



Nutrition Program
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Background

The San Bernardino County Nutrition Action Plan Committee grew out of a charge by the USDA to “foster strong collaboration and information sharing across [Federally-funded nutrition assistance] program lines and support implementation of more integrated nutrition education and promotion activities at State and local levels.”

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/oane/SNAP/SNAP.htm> Dennis Stewart, Food Stamp Director for the Western Region USDA, challenged local Public Health Officers to mirror the State programs. The short-term goals are to increase participation in nutrition assistance programs and to coordinate services more efficiently. Long term goals include improvement in many quality of life indicators, such as improved ability of people to learn and work, reduced absenteeism and drop out rates, and lower health costs as a result of healthier eating.

Our first meeting in San Bernardino County was held on February 15, 2007, and included decision-maker level representatives from county programs, including Food Stamps/TAD, WIC, Preschool Services, Nutrition Network, Senior Nutrition/DAAS, and several school district Food Service Directors. We have continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis (six meetings in the past year) and have developed two major objectives for action.

Objective 1: Increase participation in nutrition assistance programs

1. Empower agencies to effectively and knowledgeably promote and refer participants to USDA-funded nutrition assistance programs
2. Determine feasibility of providing information about other nutrition assistance programs for which applicant may be eligible on agency's program applications and promotional materials (i.e., websites, flyers, etc.)
3. Create resource/referral product including information on various programs to be distributed by member organizations

Objective 2: Promote nutrition education for the target audience

1. Develop consensus on one nutrition education message for emphasis by participating agencies – Increase/promote fruit and vegetable consumption
2. Remain informed by members regarding the inclusion of nutrition questions on state standardized tests for schools; share information with other interested partners

Preliminary outcomes

We have had presentations from member organizations such as the Food Stamp Office, which is piloting the online Food Stamp application, C4 Yourself (www.c4yourself.com) We are currently working to promote the website to our target audiences through distributing and displaying posters and brochures about the website. CNAP members may request posters and camera-ready brochures from Dora Cook at dcook@hss.sbcounty.gov Members have also begin cross-linking their Nutrition Program websites with C4Yourself to promote Food Stamps.

Bob Knight of the Inland Orange Conservancy (IOC) (a local non-profit group seeking to promote local consumption of local citrus) presented to the group about Farm-to-School in September 2007. Connections were made with several school districts that are now purchasing local citrus and kiwis for their operations. Contact IOC at www.inlandorange.org

A one-page “At a Glance” listing of assistance programs is being developed by TAD with input from members. It will be provided to the target audience at agency's service sites. It will also be inserted into the free & reduced meal application and parent letter sent by partner School Nutrition Departments at the beginning of the school year to inform parents of additional resources for which they/their children may be eligible.

Members have received information on free and/or low cost nutrition education materials, including the *Children's Power Play! Campaign* (contact mdhason@dph.sbcounty.gov)

2008 SB CNAP meetings: March 18, May 20, July 15, Sept 16 at TAD Admin, 150 S. Lena, San Bernardino
For more information, please contact Melodee Lopez, RD (909) 387-6318 mlopez@dph.sbcounty.gov