



# Roundtable news

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



SEPTEMBER 2007

## MEMBERS MEET FEDERAL LEGISLATORS



*Cary Steen and Congressman Wally Herger*

In the breakout discussion session Ed asked how many members had contacted their federal legislator in August as we have been suggesting over the past several months. He said he understood that some folks might still be a little nervous about doing so but he suggested that it is not as scary as it seems. Three members so far have reported visits - Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark from Child Development Associates, Cary Steen from Valley Oak Children's Services and Jeanette Swanstrom, from 4C's of Sonoma County. While this is not the kind of turnout that See **Meet**, page 2 column 1

**Baldwin Park, September 20, 2007**

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Paula James was unable to attend so Ed Mattson welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. He thanked Terry Talavera and staff, from Options Child Care for providing the refreshments and the nice meeting room.

**Gilbert Grant Update:** Ed reported that Paula James, representing the CCFP Roundtable, is working with CFPA and Public Health Foundation Enterprises (PHFE) Angels on a nutrition assessment of LA County licensed child care, funded by the Gilbert Foundation. Information will be gathered in a series See **Chair**, page 3 column 1

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will sway anyone, it is at least a start! Way to go.

Cary Steen met with her Congressman Wally Herger. She said “it was easy.” She reported that “in July we had asked our providers to comment on how the food program affected their business. We received a few stories with pictures. I brought them along to share. He had never heard of the Child Care Food Program and listened to what I had to say (emphasis added).” She went on to report that “I left him with a nice little packet of information, including the ‘talking points,’ agency brochures, food program brochure with rates of reimbursement and information re our sponsorship.” He even agreed to have his picture taken with Cary and the “Good Nutrition Pays” logo. Way to go Cary!

Lorraine visited with Buck McKeon’s staff person Bob Haueter. She reported that the meeting was “short but profitable.” She took along a “take a picture tell a story” packet as well as a short history of the CACFP. She stated that it appeared that he had gone through the information she had left off the previous year, as he “seemed pretty familiar with the program.” The great thing is that he “suggested that we come up with a proposal of areas in the CACFP that aren’t working and then propose how we could/should change them,” Lorraine reported. “He even suggested that we might add in some letters from providers – the ones who are adhering to the regulations.” This is great stuff! Thank you, Lorraine. Going into 2008 we intend to continue to craft our message and include family child care providers in our advocacy efforts.

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.

Jeanette Swanstrom reported, that the “4Cs Executive Director, Assistant Director and I all met with Lynn Woolsey and staff in her office last week. We had almost 1/2 hr with her, and it was worthwhile, I think. Of course she already is an advocate for child care and nutrition issues so we talked about the bills she has supported. We used some of the information from the Roundtable website, which was helpful, and left a packet of information with her. I talked about the importance of the CACFP for children and the decreasing sponsor participation in the program because of funding. Our Executive Director spoke about the budget challenges our agency is having as far as continuing to subsidize the CACFP for homes. And 4C’s operates 12 Centers in Sonoma County which also participate in the CACFP.” Thanks Jeanette.

Ed concluded the session by reminding members that our advocacy efforts begin in earnest in 2008 and they should definitely plan on making a visit, or at least sending a letter. He stated that his efforts alone in Washington every February are not nearly as effective as letters and visits from their actual constituents. As Geri Henchy has remarked, we must “tell ’em, tell ’em and tell ’em again!” **It is incumbent upon each and every sponsor on the CACFP to make the effort to fix it during this reauthorization cycle.** If we don’t, we have no one to blame but ourselves for our continuing troubles. He reminded members that the Roundtable web site has a great deal of helpful information under the Legislation and Advocacy Tab, including:

- Guidance on how to schedule a legislative appointment,
- A guide entitled “Visiting Your Member of Congress for Dummies,”

- A guide “Five Easy Steps to a Successful Legislative Visit,”
- Lobbying tips
- A “Legislative Kit” (Ed’s packet from his DC visits with talking points),
- Take a picture, tell a story guidance.

For the effort in 2008 Ed plans to add some sample letters to the web site and continue to update the “Legislative Kit,” to reflect the continuing dismal drop into oblivion in California■

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**Chair**, continued from page 1

of 50-60 observational visits to child care facilities as well as through focus groups of parents and caregivers and key informant interviews. The questions and observations will focus mainly on what foods and beverages are being served in child care and how they are being served (i.e. family style, portion sizes). Observers will ask for sample menus and any written nutrition policies the facility may have. The observation tool that will be used during the visits is being developed and the team identified. The plan is to begin visiting facilities within the next month. The LA County project will also be used to pilot a survey that will be used in a statewide child care nutrition assessment being conducted by CFPA, Samuels & Associates and the UC Berkeley Center for Weight and Health. The survey will be distributed statewide at the beginning of the New Year. The CCFP Roundtable is serving as an advisory organization to the project. For more information contact Pilar Abascal at CFPA 415-777-4422 ext. 101 or pabascal@cfpa.net

**New Provider Survey:** Ed reminded members that at the last meeting and in the last newsletter, family child care sponsors were asked to participate in an informal survey of new providers. The idea is to look at breakfast and lunch menus planned by the new provider prior to having been trained on CACFP meal patterns. A survey instrument is posted to our web site under the “What’s New” tab. The hope is to use the anecdotal information obtained in our advocacy efforts aimed at 1) increasing state meal reimbursement and, 2) Child Nutrition Reauthorization. Interested sponsors were to survey new providers in the July-September period with reports due to Ed Mattson by October

15 so the information could be used during the conference. Even if it is too late now for the October 15 deadline, sponsors might wish to continue the surveys into the New Year and use them for advocacy efforts beginning in January 2008.

## ***NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION***

Barbara Longo was unable to attend the meeting but did participate by conference call in the Advisory Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Ruth Cardiel and Laura Sauer welcomed the participants and gave the following brief state report.

Ruth introduced Laura Sauer who has taken the position vacated by Karen Gillham. She and Ruth have divided up the family child care caseload but work as a team. Laura is new to the nutrition program and is learning it from the ground up, Ruth explained. Laura advised that she has been with CDE since 1997 working with the Child Development Division. Ruth stated that they want to provide better technical assistance and customer service. She acknowledged that staffing has been a problem in the past. Now they want to provide technical assistance specific to individual sponsor needs. She told sponsors to feel free to email her with suggestions for training topics. Ed stated that her timing was perfect as we were going to discuss such needs during the breakout session following their presentation.

## ***CFPA REPORT***

CFPA was unable to send someone so Ed highlighted relevant issues from the latest CFPA Nutrition Action Alert.

**State Legislative Session Wraps Up:** In the area of Child Nutrition Programs there was little to celebrate this year. The one bright spot was a five cent increase in state meal reimbursement for schools which is tied to improved meal standards. Ed admonished members that we will need their help in 2008 to convince the state Legislature and the Governor to make a similar increase in child care! Our efforts were too little and too late to get much traction this year. Members will be asked to visit or contact their state legislators in 2008 to

make it happen. Perhaps the biggest disappointment, after not getting the increase in state meal for child care, was the loss of the California Fresh Start Program, which was allowed to perish as legislators reasoned that in tight times an increase in the state meal reimbursement for schools would help meet some of that need. Another disappointment was the demise of AB 92 which would have required “severe need” schools to participate in the School Breakfast Program. Some 611 schools are impacted by this failure. Ed suggested that members can stay abreast of state issues by returning regularly to [www.cfpa.net](http://www.cfpa.net).

## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

As the agenda was short this month, Ed led the group through three breakout discussion topics:

**1. Is NSD Cracking Down on Sponsors with a High Percentage of Providers with Incomplete Paperwork?** Ed suggested that as a result of three recent NSD reviews of family child care sponsors in the state that the “rubber had finally hit the road.” It is time to shape up or ship out! All three sponsors were found to have had missing paperwork at from 50-75% of the provider reviews conducted; all three were given a few months to take corrective action or they will be determined to be seriously deficient! The three sponsors involved are taking it very seriously as is NSD and USDA. The recently concluded USDA CCAP process indicated that sponsors and providers were not getting it, were not making changes. As Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark stated, “nothing is shifting and they want to see that shift.” Provider paperwork must be maintained up-to-date or sponsors will be held accountable. Providers that repeatedly do not maintain current paperwork must be declared seriously deficient (even if it is for only a day or two)! Ed pointed out that NSD reviewers can be expected to conduct their provider reviews at unexpected times, such as during the first 10 days of the month when sponsor staff generally are concentrating on claims payment rather than reviews. Providers know this and may be less

inclined during that period to maintain their paperwork.

At this point the discussion got fairly lively. Jean Smeriglio from International Institute stated that she is considering eliminating late claims as she feels they are indicative of paperwork not up-to-date. To try to get corrective action she said she is requiring providers to keep meal counts at point of service (rather than once a day as required in the regulations). Jaime Ortega from PHFE Angels said she does all unannounced visits. She went on to warn that “making a relationship [with providers] work takes a lot of knitting and trust. You have to speak to them not at them.” She said they help their providers by giving them helpful suggestions on how to keep their paperwork up-to-date. She said they are doing their provider workshops right now and are having tremendous turnout. Rykie Egbert from Comprehensive Child Development offered that they give their providers clipboards to keep their records organized. The conversation continued in this fashion for some time.

Finally, Ed reported that during the Advisory Committee (AC) meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> that members discussed two items that could help all sponsors in their efforts to get provider paperwork under control and he wanted feedback. The first is based on a very real concern that all sponsors in the state be treated equally when reviewed by NSD. The AC will be resurrecting the work of the Serious Deficiency Task Force and developing a best practice for sponsors to follow in cases where providers do not have paperwork up-to-date. Our concern is that all sponsors and providers be held to the same standard. He said the hope is to get something drafted for either the November 8 AC meeting or the November 14-15 USDA training in San Francisco. Secondly, we wondered if it was not now time to include the providers in the discussion. So far we have paid lip service to the idea of including the providers in our discussions but now is the time to get serious. We discussed the idea of

possibly drafting a letter, signed by all sponsors in the state that would be sent to every provider on the CACFP in the state. The letter would basically state that it is time to step up and comply with the regulations or consider dropping the program. Sponsors are not going to allow themselves to be declared seriously deficient on their behalf. Task forces were established to work on both projects. Members in CA wishing to join one or both ad hoc groups, or those with additional comments, should contact Ed.

**2. Who Met with Their Federal Legislators in August? This is Just the Beginning!** (See headline article)

**3. Who Still Has Questions About Implementation of the First & Second Interim Rules?** In this last breakout session we gave Ruth and Laura some feedback on her request for training and technical assistance needs. Sponsors were asked if they still had questions on implementation issues. Following are the issues/questions raised:

- **Q.** Is the mandatory training at the Roundtable conference the same as the recent online training? **A.** No, the training at the conference is for fiscal year 2007-08 and will cover tiering and eligibility issues Ruth advised.
- **Q.** Can sponsors have all unannounced visits? **A.** Yes.
- **Q.** Can a sponsor take anything out of the Sponsor-Provider Agreement? Specifically a reference to offering appeal rights for cases of termination for convenience, which is not required in regulation. **A.** Ruth agreed to send out a new Sponsor-Provider Agreement.
- **Q.** A sponsor wanted clarification of the meal time and spacing policy that NSD, including the Field Services Unit, will follow, so they can be sure to implement

them correctly. **A.** Ruth indicated that NSD cannot simply set policy in this area they must go through the rule making process.

- **Q.** Can a sponsor decide to not monitor weekends and holidays if they tell the provider they cannot claim them and change the sponsor-provider agreement?
- **Q.** Is USDA or NSD going to issue a Management Bulletin clearly describing the required 5-day reconciliation process in homes versus the one already issued for centers? Again, sponsors want to do the right thing but guidance is sorely lacking.
- **Q.** Can sign-in and out records validate a block claim?
- **Q.** What are the “11 areas of concern” for 5-day reconciliation and can sponsors receive a copy?
- **Q.** What additional documentation is required when validating a block claim and the provider says she takes sick children?
- **Q.** Will NSD come out for a sponsor’s provider training?

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**New State Meal Rate:** Everyone should have heard by now that the new reimbursement rate for 2007-08 will be \$0.1634.

**2008 Meeting Dates:** The AC tentatively set the 2008 Roundtable meeting dates and locations as follows:

- January 16-17 (the latter date is the member’s meeting) in Sacramento (possibly at CDE?).
- March 19-20 in San Diego
- May 21-22 in the Bay Area (possibly in San Jose at Choices for Children?)
- July 17-18 in Santa Barbara (possibly at Co Office of Ed?)
- Sep 17-18 in Baldwin Park at Options

- Oct 27-29 Conference in Rancho Mirage

**NSD Discussion Issues:** Ed reported on a number of issues discussed with NSD by conference call at the Advisory Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>, including:

- **Renewals & Budget Revisions** – NSD reported that 91-92% of the renewals received have been approved. They have not been holding up approvals for the budgets this year. Thirty agencies including 2 family child care sponsors have not submitted them. They will begin on budgets the week of September 24. Perhaps most startling was the fact that Ronna stated that there are only 55 family child care agencies expected to submit renewals; 53 are in and 41 approved. *(Editor: the number keeps declining precipitously! If you need a reason to visit your Congressman think about this).*
- **Provider Transfers** – NSD and USDA have confirmed in no uncertain terms that the “new provider” rules apply to those transferring from a terminated or self-terminating sponsor. Barbara did reiterate that sponsors adding large numbers of providers as the result of a termination may seek a waiver to the review in the first 4 week rules if they have a “reasonable plan for completing the monitoring visits in 6-8 weeks.” Completed plans should be sent to Ruth or Laura with a cc to Ronna Jakobitz. All waiver requests have to be approved by both NSD and USDA.
- **Meal Spacing Policy** – As Ruth reported above, NSD has to write regulations on this policy. In the interim sponsors are being asked to follow existing policies which are considered best practices for now. Sponsors are concerned that the policy, whatever it is, is being monitored against equitably.
- **Mandatory Reporter Rules** – The issue apparently came up as a result of recent Cal-Pro-Net training. It is a policy area subject to inconsistent implementation by the Field staff, and inconsistent interpretation county by county

at CCLD. It had been discussed in detail back in January 2003 and was the subject of a breakout session and visit by Linda Nissen from DSS, CCLD. At that time Linda reported that CCLD does not consider sponsors as mandated reporters, but did say “that their preference would be for sponsors to report to them violations contained in the “Family Child Care Home Checklist” that was placed on the Roundtable’s web site at the time (*see Roundtable News for February 2003, page 4*). NSD is doing additional research on this issue.

- **Management Bulletin Update** – Recently USDA issued CACFP 15-2007 that extends indefinitely a USDA memorandum that allowed sponsors to validate a block claim during an unannounced visit. Ronna reported that it should be out shortly, along with updated categorical eligibility guidance. Both should go out electronically.
- **Center Mandatory Training at 2008 Conference** – The Roundtable officially asked NSD to consider adding a center mandatory training session to the 2009 conference, along with the family child care session.

## **ROUNDTABLE REPORT**

**Membership Announcement – Time to Renew:** Ed reminded members that the membership year is January 1 to December 31. As this is most likely the last newsletter of the year he reminded folks to please remember to renew their membership before the Holidays. A membership/renewal form is attached to this newsletter and can be found on our web site. Thanks to those that have renewed already as part of their conference registration.

**Family Child Care Outreach Brochure Update:** Ed advised members that the family child care outreach brochure, on the Roundtable web site, has been updated to reflect the 2007-08 reimbursement rates. The NSD has agreed to print a few every quarter as funds become available. In the interim members can download the PDF file off the web site and print them themselves.

## 2007 CONFERENCE REPORT

The Roundtable's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, "CACFP: A Capital Idea" is preparing to kick off October 15-17, 2007, in Sacramento, California – just days away! Hopefully you have made your reservations. You may still register right up to the day of the conference but to do so after September 29 you must contact Joan LaRocque at 619-465-4500 and pay on-site.

The Roundtable wishes to extend our sincerest thanks to this year's conference sponsors:

### OUR CO-SPONSOR:



**NUTRITION:  
THE POWER TO LEARN**

**Nutrition Services Division**

## CDE Nutrition Services Division

### OUR CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS:

**The California Endowment**

**&**

**Minute Menu**

## 2008 CONFERENCE REPORT

The CCFP Roundtable's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CACFP Conference will be October 27-29, 2008 at the stunning Rancho Las Palmas Resort and Spa in Rancho Mirage (Palm Springs area), CA. Mark your calendars and save the date!

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

**-Advisory Committee Meeting Only-  
THURSDAY, NOV 8, 2007, 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Rancho Las Palmas Resort  
41000 Bob Hope Dr., Rancho Mirage, CA 92270**



**THURSDAY, JAN 17, 2008, 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM  
Exact Location to be Determined  
Sacramento**

**LODGING INFORMATION:**

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS:**

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:**

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is on Wednesday Jan 16 at 10:00 AM at an undetermined location.

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## RENEW

## YOUR

## MEMBERSHIP

## NOW



# 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*

**Please PRINT CLEARLY**

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

<b><u>Member Information</u></b>	
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