



Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Food For Thought



Volume 8, Issue 1

Welcome to the first issue of *Food For Thought* FY 2007

February 2007

Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning Nutrition Services Vision Statement:

Working together with our partners to *eradicate* hunger and ensure nutritious meals for ALL Georgians!

From the Chair of the Director

Bright from the Start, through its Nutrition Services Division, has contracted with the University of Georgia's Department of Child and Family Development (UGA) to develop educational materials that address the problem of overweight children. UGA developed the curriculum unit "Eat Healthy, Be Active." It provides early childhood teachers with classroom activities designed to introduce children ages 3- 5 years to basic health concepts and encourage good nutrition and physical activity habits. The curriculum includes 14 different activities that can be incorporated into all areas of the early childhood classroom including science, art, outdoor play, dramatic play, music, language arts, and large group activities. Copies of the curriculum and accompanying resource kits can be checked out at your local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency.



4 Menu Planning Tips

#1 Variety— Plan at least 3 weeks of menus at a time. This will prevent the problem of repeating foods too often.

#2 Color— Include a variety of colors in each meal and/or snack. This will provide a variety of vitamins and minerals. It will also create eye appeal, which promotes healthy eating.

#3 Texture— Include food that is crunchy, chewy, and smooth. Textures add interest to a meal.

#4 Arrangement— Pay attention to how food is arranged on the plate. It should look delicious and appealing!

The following organizations had perfect CACFP reviews:

Alzheimer's Services Center, Inc. of Riverdale, GA— Alzheimer's Services Center had their first perfect review in 2006!

Miss Kay's Day Care and Learning of Monticello, GA— Miss Kay's Day Care had a perfect review in 2006, and has had perfect reviews since 2003!

New Covenant Church of Ray City, Inc. of Ray City, GA— New Covenant Church had their first perfect review in 2006!

Open Door Community Development & Outreach Center Inc. of Pelham, GA— Open Door had their first perfect review in 2006!

Pathway Daycare Center of Adel, GA— Pathway Daycare Center had their first perfect review in 2006!

Congratulations and continue to keep up the good work!!

CACFP Policy Updates and Guidance

New and revised memos have been issued for CACFP participants since the last newsletter

Changes in Eligibility for Emergency/Homeless Shelters

Previously, emergency shelters that were eligible to participate in the CACFP had to provide temporary housing and food services to children and their families. Federal guidance now allows institutions that serve children unaccompanied by an adult to participate in the CACFP as well. Residential child care institutions (RCCIs) may participate in the CACFP if they operate a separate program for homeless children, or families with children.

Media Releases

Each year during the application renewal period, Bright from the Start will issue a statewide media release on behalf of all institutions currently participating in the CACFP. However, all new institutions are required to issue their own media release, and sponsoring organizations must issue a media release for any newly sponsored facilities.

Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility Determinations

Households are no longer required to report these changes in their circumstances: an increase in income, a decrease in household size, or if the household is no longer eligible for food stamps or TANF during the period covered by the eligibility statement. Once correctly approved for free or reduced price benefits, a household will remain eligible for those benefits for a period of no more than 12 months. However, this change does not modify the requirement to obtain an updated Income Eligibility Statement (IES) after 45 days for the households who have indicated "no" or "zero" income to qualify.

When reviewing the food stamp case number on the IES, **a valid case number will either be nine or four digits long.** The EBT number (number on the card used to make purchases) is not an acceptable number. ***If a 16 digit number is reported on the IES, you must have the household member review their paperwork and report the AU or Client ID number, or if it is not corrected, the IES must be placed in the "Paid" category.***

Household Contact Requirements (Sponsoring Organizations only)

The memorandum dated 9/18/06 was revised to provide additional clarification for conducting Household contacts. This memo specifically states when sponsors are required to make contacts, the deadline for making these contacts, and how many contacts must be made. The memo rescinds the previous Household Contact memo dated January 5, 2006.

Block Claiming Follow-up Review Guidance (Sponsoring Organizations only)

Another memorandum dated 9/18/06 was also revised to provide guidance on conducting unannounced follow up reviews within 60 days after the submission of a block claim by a sponsored facility. The memo rescinds the previous Block Claiming Follow up Review Guidance memo dated January 5, 2006.

*****Please read each policy memo in its entirety. These memos can be found on the Bright from the Start website at: www.decal.state.ga.us.***



Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Plans for 2007

The SFSP had another wonderful year! This year we experimented with the DVD/Assessment Training for all Experienced Sponsors. Many sponsors enjoyed completing the training because it allowed them to learn more about the program, despite their many years of SFSP participation. Bright from the Start is currently updating its training plan to allow more face-to-face interaction, while incorporating the assessment portion.

Congratulations SFSP Sponsors!!

Perfect Applications:

City of Arlington – 40 sites – Calhoun County
Harvest Rain International, Inc. – 6 sites – Fulton County
Morehouse College Meriwether/Talbot County UB – 1 site – Meriwether County
Thomasville YMCA Inc. – 32 sites – Thomas County
Washington-Wilkes Parks & Rec. – 1 site – Wilkes County

Perfect Reviews: Below are SFSP sponsors who have shown that perfection is possible in operating the SFSP in 2006. All 13 organizations had a perfect SFSP review this past summer. These sponsors have received certificates of appreciation for their excellent program performance. **Congratulations to all of the hardworking SFSP sponsors! Keep up the good work!**

Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College Upward Bound – 1 site – Tift County
Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta - 2 sites – Fulton County
Boys & Girls Club of Toombs County – 4 sites – Toombs County
Community Improvement Coalition of Monroe County-SFSP – 7 sites – Monroe County
Fannin County Recreation Department – 1 site – Fannin County
Gainesville City Board of Education – 2 sites – Hall County
Providence Baptist Church – 1 site - Fulton
Salvation Army-Camp Grandview – 1 site – Pickens County
Southwest Atlanta Comm. Dev. Corp., Inc. – 1 site – Fulton County
The Gospel of Christ M. R. F. Church of Jackson, Inc. – 8 sites – Butts County
Washington-Wilkes Parks & Rec. – 1 site – Wilkes County
Wesley Community Centers, Inc. – 1 site – Fulton County
Youth Educational Services, Inc. – 23 sites – DeKalb County

Mark your Calendars: SFSP Training for FY2007

In FY 2007, all sponsors will be required to attend training at a physical location. The trainings will target common issues that deal with the application process and address common findings for reviews. If you have topics that you would like addressed as part of the training sessions, please send your requests to SFSP@decal.state.ga.us. Below are the training dates:

Experienced Sponsor Training

Mar. 8, 2007– Macon, GA – Private Non-profit Organizations

Programmatic Sponsor Training

Feb 22, 2007 – Jonesboro, GA

New Sponsor Training

Feb 20-21, 2007 – Jonesboro, GA

Mar 13-14, 2007 – Jonesboro, GA – Last chance new sponsor training

SFSP NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The following counties were either underserved or not served in FY2006: Bacon, Chattahoochee, Clinch, Cobb, DeKalb, Dooly, Echols, Fulton, Gwinnett, Hall, Jenkins, Lanier, Lincoln, Long, Macon, Montgomery, Pulaski, Quitman, Talbot, Taliaferro, Towns, Webster, Wheeler, and Wilkinson.

SFSP needs your help in finding more organizations that are capable of feeding the children that are not being served when school is out. The children that fall in the free and reduced meal category depend on the meals they get during the school year as these may be the only meals they receive each day. These children are going hungry during the summer break or aren't getting meals of nutritional value. You can help by informing us of collaborative meetings, special events, or conferences that your organization may participate in where a SFSP staff member can attend and present information on the Summer Food Service Program.

Please send your information to SFSP@decal.state.ga.us.

Nutrition and Physical Activity Website Resources for Children 0– 5 years

Nutrition

Bright from the Start
www.healthyeatingforlife.org

National Network for Child Care
www.nncc.org/

5ADay for Better Health Program
www.5aday.com

Dole 5ADay Website
www.dole5aday.com

La Leche League
www.lalecheleague.org

USDA Team Nutrition
www.fns.usda.gov/tn

Physical Activity

Bright from the Start
www.healthyeatingforlife.org

Bright Futures in Practice: Physical Activity
www.brightfutures.org/physicalactivity/about.htm

Active Start: A Statement of Physical Activity Guidelines for Children Birth to Five Years
www.aahperd.org/naspe

Georgia Division of Public Health
www.health.state.ga.us

University of Georgia Cooperative Extension
www.gafamilies.com



Nutrition Staff News

Please join us in welcoming **Cassandra Sylvester**, who is our new Nutrition Program Consultant for the following counties: Clayton, Spalding, Lamar, Monroe, Butts, Jasper, Putnam, Greene, Morgan, Newton, Rockdale, Oglethorpe, Oconee, Clarke, and Walton.

Valerie Coulton is now assigned to the following counties: Bartow, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Douglas, Floyd, Gordon, Haralson, Heard, Meriwether, Murray, Paulding, Polk, Troup, Walker, and Whitfield.

We are Here For YOU!

NUTRITION SERVICES

Jackie Romain
Director
404-651-8197
Jackie.romain@decal.state.ga.us

Lou Brienza
Program Manager
404-651-7433
Louis.brienza@decal.state.ga.us

Marissa Hamm
Policy Administrator
404-651-7181
Marissa.hamm@decal.state.ga.us

Leslie Truman
CACFP Administrative Assistant
404-657-1779
Leslie.truman@decal.state.ga.us

Kay McCorkle
CACFP Business Process Manager
404-463-0970
Kay.mccorkle@decal.state.ga.us

Wanda Simkins
CACFP Application Specialist
404-651-7191
wanda.simkins@decal.state.ga.us

Falita Flowers
CACFP Admin/DCH Sponsor
Coordinator & Review Manager
404-656-6452
Falita.flowers@decal.state.ga.us

Dedra Williams
CACFP Admin/DCH Sponsor
Coordinator & Review Manager
404-651-7192
Dedra.williams@decal.state.ga.us

Brenda Carter
Nutrition Consultant
678-920-4026
Brenda.carter@decal.state.ga.us

Deidrea Thompson
Nutrition Consultant
770-978-7538
Deidrea.thompson@decal.state.ga.us

Valerie Coulton
Nutrition Consultant
770-222-6676
Valerie.coulton@decal.state.ga.us

Sonya James
Nutrition Consultant
770-808-5307
Sonya.james@decal.state.ga.us

Bridgette Merrett
Nutrition Consultant
404-243-1351
Bridgette.merrett@decal.state.ga.us

Rae-Marie Lockhart
Nutrition Consultant
478-329-4770
Rae-marie.lockhart@decal.state.ga.us

Reynald Salamo
Nutrition Consultant
912-526-5852
Reynald.salamo@decal.state.ga.us

Cassandra Sylvester
Nutrition Consultant
678-699-4206
Cassandra.sylvester@decal.state.ga.us

Anjulyn Davis
Training Coordinator
404-656-6292
Anjulyn.davis@decal.state.ga.us

Sophal Lackey
SFSP Manager
404-651-8193
Sophal.lackey@decal.state.ga.us

Deanna Jones
SFSP Coordinator
404-656-6411
Deanna.jones@decal.state.ga.us

Sherry Mays
SFSP Administrative Assistant
404-651-7426
Sherry.mays@decal.state.ga.us

Finance
Glenda Hambrick
Budget Officer
404-651-7411
Glenda.hambrick@decal.state.ga.us

Aneshia Harris
Claims Administrator
404-656-3325
Aneshia.harris@decal.state.ga.us

MI S/Technology
Charlotte Stevenson
MI S -Nutrition Program
Coordinator
404-463-5006
Charlotte.stevenson@decal.state.ga.us

Audit
Tanya Astin
Audit Coordinator
404-656-6293
Tanya.astin@decal.state.ga.us

For Your Information

The CACFP is an equal opportunity program. If you believe you have been discriminated against because of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap, write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 20250.