kind of program marketing we have extolled for years. Jennifer Teer, from Oakland Licensed Day Care Operator's Association, reported on their event and forwarded the picture above. Congratulations Jennifer!

“On Tuesday, March 14th, the Oakland Licensed Day Care Operators’ Association Child Care Food Program held a “Help Me Be Healthy” workshop for providers and their child care children. The workshop was held to promote National CACFP Week and to keep parents and the community aware of the importance of this program. Approximately 75 children came and played healthy games and received handouts on healthy eating. Healthy snacks were provided with a gift certificate donated by the Berkeley Bowl and everyone including the providers received an “Eat 5 A-Day and Be Active” lunch bag. These bags were donated by the Healthy Living for Life Campaign through the Alameda County Public Health Department.”

A Roundtable Task Force has been established to plan for 2007 – a critical year in the run up to Child Nutrition Reauthorization. Watch for announcements coming from this group in the next few months.

Training, Technical Assistance & Mentoring:

- **PIN Online –**
For some time now the Advisory Committee has been interested in providing training opportunities for new sponsors and staffs. Our original understanding about PIN training was that it was designed for that purpose. As funding has not always been available to conduct PIN training every year we agreed with NSD’s recommendation to put it online. NSD reported at the meeting that PIN training for centers and day care homes is currently being developed for an online format. The course will be a guided course, allowing the instructor to interact with the participants while they are online. NSD is hoping to launch it in 2007.
- **Mentoring –**
Another long standing goal of advisory members has been a mentoring program for new sponsors and staffs. The last time this was discussed a critical barrier was identified. Mentors will need travel funding as current sponsor budgets would not allow it. Barbara Longo agreed to explore funding. One

possibility would be to grant CFPA/Roundtable funds that could in turn be used to fund potential mentors for their travel.

- **Technical Assistance –**
A final option for new sponsors and/or staffs is to ask NSD for technical assistance. In the past this has either not been available or sponsors were afraid to ask for it. Both Barbara and Janice advised that the climate has changed. Sponsors should be willing to ask for technical assistance now. One reason for the creation of the Program Administration Unit was to separate the review and program functions. Day Care Home Team members can now provide technical assistance and Janice advised you can also call your Field Representative.

Priority Projects: The Advisory Committee has been working with NSD on a number of issues. At NSD’s request we agreed to prioritize them, as follows:

- **Training on Block Claims & Five Day Reconciliation at March 16 Meeting -**
- **Update Management Manuals –** Barbara reported that Phyllis is supportive of this project and will help us get resources (NSD or contractor) to complete it. She reported that staff in-house has already done some work on updating the manuals. We need to look at what has been completed and see if it will suit our needs. The Management Manual Task Force had their first conference call on March 3 and has scheduled a follow up call on March 29 at 1:30.
- **Catch Management Bulletins Up to USDA Policy Memos –** Barbara reported that a work group is looking at the process. She admitted that the approval process is cumbersome so they are exploring the use of more informational memos that Phyllis can sign. Their target is to get them out within 45 days.

- NSD Financial Support of and Workshops at RT Conference – Barbara agreed to explore these with Phyllis.
- Complete the Serious Deficiency Guidance – The Serious Deficiency Task Force working on this project met the afternoon of March 15. The guidance is in its final rewrite. Once approved by USDA it will be circulated for final comment by selected sponsors.
- Trustline Guidance – There was no further discussion of this issue at this time. Sponsors with licensed-exempt providers will for the time being have to restrict participation as they see fit to ensure that the health and safety of children is not threatened. Before annual renewals hopefully NSD will address application issues.

Quality Funding Projects: NSD received \$500,000 in quality set aside dollars from CDD. A task group was formed to give NSD feedback on possible uses. The Advisory Committee has been asking for the final decision on how the funds would be spent. NSD reported the following approved projects at the meeting:

- Edit and publish best practices grantee materials on CD-ROMs.
- Offer 2-3 statewide training sessions on the nutrition education curriculum, *Food for Thought*, which was developed by April Cunningham at NCO Headstart.
- Contract with Cal-Pro-Net to develop a series of online nutrition education mini courses, targeting teachers, food service personnel and newsletters targeting parents.
- Contract with UC Davis to conduct a strategic assessment and make recommendations to reduce the incidence of early childhood obesity in California.
- Contract with CSU Chico to develop an online course called *Infant Nutrition in the CACFP*.

May Training Topic: The May training topic will be day care home monitoring - what is required in the regulations and what is realistic given financial limitations of sponsors. Regulations and policy concerning monitoring have been revised recently to include mandatory elements, five day reconciliation and MB 06-208 on monitoring all meal types. These also will be taken into account. We will also look at sample/model review forms. If you have a form you use that works well, please share it with us. Send a copy to Ed at mred94523@earthlink.net ASAP.

USDA

Tim Thole, from USDA, WRO, gave the following report.

Paperwork Reduction Task Force: Tim served on the task force and gave us his perspective. He worked on recordkeeping issues and stated that many providers, sponsors and state agencies are doing more work than they need to. He said they found gross inconsistencies between states and were concerned for the kind of guidance they could issue to reduce them. The for-profit sponsor representative has centers in 38 states and told of vastly different application procedures from state to state. They looked at paper versus computer documents. CACFP is way behind, for instance, the technology being used by licensing. Production records are not required for family child care homes but are still be used in some states. He reiterated that the next step is for USDA to look at the recommendations and determine which they have the authority to enact through regulation or policy. They will then go out for comments.

CCAP: Tim closed by briefly mentioning the CCAP's out here in the Western Region. He said some of the health and safety problems found nationally are not happening here. He confirmed that more CCAP's are coming and that they will now also be looking at block claims and five day reconciliation. He admonished members to keep up due diligence.

He confirmed that Janet Allen, WRO's Director of Special Nutrition Programs is leaving on March 17.

CFPA REPORT

State Update: CFPA reported that it has been a complicated year. The infrastructure bond has consumed discussion in the Capitol unlike last year where nutrition was more in focus. CFPA is supporting the following California legislation this year:

- **3 Connections to Healthy Eating AB 2205 (Evans)** - Low-income families often face burdensome paperwork, red tape, and other hassles when accessing a public assistance program. For many families, these hassles recur when applying for another program or benefit. Assemblymember Noreen Evans is authoring legislation that will help connect three valuable programs together: MediCAL, Food Stamps and School Meals. Using an existing federal option, this legislation will make it easier for recipients of MediCal to enroll in food stamps. Then, building upon CFPA legislation signed by the Governor last year, children in these food stamp families will be automatically enrolled in free meals at school.
- **Targeting and Innovation in School Meals AB 1916 (Garcia)** - All students should have access to healthy meals at school, but the legislature has a special responsibility to ensure good nutrition at schools with high percentages of low-income students. Building on this principle, this bill will require schools with very high percentages of low-income student to use a federal option that removes the paperwork and administrative hassles of enrolling in school meals, while guaranteeing school-wide access to free meals. The bill will also require California schools with more than 40% low-income students to offer a nutritious breakfast.
- **Food Stamp Simplification AB 3029 (Laird)** Complexity and red tape are hurting participation in the Food Stamp Program. Only 45% of eligible Californians receive food stamps. CFPA is sponsoring legislation to improve food stamp participation in three ways. First, California would, following other states,

remove unnecessary paperwork by adopting a 6-month reporting system. To help working families maintain nutrition assistance without hassles, the legislation would require California to use an available federal option under which participants can renew food stamps by phone or in other ways that don't require office visits. Finally, the legislation proposes a Food Stamp "Simplification Demonstration project," which would require the state to test the impact of removing federally required red tape.

- **Fresh Fruits and Vegetables in Low-income Communities AB 2384 (Leno)** - Low-income Californians, such as food stamp recipients, face unique challenges in increasing their consumption of fruits and vegetables, as recommended in the Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Two major barriers often exist: access and costs. To address these barrier s, CFPA is sponsoring a two-part bill to increase the availability of healthy food by retail grocers in low-income neighborhoods by:
 - Providing incentives that make the purchase of fresh fruit and vegetables both a healthy choice and a smart economic choice for food stamp families with limited food budgets.
 - Providing assistance (refrigerated display cases and mentoring) to retail grocers (corner stores) in low-income neighborhoods to sell fresh fruit and vegetables.

Last year's SB 281 to put fresh fruit into the School Breakfast Program has been held up over the definition of "fresh" and there is pending legislation to clearly define it. Emergency regulations to implement the law are in clearance at the Office of Administrative Law. Once cleared it can go into effect. Barbara Longo stated that packets for the schools are prepared and ready to go. Regrettably there is no current mechanism to roll the funds over into the next year if they cannot be expended before the end of this school year so NSD is exploring whether the funds can be used for equipment purchases.

Federal Update: Reference has been made in a number of articles this month to the current 2007 budget debate. As of March 17 the Senate has passed its budget resolution 51 to 49. Fortunately it contained \$7 billion in restored cuts for education, nutrition and vital social service programs like Head Start, child care, Meals on Wheels (according to the Coalition on Human needs). The House Budget Committee is scheduled to take up their version the week of March 27. If you care about any of these programs that impact our low-income families stay tuned or find out more at www.chn.org or www.frac.org and get involved.

ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Earned Income Tax Credit Kits: Ed reminded members that tax time is just around the corner. They can help their low-income providers and parents by making Earned Income Tax Credit information available. Kits can be obtained from a number of sources including the Center for Budget & Policy Priorities at www.cbpp.org.

Membership: Ed asked members to check to see if they have renewed their membership for 2006. The membership year is January 1 to December 31. Membership helps support Roundtable newsletters, Email action alerts and training opportunities. It is never too late to renew.

CONFERENCE REPORT



The Roundtable's 15th Annual Conference, *Celebrating Fifteen Years: Our Vision Our Future* has MOVED! It is now on the beach, October 23-25, 2006, at the Bahia Resort Hotel in San Diego, California. We are still looking for workshop presenters and CACFP sponsors willing to lead or serve on best practices panels. Please complete a workshop proposal form today (find a copy on our web site). Help make it happen■

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through media, legislative and parental contacts. We need to partner with all stakeholders in the child care arena including provider's associations and unions, the National Professional's Association, and resource and referral and alternative payment organizations. We discussed the idea of branding the CACFP at the Forum board meeting and will research that further in the coming months. There currently is no one CACFP identity. On the legislative front we need to step up our education visits. House leadership has changed as a result of the election of John Boehner (R-OH) as Speaker. Buck McKeon (R-CA) has moved up to chairman of the important House Education & Workforce Committee. He along with Democratic leaders George Miller and Lynn Woolsey should be visited this year to keep CACFP fresh in everyone's mind, advised Ed Cooney (members from other states should keep up their efforts too). McKeon's district is in parts of San Bernardino, Los Angeles and Inyo Counties and his district office is in Santa Clarita. Roundtable Board members Karen Kiernan, Dave Paillette and Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark have homes in his district and should plan/coordinate a visit or event this year. Sponsors in Woolsey's and Miller's districts should do so as well. Sponsors might consider reworking their regulatory parental notification item(s) to make them more of a CACFP marketing piece. Members are encouraged to work with their local media to get coverage on how CACFP is benefiting children and combating childhood obesity. Ed will explore a media contact with the Sacramento Bee. It is **not** time to panic yet but it definitely is time to get the good word out about CACFP!

Child Nutrition Reauthorization is around the corner and groundwork we lay today may payoff in discussions during that potentially harmful process. At the conference stakeholders began a dialogue on redesigning the program to refocus the attention on nutrition education and CACFP's important place in our nation's battle with childhood obesity. Those talks will continue.

Hints for Dealing with the Media: One workshop focused on media relations and was very timely as well as informative. Some hints to share:

- Write and speak simply at a level everyone understands.
- Research key reporters.
- Use clear consistent messages.
- Make regular communication with the media a scheduled event.
- Allow 5-6 week lead time for event press releases (one page maximum and include important contact information).
- Be proactive; talk about the impact on the community - how many people, how much money, and implication if funds cut off.
- Get media person out with your monitor so they won't feel influenced by your biases; give them access to participants.
- Don't think of just one contact; try food or metro editor too.
- An event might not be the best way to convey your message.
- If called by a journalist you can call back but find out their deadline.

Paperwork Reduction Task Force: In our immediate future we have the results of this important task force to look forward to. As a result of recent legislation USDA convened a paperwork reduction task force. Participants included Geri Henchy and representatives from the Forum and TSA, two large day care home sponsors, ND and OR state agencies, Head Start, for-profit centers, USDA Headquarters and Regional Offices. The task force has met, deliberated and made a number of prioritized recommendations for regulatory or policy changes. The next step is for USDA to look at each recommendation and insure it has the authority to make the change. Statutory changes are not being considered at this time. See the USDA Report for more on this task force.

Block Claiming Survey: Preliminary results from this important FRAC survey were discussed in broad terms at the conference. Thanks to everyone that participated. To no one's surprise, the majority of respondents believe that targeting of the block claim regulations could be improved in a number of

ways, the new block claim requirement has not been an effective mechanism for improving integrity in the CACFP and it is affecting the overall administration of their sponsorships. Final results are being tabulated and should be available soon.

CCAP Update: USDA briefly discussed the status of their ongoing CCAP effort. They advised that for 2006-7 they will be conducting a total of 21 assessments per year selected on a national basis which means they will concentrate their efforts where the most sponsors are (like CA, NY). They reported that they are still finding health and safety violations. A recurring issue has been lack of proportionate monitoring of breakfasts, suppers and weekends. This was recently addressed in USDA Bulletin 06-2006/MB 06-208. In the area of financial management they are finding problems with procurement and allowable costs. In new assessments they will be looking at block claiming and five day reconciliation.

CACFP Materials Available from NFSMI: The National Food Service Management Institute has a number of great CACFP resources available at a minimal cost or free. Free items may be downloaded from their web site at www.nfsmi.org. Or you can also call their help desk toll free at 800-321-3054. Their web site is being revised to make it easier to find resources but for now you can find most of them from the following two locations. Under "What's New" you can, for instance, find *Food Purchasing for Child Care Centers* – a comprehensive manual and instructor's guide, or *Happy Mealtimes for Healthy Kids* – a comprehensive training module for teaching child care staff best practices in feeding children. Scroll down further to "Info & Publications" section and find *Meal Time Memos for Child Care – 2005* titles included celebrating diversity, proper food preparation techniques, budgeting basics, getting the most from your workday, Dietary Guidelines for Americans, safe food storage, nutrition facts for parents, wash your hands, etc. Under "Resource Guide" click on "Resource Catalogue – Text Only." Despite what it says many items are free. Pick your topic from the list. Click on "CACFP" and find *More Than Mud Pies: A Nutrition Curriculum*

Guide for Preschool Children, or *From the Trainer's Tablet* – a set of training modules on topics such as cost effective shopping, family style meals, food intolerances and allergies, food safety in child care, infants: understanding the feeding relationship. You can also find materials under “Nutrition Education” and “Human Resources.” Spend a little time and check this web site out. It just might have the resource you've been looking for.

Materials/Resources to Share: Ed shared a number of resources with members including:

- *Info-Exchange* – a newsletter from the National Women's Law Center. Has information on how budget cuts impact child care. Find out more information at www.nwlc.org.
- *Visiting Your Member of Congress for Dummies* – this lighthearted look at making educational visits to your legislator is not to be missed. Produced by the Mid-Michigan Child Care Food Program it can be found at the Roundtable's web site under Legislation & Advocacy.
- OMB's program assessment of CACFP (mentioned above). Find it at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/expectmore/summary.10003009.2005.html.
- Find detailed information about the budget battles at the Coalition on Human Needs web site www.chn.org.
- *Creating CACFP Materials in a Low Literacy Format* – this great resource developed by Kelly Buono at FRAC will be posted to their web site www.frac.org soon.
- *The National Perspective*, Winter 2006 – newsletter of the National Association for Family Child Care. Contained interesting article on union movement, “California: What is Really Going On.” Go to their web site at www.nafcc.org.

- *In Our Own Backyards: Local & State Strategies to Improve the Quality of Family Child Care* – from the Institute for Women's Policy Research. Find it at www.iwpr.org.

Ed's Welcome Speech: As Vice President of the Forum Ed was asked to give a brief welcome at the Opening Plenary Session. It follows:

Good afternoon. My name is Ed Mattson and I'm the Vice President of the National CACFP Forum. I would like to welcome you to our conference.

We in the anti-hunger community certainly find ourselves in challenging times don't we? The recently concluded 2006 budget reconciliation process and the impending 2007 debate underscore that fact. Programs for the poorest Americans are being asked to make sacrifices while tax cuts and other benefits for the well off are thriving. Our challenge is not only to endure but to overcome.

In my world of CACFP things are in great flux just now. Recent Program integrity changes have severely impacted our ability to survive. In California, where I am from, we have lost approximately 40% of the family child care sponsors and non-low-income II homes since 1997. Even low-income homes have fallen slightly off their June 2000 peak.

Sponsors nationwide are so overwhelmed with paperwork that we have lost site of our original vision which was to ensure that all children in licensed child care settings receive nutritious meals. Nutrition education, once a hallmark of the Program, has all but disappeared in an atmosphere of fear and suspicion. Sponsors nationwide are hunkered down trying to implement new regulations, stay afloat financially and just get through their next review. They are scared; they are burned out; but above all they are disillusioned. Family child care providers are fed up too; those that remain are increasingly turning to unions to try to make a difference. What has happened to our original vision and what can we do now?

I certainly don't have all the answers but can share my unique perspective. Prior to my past 9 years as a program advocate for the Roundtable I worked in and retired from the Western Regional Office of USDA. In my early years I worked with the Special Food Service Program for Children which eventually became the Child Care Food and Summer Food Service Programs in 1975. In those early years we all seemed focused on outreach but by 1978-79 the Summer Program had gotten into a great deal of trouble. It was a challenging time. There was some fraud, waste and abuse, but there were also a fairly large number of well intentioned people simply overwhelmed by the complexities of the program. Then just like today's CACFP there was a massive legislative and regulatory over reaction which crushed the program as we knew it!

Now today most of the problems have gone away and the Administration has been literally bending over backwards to ease up on the regulatory burdens imposed during those times and is in fact embracing all nature of organizations and fixes to bring back participation rates. They realized that private nonprofits were not the problem and real attempts were made to address the program's shortcomings.

The same thing could happen to the CACFP! We know its true value! We know it is a leading indicator of quality child care; we know it is our nation's first line of defense against childhood overweight. But while we wait for some future administration to get it we must act smart:

- First, we need to stop the drop by helping each other and sharing best practices.
- Second, we need to continue to educate legislators and do a much better job marketing the program to the public.
- Third, we need to find allies that understand the importance of quality child care to our nation's economic well being, understand the value of early childhood intervention, and will help us get that message out.

- And finally, and most importantly, we need to collaborate with other key stakeholders including state agencies and sponsor and provider associations to make the legislative fixes which will simplify the program and return it to our original vision.

This conference is set up to help you do these very things. So don't get angry get involved!

Thank You.

WEB SITES FOR MARCH 2006:

- www.chn.org – Coalition on Human Needs web site. Find detailed information here on 2007 budget battles.
- www.nwlc.org – National Women's Law Center. Find out more on how 2007 budget proposal impact child care.
- www.nafcc.org – National Association for Family Child Care.
- www.iwpr.org – Institute for Women's Policy Research web site.
- www.nfsmi.org – National Food Service Management Institute has many CACFP resources. See especially What's New and Resource Guide/Resource Catalog – Text Only/CACFP or Nutrition Ed.
- www.cbpp.org – Center on Budget & Policy Priorities. Find EITC kits here.
- www.futureofchildren.org – Future of Children web site. Find latest newsletter on Childhood Obesity here and article referenced above on role of child care settings.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2006, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

USDA Western Regional Office

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

TRAINING TOPIC: Sponsor Monitoring: Rules, Expectations & Reality.

LODGING INFORMATION (RESERVE EARLY): All these hotels are relatively near Union Square or USDA (You should be able to walk). All are at least 2-3 diamonds in AAA and reasonably priced for San Francisco (beginning prices less than \$150).

- *York Hotel*, 940 Sutter St., 415-885-6800.
- *Petite Auberge*, 863 Bush St., 415-928-6000.
- *Hotel Vintage Court*, 650 Bush St., 415-392-4666.
- *Hotel Beresford*, 635 Sutter St., 800-533-6533.
- *Cartwright Hotel*, 524 Sutter St., 415-421-2865.
- *Chancellor Hotel*, 433 Powell St., 415-362-2004.
- *Beresford Arms*, 701 Post St., 415-673-2600.
- *King George Hotel*, 334 Mason St., 415-781-5050.
- *Hilton San Francisco*. 333 O'Farrell St., 415-771-1400



PARKING & DIRECTIONS - The USDA Regional Office is on Kearny Street between California and Sacramento Streets. *There is no nearby inexpensive parking.* Your best bet is to park at the city garage on Sutter Street @ Stockton or the garage at Sutter @ Grant; parking will be \$12-20 per day (Inexpensive parking is available south of Market street down near the Freeway between 2nd and 5th Streets, but it's a good long walk). To walk to USDA from the Sutter Street garages, proceed down Sutter (east) 2 blocks to Kearny, turn left (north) and go 3 blocks to 550 Kearny (If you have never driven into San Francisco, call Ed). Public transportation is the way to go! **BART** is very easy. For USDA, get off at the *Montgomery Street* station; it is one block east of Kearny on Market Street @ Montgomery. From the BART station proceed north on Montgomery to California Street, turn left one block to Kearny and right to the office. Or take CalTrain from San Jose or the Peninsula; the station is a good walk so take a #30 Muni Bus to get to USDA's office.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION: From SFO take Super Shuttle (415-558-8500) for \$15 right to USDA. It's available at the baggage claim level in front of United and US Air. They come by pretty regularly so you shouldn't have to call. Reserve a return ride from your hotel 24 hrs. in advance. Welcome to the big city!

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location, Wed., May 17 at 10:00 AM.

For more information contact Ed Mattson at (530) 677-9410

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2006, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Santa Barbara County Office of Education - Auditorium
4400 Cathedral Oaks Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93110

TRAINING TOPIC: To be determined

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 in the Cabinet Conference Room, Thursday, July 19, 10:00 AM.

