

Food and Nutrition Network of Solano County

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Our first meeting was held late Spring 2004. We have had 20 meetings between April 2006 and February 2008.

Organizations involved:

- School Wellness Policy staff
- Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano County
- Regional Power Play
- Solano County Health and Social Services
 - Network for Healthy California
 - WIC Program
- UC Cooperative Extension
 - FSNEP
 - Agriculture

Focus: Healthy eating, active living and food security

2004 Outcomes included:

- Information about nutrition and physical activity and a food resource guide were added to the Food Stamp Application and Recertification packets
- Nutrition education classes were offered to food stamp clients for several months
- Recipe taste testing events were conducted in the waiting room of the Food Stamp office in Vallejo
- Four meetings/trainings for Food Providers of Food Bank agencies were conducted a variety of topics
- A training for four Food Bank employees was conducted on how to complete the Non Assistance Food Stamp packet. The Food Bank was given permission to conduct outreach among eligible populations at food distribution sites in the community.

2005 Outcomes included:

- Recipe taste tastings were continued at the Vallejo Food Stamp office
- Three workshops were conducted for Food Provider of Food Bank—topics included 2005 Dietary Guidelines, 30 Minute Meals, Fish Update.
- WIC Program staff assisted the Food Bank in conducting Hunger Surveys for a national survey sponsored by America's Second Harvest, the Food Bank Network.
- Fish and Seafood Safety training for 50 health professionals was conducted.
- A client newsletter "Eat Smart, Be Active" was developed and coordinated to match bulletin board and recipe bulletin boards.

- Distribution of Spanish/English “Eat Smart, Be Active” newsletters and bilingual Resource Guides through Food Bank programs.
- Nutrition education bulletin boards were developed for the waiting areas in Food Stamp offices, WIC offices and the Food Bank office.
- Shared information regarding Farmers’ Markets and the use of EBT cards

2006 Outcomes included:

- Recipe taste testing events were expanded to Fairfield Food Stamp office and to the Vacaville WIC office and continued with Vallejo Food Stamp office.
- Set-up hunger awareness information table, food tasting and food stamp outreach outside Health and Social Services during Hunger Awareness Week.
- Continued to organize and conduct four Food Provider Workshops (directed toward Food Bank member agencies)—topics included Bone Health, Myths and Facts about Food Stamps, Quick and Nutritious Meals, and the play “Hungry”
- Invitations to join FANNS were extended to UCCE agricultural representatives, and school district nutrition personnel.

2007 and 2008 Outcomes included:

- Continued with coordinated nutrition message for bulletin boards, recipes taste testing events and newsletters at Food Stamp offices, WIC offices, Food Bank sites and UCCE events.
- Conducted a “Myths and Facts about Food Stamps” training directed toward health services personnel attended by over 30 employees of the county and community based organizations
- Conducted four presentations of “Make it Safe, Keep It Safe,” a 3 hour food safety class.
- Bilingual recipe booklets and “Eat Smart, Be Active” newsletter provided by Solano Network for Healthy California project included in the box of food distributed at the Food Bank’s Food For Children program
- Presentation of FANNS Solano County Employment and Eligibility Managers.
- Adding new members from the Children and Weight Coalition, Farmers’ Market staff and local farms.
- Coordinated with the libraries for their National Library week to conduct Solano Iron Chef at two library locations.