



# Roundtable news

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



JANUARY 2008

## ROUNDTABLE INVOLVES PROVIDERS IN THE SOLUTION

As we advised in our November 2007 newsletter the CCFP Roundtable Advisory Committee has been working on a strategy to improve program integrity and get family child care providers to be a part of the solution. We have developed two important documents, the first is a letter to all providers on the CACFP and the second is a Certificate of Program Excellence (both are posted on the web site now under "Message to Sponsors" on the "What's New" page).

- **Letter to Providers** - Our intention was to write a letter that very simply states the case for keeping daily paperwork up-to-date. The bottom line is that providers wishing to stay on the program must complete their menus and meal counts daily or they will be terminated. Sponsors can no longer afford to be lenient or they may themselves be declared seriously deficient and terminated.

***We encourage every sponsor in California to send this letter out to their providers not later than April 1, 2008.*** Our intention is for every provider to receive the letter at about the same time to maximize the impact.

We ask that you NOT revise the wording of this document. That is why it has been put up on our web site in PDF format. You may and should sign your name on the letter - a space has been provided for that purpose.

See **Solution**, page 2, column 1

**Sacramento, January 17, 2008**

### **CHAIR REPORT**

Paula James was on vacation so Ed Mattson welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. He thanked the Nutrition Services Division for providing the nice meeting room.

**Vitamin Settlement Grant Update:** Ed announced that the Roundtable has been awarded its Vitamin Settlement Grant. The proposal includes the twin goals of a) advocating for a strong, statewide preschool nutrition policy to promote obesity prevention in young children, and b) developing and

See **Chair Report**, Page 2, column 2

### **INSIDE THIS EDITION**

#### **REPORTS**

Advisory Committee	7
CFPA	9
Conference	9
Membership	7
Nutrition Services Division	5
USDA	6

#### **HOT TOPICS**

Breakout Session on FCC Provider Paperwork	
Best Practices	2
Breakout Session for Centers	4
Breakout Session on Fixing the CACFP	5
Meal Pattern Changes Delayed	6
CACFP Week March 16-22, 2008	7
Report from Phyllis Bramson-Paul on	
Governor's Budget	8
NSD Review Findings	8

**Solution**, continued from page 1

For providers (or sponsors) wanting more background on this issue, you may refer them to a more lengthy letter on the web site entitled “Why is this happening to me? A message to providers.”

- **Certificate of Program Excellence** - The “Certificate of Program Excellence” is meant to be a meaningful accomplishment that will reward providers that do an excellent job running their Child & Adult Care Food Programs and encourage others to improve. We will be looking for ways to get out the word on this new recognition program; your ideas are welcome. One idea the Roundtable recommends is sharing it with your local provider’s association.

The Roundtable Advisory Committee is still working out details on what a provider must do to receive the certificate. Under consideration are the following ideas: To be eligible to receive the certificate, a provider must be free of program violations for one entire review year. That means they must not have any findings during 3 reviews, or in review of their menus/claims for the same 12 month period. Send your input to Ed at [mred94523@earthlink.net](mailto:mred94523@earthlink.net).

As in the letter above we ask that you NOT change the wording or layout of the certificate. If you have Publisher you may change the color scheme to suit your needs and type in the

**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.

provider’s name in a matching font. If you do not have Publisher we have included a PDF version with a blank space for you to enter in the provider’s name. On both versions you should sign and date the certificate in the spaces provided.

- **Provider of the Year** - The Roundtable Advisory Committee is also considering establishing a “Provider of the Year,” who would be chosen from those receiving a Certificate of Program Excellence during the past year. We are considering honoring the recipient at our annual conference. Details still need to be worked out. Your feedback is welcome ■

---

**Chair**, continued from page 1  
implementing enhanced nutrition standards and outreach for the CACFP to promote optimal nutrition environments in child care. He pointed out that as CDE has made strides in the area of nutrition standards with its Strategic Assessment the Roundtable will reassess some of its objectives to include working with the outcome from that process. When Paula returns from vacation we hope to sit down with Ken Hecht at CFPA, NSD representatives and others to begin discussing implementation strategies.

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Session I Family Child Care - Provider Paperwork Best Practices:** Family child care-based members discussed ideas and best practices to get providers to maintain their paperwork daily – an issue on everyone’s mind right now as NSD has been emphasizing the issue in recent reviews and declaring sponsors seriously deficient if providers

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](mailto:mred94523@earthlink.net)

continue to have problems in the area. As we have been pointing out in recent newsletters “the rubber has hit the road.” Providers must comply with the rules, drop or be terminated for serious deficiency if they cannot permanently correct the problem! Sponsors who do not get results can be terminated. The USDA is demanding that the problem be permanently fixed, the old culture of lenience changed.

There was excellent attendance at the meeting with sponsors from throughout the state. Discussion was intense and lasted at least an hour and a half. Many of the ideas and best practices discussed were similar to those expressed in this edited report from Jerry Bowers who took notes for his breakout group:

Our group discussed several items the first of which was David Jang’s (NSD, PIU) recommendation on an appropriate response and action plan for providers that do not have their paperwork up to date at the time of the visit.

His suggestion was at the first review when paperwork was not up to date (even for one day) that the provider be given technical assistance (TA) on the requirement and the meals be disallowed. He further stated that the TA must be documented (this could be done on the review form comment area) and that the provider should submit a corrective action plan. If another visit found that the provider was still not maintaining their paperwork on a daily basis then the provider would be found to be Seriously Deficient (and the meals disallowed). From this point the Serious Deficiency Process set up by CDE would be followed. So, if a provider was again found to not have their paperwork up to date (third time now) they would be issued a Notice of Intent to Terminate. There was some discussion on if a follow up visit is required as part of the Serious Deficiency process before a Serious deficiency can be rescinded. We all felt that it was not required but was desirable if it could be scheduled within the required timeframes. Generally we all agreed that this was a workable

plan, and provided some level of reasonableness. However, not everyone agreed on the necessity of the provider submitting a corrective action plan when the first non-compliance was found. Many thought that the TA, documentation and provider signing the review form was sufficient action to direct the provider to comply with the paperwork requirements. One sponsor in our group stated that if the provider was more than 6 days behind in their paperwork on the initial non-compliance discovery that they immediately placed the provider in serious deficiency.

Lorraine stated that they had a “Compliance Handout” that they gave to providers that didn’t have their paperwork up-to-date on a daily basis. This handout sheet had a list of the major program paperwork requirements and it had a “template” for a corrective action plan the provider had to complete and send in to the sponsor.

Sponsors thought that recognizing providers that did their paperwork daily and had no other CACFP issues would have a positive effect. We reviewed several examples of certificates that some sponsors are presently using. Someone also suggested that good providers be recognized in the sponsor’s newsletter. We also reviewed the Roundtable’s Certificate of Program Excellence and thought that that could also be a useful tool to recognize good providers that maintained their paperwork on a daily basis.

It was mentioned that our message to providers on issues of compliance with the requirements must be firm and consistent. Don’t let even one day slide, and always disallow the meals. Some providers have the attitude that if they are caught then the meals disallowance is their “punishment”. They need to understand that if they do not comply the “punishment” is loss of access to the program for 7 years.

We discussed best practices for ensuring that unannounced visits are effective. As an exam-

ple when sponsors adhere to a strict visit cycle providers know the months they will be visited and the ones they won't be visited. They work real hard to keep their records up to date on their visit months but are much more casual about it the other months. Sponsor should mix up their visit schedules, within the limits of the visit requirements, so providers will not know when their next visit will happen. Along the same line some sponsors use all their employees to read and process claims at the beginning of the month. For providers this means that they know no one will be visiting them during the first 10 to 12 days of the month so they can be sloppy about their recordkeeping during that time without any threat of getting caught. Sponsors need to make some of their visits during the first part of the month. Another situation that reduces the effectiveness of unannounced visits is "provider telephone trees". In some areas when a provider gets a visit they call other providers in the same area to let them know that the CACFP sponsor is out doing unannounced visits. Sponsors normally schedule their visits in this way to save on mileage costs, but it has proven to be less effective. Sponsors need to, to the maximum extent possible allowed by their mileage costs, minimize the blanketing of one area in a single day for reviews. *(Thanks Jerry)*

Some additional ideas from other groups included:

- Some smaller sponsors have found that personalizing their paperwork to individual provider's needs and mailing it out monthly has helped.
- Consider rotating monitors that visit providers.
- Do visits at unexpected or unpredictable times.
- Consider not only recognizing providers in the newsletter but letting parents of providers know when they have been recognized for good work/nutrition.

When we came back together and heard from the four groups we added to the discussion a report from Michele Vasquez in the Program Integrity Unit at NSD. The report contained a list of family child care sponsoring organizations that have and

have not declared a provider seriously deficient over the past few years. It was interesting to note that while 40 agencies had declared from 1-68 providers seriously deficient over the timeframe, 19 had not (disqualifications ranged from 1-31 with the average being perhaps 6-7). Of those 19, 6 were military. If you are one of those 19 you are either really lucky or you may not be doing your job correctly.

**Best Practice** - We closed out the session with a discussion of the USDA & NSD recommended best practice to follow when a provider is found to not have their paperwork up-to-date on a visit. The process is basically as stated in Jerry's notes above. The first time a provider is found to have missing paperwork (1 day or more) the sponsor must document the finding, disallow the meal(s), provide technical assistance and get a corrective action plan (some sponsors felt this was not warranted on the first instance but certainly by the second) from the provider either there at the time or within 5-7 days. The corrective action plan should be a new or revised procedure they will follow and/or the steps they will take, to permanently correct the problem (not a statement that they will start keeping meal counts and menus daily). The provider should be given a warning letter that if they do not take permanent corrective action they will be declared seriously deficient. Many sponsors felt that a provider should also be scheduled for a follow-up visit after the first instance. USDA and NSD stated that while that might be the more positive approach it may not be possible or necessary. They suggested that a sponsor might follow-up with a phone call. The point is that whenever the next visit happens the provider must be in compliance or they will be declared seriously deficient and the sponsor must start the regulatory process as discussed in past guidance.

**Session I Centers - Center Issues:** Center-based members broke out separately and discussed issues they would like to see brought up at Roundtable meetings and training and resource needs. In addition, as we were in Sacramento and several state staff were in attendance center members were able to ask CNC Linda Grondin a number of

program questions. Some of the group's recommendations included:

- Having a standardized monitor form.
- Provide information on state reviews including issues and best practices.
- Provide conference training on center and after-school programs, preparing for a state review, and organizing paperwork.
- Create a parent education packet including information on nutritious meals and physical activity suggestions.

**Session II All - Fixing the CACFP:** After lunch members got back together and reviewed and discussed ideas for improving the CACFP during Child Nutrition Reauthorization in 2009. Ed shared with members an updated and fleshed out version of last year's recommendations that he took up to the Hill with him at the FRAC/Forum Conference in February 2007. Ed will take the ideas and comments from the session and use them to prepare his Legislative Kit for 2008 which he will take with him to this year's FRAC/Forum Conference (March 2-4, 2008) and post to the web site for members to use this year on their Congressional visits.

Ed concluded the segment by reiterating that **all members should plan to visit their Congressman's district office some time in 2008 to educate them about the CACFP** – to tell them about the good the program does for their constituents in helping to guarantee a quality child care environment, in fighting childhood obesity with nutritious meals and nutrition education, in insuring quality by 3 on-site visits per year. They should also tell them of our present difficulties in making ends meet on limited administrative reimbursement, and how we need relief from sometimes overbearing or ineffective administrative regulations. They should tell them how we have lost so many providers who have just given up with the meager reimbursement rates and too much emphasis on paperwork and an atmosphere of suspicion. And finally they should hammer home that this is a nutrition program not a welfare program and as such we need to reemphasize that element of the "food program" again.

Ed reiterated that sponsors in California are uniquely situated to have the greatest legislative impact due to the numbers of CA Congresspersons in positions of leadership or on relevant committees. He asked that members in the following districts consider accompanying him to Washington this March to add a touch of reality to his advocacy message:

- Nancy Pelosi (D- San Francisco), House Speaker
- George Miller (D-Contra Costa), Chair, House Ed & Labor Committee
- Lynn Woolsey (D-Marin & Sonoma Co.), House Ed & Labor Committee
- Susan Davis (D-San Diego), House Ed & Labor Committee
- Linda Sanchez (D-Whittier, Lakewood, Lynwood, South Gate), House Ed & Labor Committee
- Howard McKeon (R-Santa Clarita, San Bernardino, Inyo & Mono Co), Ranking Member, House Ed & Labor Committee

If we do nothing then we cannot expect things to change! To quote Margaret Mead, **"never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."** Join us in 2008 and change the CACFP world!

## **NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION**

Janice Hunt and Ronna Jakobitz welcomed the participants and gave the state report. Also in attendance were Gail Andersen, Louise Casias, Sue Davis-Lea, Linda Grondin, David Jang, Lisa Melhouse-Mills, Judy Osterloh and Michele Vasquez, many of whom participated in the breakout sessions.

**Staffing:** Ronna reported that there has been a number of staffing changes at NSD recently. Barbara Longo has left to return to WIC where she will head up the effort to implement the new food package. Ruth Cardiel and Laura Sauer have both

left the Day Care Home Team. Ronna reported that she is the Day Care Home Team for now and she only works 4 hours per day. Accordingly she asked members to send her emails rather than telephone messages. Ronna did say that she hopes to hire a new team member by the end of February.

Janice reported that the Field Services Unit has hired Diana Gonzalez in the San Bernardino-LA-Southern CA area to replace Diane Put and Elsie Kawato who are temporarily reassigned to CNIPS implementation for now. Also Kimberley Gutierrez has been hired as an Office Technician replacing Alisa Enright in the Field Services Unit and a new analyst will be hired behind Chana Lucero who has moved over as Manager in the Financial Management Unit.

**Miscellaneous News:** Ronna reported on a number of disparate items. She said that the day care home eligibility forms are now up on the web site and that they have contracted to have them translated into a number of languages including Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Hmong, and Russian. She advised that after working with the Roundtable Advisory Committee she will be developing a new Management Bulletin on provider transfers. It will include a revised drop-transfer form asking whether a provider has been declared seriously deficient within the past year. The concern is that in the past providers could be declared seriously deficient, for instance, for not keeping their paperwork up-to-date and then after a corrective action plan and a follow-up visit transfer to a new sponsor before permanent corrective action can be established. Policies to be put in place with the new Management Bulletin should stop that process. Ronna noted that she still has 5 budgets to finalize due to outstanding information. In such cases, she stated that the budgets from last year will be rolled over in the database and retroactive to the first of the year. The day care home manual is still undergoing a rewrite but Ronna had no projection for when it might be completed. Finally she stated that this year will be a day care home base year renewal. Sponsors will be asked for a copy of current procedures from their handbooks.

**CNIPS Update:** Ronna reported that CNIPS is now about one year behind schedule due to “tweaking” in the School Lunch Program. She said they had just now started on the Summer Food Service Program in the last 2 months which they hope to have online by October. The CACFP will follow.

## **USDA REPORT**

Tim Thole, State Program Manager for USDA, WRO, gave the following report. Many of his report items were in response to policy issues raised by the Roundtable Advisory Committee.

**All Points Bulletins (APB’s) Update:** Tim reported that USDA’s most recent APB’s included 1) making permanent the temporary allowance of validating block claims on an unannounced review (CACFP 15-2007), and 2) standardization of state practices including minimum application parameters (CACFP 01-2008). This second is as a result of recommendations made in the Paperwork Reduction Task Force (*Find a copy at USDA’s web site <http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/Regs-Policy/PolicyMemoranda.htm> . NSD has not yet issued them as Management Bulletins*).

**Sponsor Recognition:** Tim applauded the Roundtable’s effort at provider recognition (see below) and reported that USDA is looking at recognizing centers and family child care sponsors in California. He said the awards will be similar to the “Summer Sunshine Awards” and will recognize efforts to improve nutrition education and physical activity in the child care environment. He said he thought more information and a nominating application would be available (possibly on NSD’s and/or the Roundtable’s web sites) by the end of the year.

**Meal Pattern Changes:** Tim reported that anticipated changes in the school lunch meal pattern (to bring them more in line with the Dietary Guidelines for Americans) have been delayed. The USDA has contracted with the Institute of Medicine for more scientific feedback. As a result he said we should expect a two year delay, making a new rule probably three years away. This is relevant because any changes to the CACFP meal pattern will follow

school meals. Therefore we should expect at least five years he said for CACFP changes.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of Tiering Study Delayed:** Tim briefly mentioned that a second phase of the Tiering Study is encountering some problems because sponsors and providers are not returning calls to ORC Macro Associates the contractor for the study. He encouraged members to participate if asked.

**Indirect Cost Rate Prohibition:** Tim clarified for members that USDA rules and regulations do NOT allow a sponsoring organization to charge an indirect cost rate to provider reimbursement payments. The issue had come up recently and he wanted to make a definitive policy statement on it.

**Advance Payment Recovery for Seriously Deficient Sponsors:** *(The Roundtable had asked NSD/USDA for regulatory and policy language supporting the recovery of advance payments from sponsors declared seriously deficient. The recent practice by NSD had a number of members very concerned as they cannot operate without advance funding. The serious deficiency process was not meant to terminate sponsors but to force timely corrective action.)* Tim confirmed that USDA had made a recommendation to NSD during a past Management Evaluation to take a look at outstanding advance payments of sponsors declared seriously deficient. In the past NSD has been held responsible for unrecovered advance payments from terminated sponsors and has had to make restitution to USDA. Jesus Mendoza, Regional Director of Special Nutrition Programs, clarified that the recovery of advances from sponsors that have been declared seriously deficient should be considered on a case-by-case basis; depending on the level of the serious deficiency, particularly those having a history of financial viability problems. USDA is working with NSD to develop a policy to identify sponsors who are a high-risk for not repaying advances and begin collection of their advance if they are declared seriously deficient. Ed stated that the Roundtable is very concerned about implementation of this new policy and possible abuses and will be exploring it in his discussions with Congress on Child Nutrition Reauthorization.

**Sponsor Corrective Action Timeframes:** Tim reported that the USDA has expressed a concern with NSD over the timeliness of sponsor corrective action. He stated that the regulations only allow up to 90 days, except in rare situations with extenuating circumstances when the State agency has the discretion to lengthen the period for corrective action. He said they have been working with NSD to bring their practices into compliance with the regulations. Accordingly, he said you can expect shorter timeframes in the future.

**Stan Garnett Retires:** Tim announced that Stan Garnett, Director of Child Nutrition Programs for USDA in Washington, DC, has retired. Cindy Long has been named as his successor and will be taking over in the next couple of months. She comes from USDA's Office of Analysis and Nutrition Education.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**CACFP Week is March 16:** CACFP Week is March 16-22, 2008. Members are strongly encouraged to do something to highlight the program during the week. March is also National Nutrition Month so whatever you do you might want to emphasize the nutritional elements of the program. We have posted to our web site links to two sample media event guides, a sample letter to the editor and a link to the ADA site for promotional ideas for National Nutrition Month. Members should take advantage of the week to highlight their own programs. Favorable media or public attention to the program can only help us in our broader legislative advocacy initiative this year. Take some responsibility for your future. Get involved in promoting the CACFP!

**Membership:** Ed reminded members that if they have not yet renewed their memberships for 2008 it is not too late to do so now. He also reminded them that if they do not renew now this will be the last newsletter they will receive. The directory will be changed for 2008. He thanked those that have already renewed! If you are not sure if you have renewed this year send me an email. Find a

membership/renewal application on the Roundtable web site or contact Ed at [mred94523@earthlink.net](mailto:mred94523@earthlink.net)

**Report from Phyllis Bramson-Paul on the Governor's Proposed Budget:**

Phyllis Bramson-Paul attended a portion of the Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday and offered the following report. She stated that the Governor's proposed budget is out. She stated that Child Nutrition Programs fared pretty well at first look but there are some concerns for meal reimbursement she acknowledged. The Department of Finance has built a "workload budget" into the addendum of the Governor's proposal that contains the proposed reductions and deductions. They added growth and a COLA for Child Nutrition. Phyllis said that Prop 98 schools are expected to get a reduction of 1 cent and non-Prop 98 institutions are expected to get a 4 cent increase bringing both into line. But she cautioned that the whole proposal has to go through the Education Budget Subcommittee where they may be faced with trading off the 4 cent increase with teacher layoffs. Under such a dilemma it is not hard to guess where the ax will fall.

She went on further to say that the Strategic Assessment group is partnering with Health and Human Services agency to convene a group of experts to come up with California specific recommendations for improving the meal pattern. The goal, she said, is to anticipate USDA's likely changes 5 years from now and to bring the meal pattern into closer alignment with the Dietary Guidelines (e.g., more whole grains, fruits and vegetables, low-fat milk). She said if they do not work on some kind of enhanced standards then the 4 cents will be gone.

Phyllis talked briefly of the possible impact on hiring. She stated that she expects a freeze on the Department shortly which will only allow hiring from within. She does not anticipate a freeze on internal hiring. She went on the share that they have additional audit funds that she will be able to utilize for training and outreach (USDA recently clarified for NSD additional approved uses for separate audit funding that state agencies receive).

**Provider Outreach Database:** Phyllis Bramson-Paul attended part of the Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday and while there agreed to assign Mike Smith the task of developing a list of licensed non-participating family child care providers from state databases. This valuable outreach resource is something the Roundtable has been talking about for the past few years. It is great to finally take action on it. Phyllis and Mike did point out that due to some privacy issues the information could not be made available directly to the Roundtable but would be sent to sponsoring organizations for their use. We did not negotiate a timeframe but the Roundtable will follow-up to ensure that the information is made available within the next few months.

**NSD Review Findings/License Capacity Issue:** At Wednesday's meeting Janice Hunt shared review findings from 2005-06 and 2006-07. Of the 19 family child care reviews in 2006-07, 17 had meal requirement issues, 16 had meal count issues, 12 had training and facility review issues and 11 had issues with both enrollment and eligibility and license capacity. There were no further specifics reported. The license capacity issue raised a discussion about the whole issue of imminent threat, mandatory reporters and whether a sponsor could be determined to be seriously deficient because its providers were over capacity. Janice reported that the over capacity issue seems to be getting worse. As we disagreed on the issue and sponsor responsibility beyond reporting it to licensing authorities Ed agreed to discuss it further with USDA. *(Since the meeting I have contacted USDA's Western Regional Office and was told that USDA's position is that a provider can and should be found seriously deficient for having children over licensed capacity. I asked for written guidance or a policy memo on it as it seems contrary to language in the preamble to the Second Interim Rule at page 53517, regulatory language at 226.16(l)(4)(i), and to past practice. In an informal survey of Forum board members there seems to be quite a diversity of opinion on this issue nationwide. The Roundtable will continue to pursue it back in*

Washington, DC, during the upcoming FRAC/Forum Conference.)

## CONFERENCE REPORT-



### SAVE THE DATE

The Roundtable's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference will be **October 27-29, 2008**, at the Rancho Las Palmas Resort in Rancho Mirage, California. Watch for a training survey due to come out in February that will ask for your feedback on possible workshop and general session topics/speakers of interest. Every year we try very hard to meet YOUR needs and the way we do that is we listen to YOU. For that to work of course you need to complete the survey! Please mark your calendars today and save the date. If you want to get a little excited about the conference right now, check out the resort's web site at [www.rancholaspalmas.com](http://www.rancholaspalmas.com).

### CFPA REPORT

**Studies of California Child Care Nutrition and Physical Activity Environments:** Progress is continuing to be made on the nutrition assessment of LA licensed child care that CFPA is conducting in conjunction with the CCFP Roundtable and Public Health Foundation Enterprises-WIC. Using funding from the Gilbert Foundation, PHFE-WIC will visit 50 licensed facilities throughout the county to observe the foods and beverages being served and the mealtime behaviors of children and providers. About twenty percent of the visits have been completed thus far and we expect have done at least half of the planned visits by the end of January. Very soon we will have some preliminary data and anecdotal evidence describing nutrition in LA child care. Once the data has been collected we will analyze the findings and use this information to

develop policy recommendations to improve the nutrition quality of the child care meals and snacks in LA.

In addition, the observation-based information being collected is assisting in the development of a statewide nutrition survey that CFPA is developing with Samuels & Associates and The UC Berkeley Center for Weight and Health. CCFP Roundtable is also serving as an advisory organization to this project. The self-assessment will be mailed out to a random sample of licensed California child care facilities in April of 2008, slightly later than the date we originally publicized. *Please encourage your providers to participate in the study should they be randomly selected to be part of this project.*

**Update on State Budget:** The Governor's budget seeks to address a \$14 billion shortfall largely through spending cuts. A principal feature of the budget is an across the board cut of 10% for most state departments. Human services programs take a substantial hit.

**USDA Improves WIC Food Package:** In early December USDA released the long-awaited Interim Rule transforming WIC's food packages for the first time in over 30 years. The rule will significantly improve the nutritional quality of foods available to WIC mothers, infants and young children, expand the cultural food options that are available to WIC's diverse populations, and increase their overall food choices with the addition of fruits and vegetables, whole grain products and the option of tofu and soymilk.

**USDA Encourages Schools to Start Meeting the 2005 DGA in School Meals:** On December 17<sup>th</sup>, the USDA published a memo advising State Agencies to encourage School Food Authorities to begin implementing the recommendations of the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans in advance of the USDA's formal rulemaking which may take years. The memo states that schools should increase servings of whole grains, fruits and vegetables, low-fat dairy products and foods high in fiber while decreasing amounts of sodium, cholesterol and trans fats in their school meals. We

are very pleased that USDA is encouraging schools to be proactive in implementing higher nutritional standards and look forward to analogous efforts to improve the CACFP meal pattern. Visit this website to see the memo: [http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/fns/pdf/gm\\_nslp\\_sp\\_04\\_2008.pdf](http://www.dpi.state.wi.us/fns/pdf/gm_nslp_sp_04_2008.pdf)

**Farm Bill Update:** With the Senate and the House of Representatives both having passed their versions of the Farm Bill, a conference committee made up of delegates from both the Senate and the House must meet, most likely from mid-February into early March, to settle differences between the two bills. While both versions of the bill contain improve-ments to the Food Stamp Program, on some issues, the House bill contains certain provisions that represent bigger steps forward than the Senate bill, and on other issues, it is vice versa. All indications currently suggest that Congressman Joe Baca (D-San Bernardino area) will serve on this key committee.

**2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization:** Like the CCFP Roundtable, CFPA is starting to gear up for the 2009 Child Nutrition Reauthorization. CFPA looks forward to working with the Roundtable through this process to improve CACFP.

---

---

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

**THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2008**

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Town and Country Resort & Convention Center  
SUNSET ROOM**

500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108

**LODGING INFORMATION:** We have made arrangements with the hotel for rooms so if you are planning to spend the night in the area please stay at the meeting hotel. Rooms are \$139 sgl/dbl. To make reservations call 1-800-772-8527 or go online to: [https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcom\\_e\\_gi\\_new&groupID=120173](https://resweb.passkey.com/Resweb.do?mode=welcom_e_gi_new&groupID=120173).

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS:** Parking at the hotel is \$12 per day. From the airport the fastest way to get to the hotel according to MapQuest is to turn Right on North Harbor Dr; turn Right on Nimitz Blvd and proceed 2.3 miles to ramp onto Ocean Beach Fwy (I-8 East) toward I-5 South; continue 1.9 miles and take exit 4A Hotel Circle; turn left on Hotel Circle South and go 0.4 miles to 500 Hotel Circle North.

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:** You may also take the relatively inexpensive Cloud 9 Shuttle to and from the airport. When you get your luggage go over the skybridge to the shuttle/courtesy van area and look for a Cloud 9 attendant to assist you. Make reservations at the hotel for your return trip.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same hotel in the Galleria One Room, Wednesday, March 19, 10:00 AM.



**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008**

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**CDI/Choices for Children**

111 N. Market St., Ste 100, San Jose, CA 95113

**LODGING INFORMATION :**

**PARKING & DIRECTIONS:**

**AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:**

*More  
Info  
Later*

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location on Wednesday, May 21 at 10:00 AM.

**Renew Your Membership Today!**