4/30/12

SNAC – School Nutrition Advisory Council

Dear Districts,

You may remember that back in October (the 21st to be exact), our office sent out an email notifying everyone of the creation of a School Nutrition Advisory Council. ***The purpose of the SNAC is to inform and advise the CDE OSN on program development and implementation of Child Nutrition Programs and to serve as a resource and representative for School Food Authorities (SFAs) within specific regions***. The SNAC will promote the sharing of ideas and will provide a unified voice for all SFAs—large, medium, and small—within a strong web of communication. It will help the CDE OSN to make more informed decisions based on the diverse needs across the state. Some examples of recommendations the SNAC might make are in the areas of more effective training, improved communication, collecting information and feedback, publicizing best practices, and supporting SFAs during the review process.

We are very excited to announce that the SNAC has been formed, and we just recently launched the council with our first meeting, in Denver!

**Who Are the Council Members?**

* There are 20 SNAC members, who come from every area of the state, urban and rural, large and small.
* Each SNAC member has been assigned to represent 8-9 other SFAs in his/her region.
* To this email, we are attaching the following:
  + A list of SFAs on the council—and the respective SFAs that they will be representing
  + Pictures and bio’s of each council member, so you can get to know your representative better.

**What Are the Expectations for SFAs Not on the Council?**

* We hope that you will see this as a great opportunity to voice your suggestions, concerns, best practices, etc., to your council representative, so he/she can report back to the CDE OSN and the rest of the SNAC on what matters to you. This council was set up for *all* SFAs, so we would like everyone to be able to invest some time in the exchange of ideas and resources.
* Your council representative will be reaching out to you. Please also reach out to him/her as we seek to build up and strengthen personal relationships within the regions.

**Announcing a New Page on Our Website!**

* <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriSNAC.htm>
* The purpose of this site is to keep you informed on all of the happenings of the SNAC.
* Right now, we have the following available on the site:
  + The list of SFAs on the council—and the respective SFAs that they will be representing
  + A color coded map of the regions (Please note: RCCIs and charter SFAs are not shown on the map. Please see the list for these details.)
  + A list of council members and their contact information
* We will eventually be posting information from the meetings—and other valuable resources.

**Next Steps**

* Within the next few months (either at the end of this school year or at the beginning of the next), your SNAC representative will be contacting you to introduce him/herself, to establish a good way to communicate, and to begin working on this partnership that we will be building.
* The SNAC will be meeting four times throughout the year (the next meeting will be at the end of Sept). We will continue to keep you posted on the developments of the council.

Let us know if you have any questions or feedback!

Thank you,

--CDE OSN