1/24/13

Thursday Update

Dear Districts,

**OSN Staff Announcement from Jane Brand**

I am pleased to announce that the OSN has hired Heather Schoen for the vacant senior consultant position in our office. Heather is a Registered Dietitian and has several years of experience in school nutrition, first as a kitchen manager and then as a consultant dietitian in Boulder Valley School District. Additionally, during her internship Heather worked at the USDA Regional Office, where she developed cycle menus. Her first day was yesterday, 1/23, and she is already hard at work studying her new responsibilities: Team Nutrition, HealthierUS School Challenge, Nutrition Education, Wellness Policies, and Directors’ Conference. Please join me in welcoming Heather to the OSN!

**2013 Directors’ Conference**

Just a reminder that registration is open for the annual Directors’ Conference at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, February 20-22, 2013! District directors, menu planners, and small district cooks/managers are all encouraged to attend. A tentative agenda with meeting topics and registration details is on our website at:<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutridirectorsconference.htm>.

* **Registration Deadline: February 11**
* **Deadline for room reservations: January 30, 5:00 p.m.**

**Verification Results Worksheet**

Thank you to everyone who has submitted the VRW. If you have not yet completed it, this is just a reminder that the report is due by Friday 1 February. Please submit it early if possible, to allow time for any needed corrections to be made before the due date.

**Certification Approval**

Great news! The OSN has received 118 flash drives (containing Certification materials) from our 184 SFAs! So, with this many on hand in our office, we wanted to let everyone know that we are working as quickly—but also as carefully—as possible to get them all approved. Regulations state that we have up to 60 days to approve an SFA’s Certification after we have received all required materials. So, we appreciate your patience as we are working to approve everyone by the 60th day—or earlier, if possible.

**Validation Reviews**

We have received some questions concerning the Validation reviews, and so we wanted to share more information hopefully to make everyone feel more at ease about the process. The CDE OSN must conduct Validation reviews of 25% of all certified SFAs by June 30, 2013.  The purpose of the Validation review is to affirm that a certified (or about to be certified) SFA has been meeting and continues to meet the updated meal patterns from the time of Certification. The review also ensures that the meal service at the time of the Validation review is consistent with the Certification documentation submitted by the SFA.  If chosen, an SFA will be contacted by an OSN consultant at least three weeks before the Validation review is to be conducted.

* **Selection process:** SFAs are randomly selected from a pool of candidates.  Once certified (or close to Certification, meaning Certification documents have been submitted and have been approved by the first of two consultants), an SFA is entered into a pool.  All SFAs remain in this pool until the OSN has conducted the required number of Validation reviews.
* **How to prepare:** CDE OSN consultants will review menu production records for the certified week and the week we are conducting the review. Consultants will observe meal service for all of the distinct menus submitted for Certification.  When a consultant contacts an SFA, she will provide notice of which schools will be observed and when.  Our office is attempting to conduct these reviews as efficiently as possible so that we are at a district for a maximum of only a few days.

Please visit our website for additional information and resources related to Validation reviews: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriCertification.htm>. If you have any other questions about this process, please contact Brehan Riley, riley\_b@cde.state.co.us or 303-866-6299.

**Certified!**

Congratulations to the following SFAs that were certified for compliance with the new meal patterns over the past week: Calhan, Garfield 16, Eads, Manzanola, Weld RE-4 (Windsor), Adams 14, and Poudre. A job well done!



Thank you,

**Jennifer**

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~Thursday Updates (TU) are brought to you by the CDE Office of School Nutrition (OSN) & are provided to

Main Nutrition Contacts, F&R Contacts, Certification Contacts, Claim System Users, & our additional TU List.~

If today’s TU contains information pertinent to a different staff person in your district, please forward this information to that person. | To access the TU archives, click [here](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriEmails.htm).