



# Roundtable news

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

AUGUST 2008

## CONFERENCE TAKING SHAPE



It's August and the Roundtable is finalizing plans for its 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CACFP Conference "Dialogue in the Desert." We hope you are planning to come. Thirty-four workshops have been finalized to date and a few more are in the final planning stages. The last two proposals received were from Janice Fletcher and Laurel Branen, recognized leaders in their field at the University of Idaho. Dr. Fletcher will lead a workshop entitled "Current Controversies in Feeding Young Children in Group Settings," and Dr. Branen will lead one entitled "Healthy Weight for Young Children in Child Care: What parents say; what child care staff say."

We have a number of workshops in this same track on **Nutrition, Health & Child Development** including:

- "Food for Thought: Nutrition across the curriculum" with April Cunningham;
- "Child Care Resources from NFSMI and the NAL Healthy Meal Resource System" with Desire' Stapley and Dr. Charlotte Oakley;

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

Santa Barbara, July 18, 2008

### CHAIR REPORT

Paula James welcomed the Roundtable and gave the following brief introductory remarks and announcements. She thanked Trudy Adair-Verbais and Maria Pacheco from Santa Barbara County Education Office for providing the coffee and the nice meeting room.

**Paula James Testifies Before House Ed & Labor Committee in Washington:** Paula James was asked to testify before the House Ed & Labor Committee's hearing on "The Impact of Rising Food Prices on Federal Nutrition Programs," on July 9. Paula said she based a lot of her testimony on personal phone calls.

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

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emails from a quick survey the Roundtable sent out to members before the hearing, and testimony included in the “Legislative Kit” from sponsors that have dropped the program. She encouraged members to keep sending in anecdotal information that we can use in our ongoing communication with Congress on Child Nutrition Reauthorization. She said she is finding that rising food costs are having a tremendous impact. Fresh fruits and vegetables especially are too expensive. Providers are having a hard time meeting the meal pattern. For the first time center participation is dropping due to this. It could even push kids back to unlicensed care. One sponsor stated that she is seeing fewer fruits, veggies and milk at snack time. Quality is suffering. Centers are going to Costco now where the number 10 cans of fruits and vegetables are limited. Centers are asking parents to bring a second snack. Read/see Paula’s testimony at: <http://edlabor.house.gov/testimony/2008-07-09-PaulaJames.pdf> (written), and <http://edlabor.house.gov/hearings/fc-2008-07-09.shtml> or YouTube (oral).

**Vitamin Settlement Grant Update:** Paula reminded members that the Roundtable was awarded this grant for a three-year period beginning July 1, 2008. It has four major components that will be running concurrently:

1. **Nutrition Standards & Best Practices** – The first deals with the development of statewide nutrition standards and best practices and dovetails in with the Strategic Assessment work

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, 436 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste 1220, Oakland, CA 94612

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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.

done by CDE/DPH and the results of the Gilbert and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grants. The Roundtable will convene a Standards Advisory Group to give advice on nutrition standards and help frame improved nutrition standards based on the Gilbert Foundation and RWJ studies as well as the Strategic Assessment. Members will research and identify best practice models for future training and adoption by CA CACFP sponsors.

2. **Regulation, Policy & Advocacy** – In this piece CFPA will take the lead and advocate for the regulations and policy changes coming from the nutrition standards and best practices piece above.
3. **Training & Technical Assistance** – The third involves training and technical assistance to disseminate the improved nutrition standards and best practices to child care providers and centers.
4. **Marketing** – The final component is to hire a marketing/public relations firm to develop a marketing plan for the CACFP. The Roundtable will be convening a Marketing Advisory Group whose members will provide advice and feedback on recruitment and selection of the firm, as well as develop and implement a marketing plan to promote participation in the CACFP here in CA. Paula asked members if they have information on or experience with such a marketing firm to let us know.

Members are advised to watch the newsletter as well as the Roundtable web site for regular updates on this important grant project.

**New Tiering Study:** Paula said she recently spoke with Fred Glantz of Abt & Associates and was told that they have been awarded a contract to conduct another tiering study. They will be looking at 14 states with probably 6 sponsors chosen from each. Eleven homes will be sampled at each sponsor selected. She was told that there will be no site visits this time. The contractor will be comparing sponsor data to school and census data. Even though the error rate in the last study was only 4% the total dollar amount exceeded \$10 million so further study was required. They hope to select the states by the end of July and have all the sponsors selected by October. Sponsors selected will receive a total of \$100 (\$50 before and after) in incentives to participate■

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**Conference**, continued from page 1

- “Nutrition & Fitness Activities for Children” with Brenda Metzger;
- “Sesame Workshop’s Healthy Habits for Life Initiative” with Moira Kenney;
- “Mind, Body & Soles: Combining music, movement & learning” with Angela Russ;
- “Team Nutrition Resources: Teaching tools for healthy choices” with Jane Mandel from USDA; and
- “Keeping Children Healthy & Active in the Child Care Environment” with Carol Chase.

In the **Foods & Menu Planning** track we have:

- “Food Labels 101: Making nutrient power packed choices” with Donna Caeg;
- “Traveling the Globe Discovering Multicultural Foods & Activities for Kids” and “Nutrition and CACFP for the Vegetarian Child” with our friends at La Petite Academy; and
- Kelley Knapp brings back her ever popular “Feeding Infants in the CACFP” as a pre-conference session on Monday morning.

**Under Professional Growth & Development** we have:

- “Style Differences: Overcoming barriers to communication” and “Staying Motivated in Difficult Times” with Roz Teller who was so wonderful last year;

- “Learner Centered Training” in two parts with Stephanie Collette & Carol Ledesma; and
- “Legislative Advocacy 102” with the two Eds and Geri Henchy. Everyone should enjoy these workshops.

We have a number of workshops that are geared towards the **Program**. Some are aimed at home sponsors and staffs, some at centers and Head Start and still others for either. We have:

- “Communication Strategies with Preschool Families” with staff from Contra Costa Child Care Council;
- “Minute Menu for Centers” with Mike Morath;
- “Preparing for an Administrative Review in Centers” with Melanie Tate-Sims;
- “Is Your Center Staff Trained & Ready” a panel presentation led by Diana Vandebussche;
- “Serving it Safe” for centers and homes – two workshops by NFSMI staff;
- “On-line Claiming & Recordkeeping” and “Home Visit Best Practices” in a Minute Menu post-conference on Wednesday afternoon;
- “Family Child Care Monitor Training Best Practices” panel led by Stephanie Clarke;
- “Preparing for an Administrative Review in Family Child Care” a panel led by Cary Steen; and a real dialogue and sharing session on
- “Best Practices in the Serious Deficiency Process for Providers” led by Lorraine Bergendorf-Clark.

Rounding those out we have a few more **General Programmatic** workshops including:

- “Get Motivated for Success: Cutting costs and finding revenue” with Carolyn Morrison;
- “Internal Controls to Strengthen Your Business and to Identify, Prevent & Solve Serious Deficiencies” with Bob Gray;
- “USDA Program Update” with Cindy Long (the new Director of Child Nutrition Programs at USDA National Office); and
- “Serious Deficiency & Appeals Refresher Course” with Julie Brewer from USDA.

Picking up on this year’s theme we have “Morning Dialogue” session planned during the continental breakfasts on Tuesday and Wednesday morning.

Different tables will be discussing different topics; members can sit down at a table topic that interests them or start their own discussion topic.

Our wonderful keynote speaker Peter Brinckerhoff has been retained, the hospitality event reserved. We are nearly ready to go! Time to get those registration forms in before the Early-Bird Cut Off Date on SEPTEMBER 13■

## **BREAKOUT SESSION**

**All You Ever Wanted to Know About Visiting Your Legislator:** As he did in San Jose in May Ed reminded everyone that the Roundtable is asking all sponsors to visit their Congressperson this August to put a face on the CACFP and to ask them for their help in improving the program during Child Nutrition Reauthorization in 2009.

Ed shared with attendees a PowerPoint presentation (see the May newsletter for a copy) laying out the steps to setting up a visit. He suggested that it is not as hard or as scary as it may seem. The Roundtable has done a lot of the work for you already. Once you overcome the initial fear of making the call the visit is easy. He reminded folks a simple truth he learned years ago – that you know more about the CACFP than they do. What’s the worst that can happen? They might ask you a question you cannot answer. If that happens tell them you don’t know, find out the answer and get back to them. They will want to see you; you represent their constituents – potential voters in an election year!

After your visit please let Ed know how it went. We need to know who our supporters are. We may wish to highlight some of your visit stories at the September 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in Baldwin Park and in the next newsletter or during the conference. Pictures would be great; sample “take a picture tell a stories” even better.

## **NUTRITION SERVICES DIVISION**

Ronna Jakobitz welcomed the participants and along with Brenda Padilla, Jack Stroppini, Janice Hunt, and Judy Osterloh gave the state report.

**New Phone System:** Ronna advised members that NSD has just recently gone to a new interactive voice response (IVR) system and she apologized if anyone has had a problem getting a real person to answer their questions. They expect to have the kinks out soon.

**Staff Update:** Ronna and Brenda were pleased to introduce the new Manager of the Child Nutrition Program Administration Unit – Jack Stroppini. He has replaced Barbara Longo. Jack has an MSW and many years experience working with children and family services at both the local and state government levels. As advised at the meeting in San Jose, Ronna has added a new Day Care Home Team member Dave Buck and two new analysts on the Center Team, Alan Frank and Rystin Woolley. She has also added two new analysts on the Summer Food Service Team.

**Renewals & Budgets:** Ronna reported that family child care renewals should be in the mail by the first week of August. She reminded everyone that this will be a new base year. They are also about 3/5 through the center renewals with 591 of around 900 approved so far. Dave Buck is reworking the FDCH budgets and is talking with sponsors about it. He is also working on a budget training module. They hope to roll it out in August for those that need a little more technical assistance. The idea is to conduct small group training sessions where needed. Ronna said he is also finishing up work on two budget revisions.

**Management Bulletin/Info Alert Update:** Ronna reported that all of the following are in the final signature process, or as indicated:

- Transfer Policy
- School List – Dataquest finally up in June.
- New Reimbursement Rates – posted July 17.
- Monitoring for Overcapacity – still holding.
- Head Start Alert
- Day Care Home Eligibility Guidance – still being worked on.

**CNIPS Update:** Ronna reported that School Nutrition Programs should be up by the end of August. Sixteen-hundred school sponsors will be

trained during the last three weeks of August. They are in the middle of the design phase for the Summer Food Service Program right now. When that is completed CACFP will begin with so-called JAD sessions. Sponsors and the Roundtable will be invited to these design discussion sessions when they begin later in the year.

**State Budget:** Ronna and Brenda reported that they are working on budget change proposals right now. Already approved for the 2008-09 budget year are one new staff for Field Services and one for CACFP. For the 2009-10 budget year they have included one CNC and one analyst to help implement the recommendations coming from the Strategic Assessment. They will initially be assigned to the Education Nutrition Policy Unit and then roll into CACFP. Brenda pointed out that in addition to the above staff requests they are requesting additional state meal reimbursement tied to the increased nutrition standards recommended in the Strategic Assessment. The standards are expected to include no trans fats and no deep-fried foods. Brenda further suggested that the Roundtable and its members could help by coordinating our advocacy efforts with the release of the Strategic Assessment.

**Possible Training in Los Angeles:** Ronna advised members that NSD shares our concern with the recent closure of a large family child care sponsor in Los Angeles. During the Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday members discussed the situation. Fortunately, as many as half of the providers losing their sponsor will be able to find a new one in the area. But that leaves maybe 400 or more without a sponsor. The problem is exacerbated by some local area sponsors that have been told they cannot add any new providers until they have taken sufficient corrective action. Members discussed emergency plans for keeping the impacted providers on the program for the short term. Tim Thole from USDA said he would explore the use of expansion funds and is willing to also consider policy waivers to help ameliorate the situation.

On Thursday Advisory Committee members discussed what kind of technical assistance can we and NSD provide to try to minimize or eliminate these closures in the future; what kind of assistance can we provide to help area sponsors bring their programs into compliance and lift the hold on adding new providers. After some discussion members agreed that it might be a good idea to hold a meeting or training, in the Roundtable's "regional meeting" format, in central Los Angeles for probationary and non-probationary sponsor staffs. Some sponsors from out of the area that have been through the same kinds of problems and have figured out how to fix them, will be invited to share their best practices like we did in September 2007 and January & March 2008. NSD agreed to explore the idea further. Tentative dates discussed would be in August during the weeks of 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>. A meeting location still needs to be found. ***Watch for an announcement shortly.***

## **USDA REPORT**

Tim Thole, State Program Manager for USDA, WRO, gave the following report. Tim had the following short topics to share with us:

- He stated that he is down a staff person on the CA Team. They are waiting to find the right person with experience interpreting regulations and policy. He encouraged members who might be interested in future positions to complete an application at [www.USAJobs.gov](http://www.USAJobs.gov).
- He said that all things are slowing down as we approach the end of the current administration. Only a few new policies and regulations are expected, and don't be surprised if Child Nutrition Reauthorization is also pushed back.
- He pointed out that a policy memoranda (09-2008) came out recently raising the small purchasing threshold in CACFP. Now for all purchases in all Child Nutrition Programs up to \$100,000 recipients may follow the less formal "small purchase" procedures. Anything over that threshold must be formally bid.

- Tim stated that USDA supports any efforts that can be made to strengthen the family child care sector here in California. Training, technical assistance, one of the best things, in his estimation, is bringing sponsors together to share. He asked how USDA and NSD could support us. He said an example of what he had in mind was the recent technical assistance USDA and CDE conducted around the state for Summer Food Service sponsors in selected target communities.
- Finally, Tim asked how many members were planning to testify at the USDA WRO hearing set for August 6 in San Francisco. He said it has not been decided which National Office staff might attend from Washington to take the testimony.

## **ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT**

**USDA Hearing on Child Nutrition Reauthorization:** Ed reminded members of the upcoming hearing in San Francisco on August 6. Even though only four Roundtable members have agreed to present oral testimony, **ALL** members can and are strongly encouraged to submit written comments as part of the process. Written comments are due October 15 and may be sent through the following web site [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov). We recommend that when you submit written comments you refer to and/or include the Roundtable/FRAC/Forum recommendations (a copy of which is included on our web site under the Legislation & Advocacy tab).

For the August 6<sup>th</sup> oral testimony Paula James agreed to present on rising food costs/access issues. Jerry Bowers agreed to discuss the ineffective integrity rules – block claiming and five-day reconciliation. Nancy Boyd will testify on the high costs of administering the CACFP. And Ed will talk about the dramatic drop off in sponsors and homes in CA since tiering and the crisis now developing in Los Angeles where providers cannot find a sponsor.

**2009 Meeting Schedule:** Reflecting the Roundtable’s ongoing concern for making meetings available to the largest number of members the meeting schedule for 2009 has been altered from the norm. The Sacramento meeting has been moved from January to July to better accommodate NSD’s annual budget woes. An additional meeting has been scheduled for central Los Angeles to try to accommodate more members in the area and provide additional technical assistance and peer interaction. The tentative dates and locations are as follows:

- Jan 21-22 in San Diego
- Mar 18-19 in Oakland
- May 20-21 in Los Angeles
- Jul 15-16 in Sacramento
- Sep 16-17 in Baldwin Park

**New Reimbursement Rates Are Out:** The new federal reimbursement rates were published in the Federal Register on July 7. Find a copy at [http://frac.org/pdf/CACFPrates\\_08-09\\_FedReg.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/CACFPrates_08-09_FedReg.pdf)

## **ROUNDTABLE REPORT**

**Possible Sponsor Training in Los Angeles:** The recent closure of International Institute of Los Angeles’ family child care program and the possible loss of sponsorship for some 450 providers (out of 900) is an issue of grave concern for the Roundtable. At a time where family child care home participation in CA has declined by 25% and sponsorships by over 50%, we cannot afford another hit like this. With obesity rates rising and food costs skyrocketing more family child care homes should be on the CACFP, not less. The problem we are facing is that for too many sponsoring organizations the program has simply become too expensive and too difficult to administer, and there has not been enough training or hands-on technical assistance from USDA or NSD. The expectation of zero tolerance by family child care homes has been a major cultural shift here in California and sponsors are having a difficult time achieving it in such short timeframes. Some Los Angeles area sponsors that might have

been able to pick up the 450 impacted providers have been put on probationary hold by NSD until they take adequate corrective action. In the meantime what is going to happen to them? What kinds of meals will they be serving now?

We applaud any efforts to provide real help and assistance to struggling sponsors by USDA and NSD. The bad apples were terminated years ago and the sponsors that remain, though doing their best, may still need a little more time or help to achieve the new zero tolerance regime. Our hope is that the “regional meeting” being planned for the central Los Angeles area this August will be the catalyst needed for change, and will demonstrate the value of regularly attending Roundtable meetings in the future. And nothing will be more effective than contacting your legislator this August as part of the Roundtable’s big push!

## CFPA REPORT

**Gilbert & Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grants:** State agencies, advocates, researchers, foundations, and other organizations around the state (and nation) are actively engaged in the child care nutrition field. With funding from the Gilbert Foundation, for the past year, CFPA, along with our partners, the CCFP Roundtable and Public Health Foundation Enterprises – WIC, has focused on a nutrition assessment of licensed child care settings in Los Angeles County. Work on this grant is coming to a close after a successful stakeholder’s convening held at the First Five LA offices in mid-June. CFPA is in the process of completing policy recommendations for local, state, and federal actors and a complete report should be released in the coming weeks. This report will provide the first observation-based information for many years about the foods and beverages served to children who spend so much of their day in child care centers and family homes. Some highlights of the research include:

- 92% of facilities served milk, 80% of milk served was reduced-fat or skim

- Sites average 1.43 servings of healthful fruits and veggies per lunch service (“healthful” excludes fried or canned in syrup)
- 22% of sites served any whole grains
- 35% of sites served lean meats, 47% of sites served high-fat meats
- Food brought from home had the lower meal quality
- Meal quality was higher when children participated in meal preparation and caregivers ate meals with children

To complement this nutrition assessment in Los Angeles County, CFPA is also working with the UC Berkeley Center for Weight and Health and Samuels & Associates on a statewide survey of licensed child care providers, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Building upon the survey conducted in Los Angeles, this statewide survey went out to providers earlier in the spring. While we received a strong initial wave of responses, completed surveys have all but stopped being returned of late. Please encourage your providers to participate, should they be randomly selected to participate. Getting a strong response rate from CACFP-participants is essential to providing us with the reliable data we need to promote the program in California.

**Strategic Assessment:** CFPA, along with the CCFP Roundtable, participated in the Strategic Assessment of Child Care Nutrition and Physical Activity convened by the California Department of Education and the Health and Human Services Agency. The Strategic Assessment group completed meetings in the late winter and produced a draft set of recommendations. We expect a report from this group to be released any day now. In general, the advisory group recommended a number of policies to strengthen CACFP, to improve nutrition, and to expand nutrition training.

**State Legislative News:** there has been no update on the 4¢ reimbursement increase for CACFP proposed in the Governor’s January budget. A search through the Governor’s revised budget released in May yields no mention of the increase. Despite the fact that the June 15<sup>th</sup> deadline for

budget passage has come and gone, budget negotiations remain deadlocked. While there are no pending bills specifically related to CACFP, a number of bills to improve other child nutrition programs and food stamps are working their way through the Legislature while one has, unfortunately, died:

- **AB 433:** Changes name of Food Stamp Program in CA, expands categorical eligibility, removes asset test.
  - *Prospects?* Projected to proceed well with support from DSS.
- **AB 1966:** Require school breakfast in severe-need schools.
  - *Prospects?* Died in appropriations.
- **AB 2300:** Direct certification and verification for school meals via Medi-Cal.
  - *Prospects?* Has proceeded smoothly through the Legislature thus far, waiting in Senate Appropriations.
- **AB 2704:** Remove barriers to free tap water in schools.
  - *Prospects?* Waiting to be voted upon by full Senate and then on to Governor. Governor's office needs to be convinced of importance of bill.
  - ACTION: Letters to Governor's office in support
- **AB 2726:** Funding for the Healthy Purchase Pilot Program from non-State sources (federal and private funds).
  - *Prospects?* Waiting in Senate Appropriations.
- **AB 2844:** Semi-annual reporting for food stamps
  - *Prospects?* Waiting in Senate Approps, opposition from DSS.
  - ACTION: Letters to Governor's office in support.

**Federal Legislative News:** On the federal legislative front, CFPA is preparing for the 2009

Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization. We recently completed a statewide survey on priorities for reauthorization, including CACFP. Using the results of the survey, the Roundtable's recommendations, and lessons learned from the Gilbert-funded research to inform our CACFP-related recommendations, we have prepared a draft document highlighting opportunities presented in the upcoming reauthorization for all the child nutrition programs. Links to the survey results and our CNR documents are available at: <http://www.cfpa.net/CNR2009/index.htm>.

## WEB SITES FOR JULY 2008

<http://>

- [edlabor.house.gov/testimony/2008-07-09-PaulaJames.pdf](http://edlabor.house.gov/testimony/2008-07-09-PaulaJames.pdf) – Get a copy of Paula's written testimony before the House Ed & Labor Committee hearing on "The Impact of Rising Food Prices on Federal Nutrition Programs" (or watch the oral testimony on YouTube by doing a search for Paula James).
- [www.cfpa.net/CNR2009/index.htm](http://www.cfpa.net/CNR2009/index.htm) - Read CFPA's recommendations for Child Nutrition Reauthorization here.
- [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/Regs-Policy/policymemo/2007-2008/CACFP-09-2008-OS.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/care/Regs-Policy/policymemo/2007-2008/CACFP-09-2008-OS.pdf) - USDA policy memo on the new acquisition threshold for CACFP.
- [frac.org/pdf/CACFPrates\\_08-09\\_FedReg.pdf](http://frac.org/pdf/CACFPrates_08-09_FedReg.pdf) - new reimbursement rates.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE  
RESERVATIONS FOR  
THE NEXT ROUNDTABLE MEETING**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008, 9:30 - 2:00**

**Options**

13100 Brooks Drive #200, Baldwin Park, CA 91706

**TRAINING TOPIC:** To Be Determined

**LODGING INFORMATION:**

- Hampton Inn, 311 E. Huntington Dr., Arcadia (is a great value and good location near several restaurants) 626-574-5600.

**DIRECTIONS:** Suggest you look this up on MapQuest

- From LAX: Take 105 east (16 miles); take 605 north (14 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd./Los Angeles St; keep right on Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.
- From Burbank Airport: Take 5 south (9 miles); take 134 east (4 miles); take 210 east (11 miles); take 605 south (4 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd/Los Angeles St. (turn right); turn left onto Lower Azusa Rd, then immediately bear left onto ramp; keep right onto Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.
- From Ontario Airport: Take 10 west (22 miles); take 605 north (5 miles); exit Lower Azusa Rd/Los Angeles St; keep right on Rivergrade Rd towards Rivergrade Rd; turn right onto Brooks Dr; fast right into first parking lot.

The **Advisory Committee Meeting** is at the same location, Wednesday, September 17, 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

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



Dialogue in the Desert

October 27-29

Rancho Las Palmas Resort