

Child Care & Nutrition, Inc.

Mini-Teddy Newsletter

April, 2015

Workshop Schedule Insert

We are continuing to insert the CCNI Nutrition and Mandatory Workshop Schedule. Please keep this for future reference and attend if you can! It is also posted on our website at www.childcarenutrition.com.

NEW! As of February 1, 2015, Our workshops are now accredited for your continuing hours through Minnesota Center for Professional Development.

When you *attend* a workshop, you will be given a certificate that you can send directly to the Center for credit. They will track these hours for you and count them towards your annual training requirements.

We are not able to give credit to inhome trainings, this must be done at a workshop only.

Welcome New CCNI Providers

12 new providers joined us this month

THANK YOU For Joining us!!

Claiming Dates for April

Claims in by April 2, 2015
Reimbursement will be sent on April 10, 2015

Claims in by April 9, 2015
Reimbursement will be sent on April 17, 2015

Claims in by April 16, 2015
Reimbursement will be sent on April 24, 2015

Claims in by April 23, 2015
Reimbursement will be sent on May 1, 2015

Infant Guidance...Letters to Parents

CACFP policies change over the years and if you are caring for infants, those policies can fluctuate a lot.

Providers are always receiving questions from parents regarding the formula and food policies that parents might want to bring. We have received some final clarification from Minnesota Department of Education.

As of June 1, 2015, CCNI will start mailing parents welcome letters when they enroll a new infant into your home. We will send you a copy, also, which may help all of us when these questions arise on what foods can be served infants in care.

THANK YOU For your hard work, as always
**Minnesota's Response to Proposed
USDA Rule Regarding Meal Pattern
Requirements in the CACFP**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866)632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202)690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800)877-8339; or (800)845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

April, 2015

The Minnesota Sponsors reviewed the proposed regulations and we are all in favor of great nutrition practices for young children. However, the group expresses concerns that some of the proposed changes may be too intrusive for parents when they choose nutrition for their children. Also, some of the proposals may be difficult to monitor and/or enforce. The responses below are going to be sent to USDA from the Minnesota Sponsors and CCNI. Please send your response to USDA and you can comment as many times as you wish.

INFANTS

- Revise infant age groups from three age groups to two age groups. **We are inclined to leave age groups as is as it seems to let parents decide when to introduce solid foods up through the 7th month of age.**
- Introduce solid foods to infants beginning at 6 months of age **See above answer: Monitoring and intrusive rules thrust upon families at the time their child turns 6 month may have negative impact.**
- Eliminate the service of fruit juice to infants of any age **We support this**
- Allow reimbursement for infant meals when the mother directly breastfeeds her child at the childcare facility. **We strongly supports this**
- Require a fruit or vegetable serving in the snack meal pattern for the 6 to 11 month infant age group **We aren't inclined to support this as it again becomes too intrusive for regulating infants must be served solid foods as a requirement for a 6 month old at snack.** Takes away the introductory time if an infant is required to have a fruit or vegetable served at snack at 6 months.
- Allow additional grain option for infant snacks. **Grains at snacks for infants are optional right now, anyway. What difference would it make if you served an optional cracker or an optional finger food cereal grain (such as cheerios)?**
- Do not allow cheese foods for infants. **We disagree with this requirement as it gives more variety in meat/meat alternate choices for infants.**

ONE YEAR AND OLDER

- Separate the fruit and vegetable component for children and adults **This should be a recommendation, not a requirement. It takes away the choice of vegetables at lunch.. such as potatoes and peas. We don't want too much government intrusion into child care homes and monitoring from the Sponsor's standpoint becomes and issue.**
- Require that at least one grain serving per day, across all eating occasions be whole grain or whole grain-rich **We feel this could be a recommendation, not a requirement. If a provider did not serve one whole grain during a day, which meal would be deducted? Monitoring would become an issue.**
- Require breakfast cereals to conform to WIC requirement **We support this. The lists are published and easy to move**

across one program (WIC) to another (CACFP). It would give better guidance to providers looking for nutritious foods for children.

- Prevent grain-based desserts from counting towards the grains components **We support this, however, we need to define "desserts".**
- Allow an optional meat/meat alternate to be served at breakfast in lieu of some grains **We question this as meat/meat alternates are currently allowable. We aren't sure if this would replace a grain at breakfast.**
- Allow tofu to be counted as a meat alternate **We agree as it offers more variety.**
- Allow yogurt to be used to meet the fluid milk requirement for adults only, no more than once per day. **CCNI Supports this for adult care.**
- Disallow frying as an onsite preparation method preparation method for daycare institutions and facilities . **We would like to add the term "deep-fat fry". The term "frying method" can be confusing as far as stir fry vegetables, hamburger for a combination dish, and other cooking methods that may not be detrimental to health like deep fat frying is.**
- Add a fourth age group (13 through 18 years) to the meal pattern for children. **No opinion.**
- Prohibit flavored milk to children 2 through 4 years **We object to the age group listed for these items. It looks as though children younger than 2 or older than 4 are allowed these items, but children 2-4 are not.**
OR
- Allow flavored milk to children 2 through 4 years with no more than 22 grams per 8 fluid ounces **We object to the age group listed for these items. We support education and recommendation on this.**
- Limit sugar content for yogurt to 30 grams per 6 ounce serving. **WE supports education and recommendation on this. Not requirements because of staff monitoring purposes.**

Deadline to submit a comment to the proposed rule is April 15, 2015.

Go to our website at www.childcarenutrition.com and click onto the link (upper right) of our page, under **"BREAKING NEWS"** That will link you to online comments page for USDA

Or write to:

James F. Herbert
Regulatory Review Specialist, FNS USDA
3101 Park Center Drive,
Alexandria, VA 22302