5/21/12

Thursday Update (This Time on Friday)

Dear Districts,

**Announcing Thursday Updates!**

Again, you have spoken, and we have listened! At Directors’ Conference one of the districts brought up an idea, that they would like to see weekly update emails from CDE. Therefore, we have developed Thursday Updates. The purpose of this weekly email is to keep everyone posted on updates, news, events, and guidance—and to consolidate some of the information we send out, so everyone can know when to expect it and to have it in a more organized manner. There are a couple of exceptions, though. If something is pressing or has to go out on a certain date, we will not delay it just because it does not happen to be Thursday. Also, if we have no news, we will not send you an email just to send an email (though we know you like hearing from us ). If you are ever concerned that you may have missed a Thursday Update, don’t forget that we are also posting all of our emails on our website at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/nutriEmails.htm>. (Please note: This email today will be posted on Monday.)

**Staff Announcement from Jane Brand**

I am very excited to announce that the CDE OSN has hired some new staff, in an effort to better serve the districts. On Monday May 21, Katie Jackson will be joining us as our newest Senior Consultant (filling the position vacated by Michelle Guthrie). Katie’s background includes five years in the healthcare and food service management industry. She has a bachelor’s degree in Nutrition, Dietetics, and Hospitality Management. Also on Monday May 21,  Stacey Macklin will be starting in the position of Consultant Support. Stacey recently moved to Denver from Springfield, CO, where she was the Office Manager at Springfield Junior/Senior High School for the past 16 years. Stacey holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. At CDE she will be handling administrative duties and backing up the consultants on special projects and programs. Finally, on Monday June 4, Sara Silvernail will be joining our team as the Training Coordinator. Sara comes from the Child and Adult Care Food Program where she is currently Lead Trainer for that program. She is a Registered Dietitian and has her master’s degree in Nutrition.

I would also like to take this time to extend my deep appreciation to my current staff and to let all of you know how hard they have worked over the past few months, even despite being short staffed, in responding to districts’ needs and getting so much accomplished. I truly have a talented and dedicated team, who work very hard to serve Colorado’s SFAs, and so I wanted to take the time to recognize their efforts.

Finally, Brea Miller in our office has been working in the position of temporary administrative assistant for the past five months, while we were in the process of hiring for Consultant Support. Many of you have had the chance to communicate with her, either via phone or email, so I wanted to let you know that her last day will be next Friday May 25. Brea has been a tremendous asset to our office, in her great willingness to help us out and in being so responsive to our demanding deadlines! Brea plans to continue her college studies as she prepares for a career as a dental hygienist. We will truly miss her!

**New Meal Patterns: OSN’s Support**

Some of you probably saw the email exchange a couple of weeks ago regarding the challenges with the New Meal Patterns. We wanted to let you know that we hear your concerns, and we are always here to support you. We appreciate your suggestions, and we wanted to give you more information on some of the steps we are taking to help everyone through the Reauthorization changes. Regional trainings on the New Meal Patterns are updated on a weekly basis to guarantee that the most current information is taught at each class. New guidance on the New Meal Patterns is updated on our website as soon as we receive it so that you are informed as quickly as possible.  Further, we are sending out information to school administrators via the Scoop, a weekly update to school districts sent directly from CDE.  A parent brochure will also be available for SFAs interested in alerting parents about the New Meal Patterns.  In the future months, we will be providing certification trainings, which will teach SFAs how to submit specific documentation to become certified to receive the additional $0.06 reimbursement per lunch meal.  USDA is also looking into creating additional resources that will be helpful to SFAs, such as cycle menus based on the New Meal Patterns.

**6 Cents Survey**

As mentioned above, we will be providing more information on how SFAs can become certified to receive the additional six cents per lunch meal. At this time, we are working as a staff on the procedures we will be following for certification. Next week, please keep an eye out for a survey our office will be sending out. This brief survey will seek to determine how many SFAs intend to seek certification in SY 2012-2013. This information will help us to determine our work schedules and therefore develop a good plan for implementing the certification guidance.

**ANC Reminder**

We just wanted to remind everyone, if you have not already, to be sure to register for SNA’s ANC, which is in Denver this year. For more information, please see: <http://docs.schoolnutrition.org/meetingsandevents/anc2012/>.

**Free and Reduced Trainings**

Great news! We now have more information on the F&R trainings. Recently, we made the decision to allow everyone to take the training online (even if you are new this year), if you would like. This is a change. We will roll out more information on the online trainings soon. The online training will need to be completed by Friday 3 August.

For the regional trainings, we have three of them scheduled. Up to two people from a district may attend regional training.

Following are the dates and locations of the regional trainings. You must RSVP in order to attend. RSVPs will be accepted up to a week before the training date, but the earlier you RSVP, the better, as space is limited. Training is free, and a light breakfast will be provided. The primary topics are free & reduced meal application processing, direct certification, categorical eligibility, confidentiality, letters to parents, and income verification. Districts should bring a copy of the Eligibility Guidance for School Meals Manual. If you do not have a copy, please be sure to print one from: <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdenutritran/download/pdf/EligibilityManual.pdf>. Please bring with you any questions you have; there will be time for open discussion.

Please register for the regional trainings (if this is the option you are choosing) by sending an email to Jennifer Otey, otey\_j@cde.state.co.us with:

1. Name
2. Title
3. Email
4. Phone #
5. Desired training location

Locations and dates:

All trainings will be from 8:00am-12:00noon.

**Loveland –Tuesday 19 June**

Thompson School District, Board Room at the Administration Building at 500 South Taft, Loveland

**Grand Junction—Tuesday 24 July**

Mesa 51 School District, Basil T. Knight Center, 2523 F Road, Grand Junction

**Pueblo – Friday 10 August**

Pueblo City Schools Administration Bldg., 315 W. 11th St. Pueblo, Arapahoe Room

MapQuest should be able to provide you with specific directions to these locations.

Again, if you are choosing the on-line option, more information will follow.

Thank you, and have a great weekend!

Jennifer Otey

Consultant

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