

CHILD NUTRITION

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DATES TO REMEMBER

| | |
|---|----------|
| Direct Cert Match | Jan 17 |
| District On-Site Program Reviews Completed | Feb 1 |
| Severe Need District's Decision Form Due to CNU | Feb 1 |
| Distance Learning Workshop | Feb 6 |
| Severe Need Application Due | Feb 28 |
| Distance Learning Workshop | March 6 |
| FFVP Application Deadline | March 14 |
| Part 3 of New Director's Orientation | March 12 |
| Direct Cert Match | March |
| Poster Contest Entry Form Due | March 17 |
| Poster Contest Submissions Due to CNU | March 28 |

Arkansas Department of Education

Nutrition News

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A Tribute to Bill Herndon...

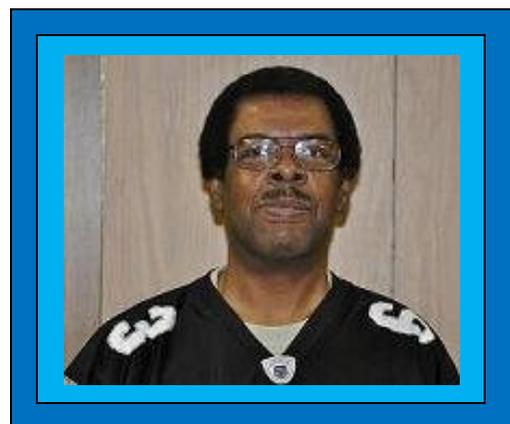
The Child Nutrition Unit has always said, "We are a family." And anyone who has ever stepped into our office can easily see and feel that. We are saddened to share that our family has lost one of its members.

William "Bill" Herndon Jr. passed away December 28, 2013 in his home.

Bill has four daughters, Toya Herndon, Athena Moore, Demi Marker, and Athena Herndon. He spoke of them and his grandchildren often.

Bill grew up in Nebraska and moved to Arkansas after graduating from the University of Nebraska—Lincoln.

He came to work for Child Nutrition in September 2003. He received two promotions during his time in CNU to become the Computer Support Coordinator for the office. His diligent work with databases and Excel ensured that the Managers' and Directors' Certification information was up-to-date, multiple reports were ran, and that the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program claims were paid, among many other duties that helped the process that feeds hundreds of hungry kids everyday.



Bill was always lighthearted and fun. You knew when he arrived at the office because he would turn on his favorite upbeat music! His sarcasm and witty humor often made the office laugh.

He willingly and patiently worked through any computer problem and provided great explanations of computer processes for the rest of the office staff. The databases he designed, complete with fun characters and fonts for easy identification, will serve as a daily reminder for all that Bill did for the Child Nutrition Unit and the children of Arkansas.

We will miss you!



*MARCH IS
NATIONAL
NUTRITION
MONTH! FIND
FUN AND
EDUCATIONAL
WAYS TO
CELEBRATE!*

*MANAGER'S
WORKSHOP
JUNE 16-27*

*DIRECTOR'S
CERTIFICATION
JULY 7-18*

*DIRECTOR'S
CONFERENCE
JULY 29-30*

*NEW
DIRECTOR'S
ORIENTATION
JULY 30-31*

Reminder...Direct Cert Match Dates

Friday, January 17, 2014

Monday, March 17, 2014

Child Nutrition Directors should be looking for an email that includes instructions for accessing the secure Direct Certification Match. If there has been a change to the district's Child Nutrition Director or if the director's email has changed...please send changes to

Ade.chnutdirectcertify@arkansas.gov

Or

Stephanie.starks@arkansas.gov



Community Eligibility Provision (CEP)

The Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 provides an **alternative to household applications** in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs.

The intent of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is to improve access to free school meals in eligible **high poverty Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) and schools** and to eliminate the administrative burden of collecting household applications.

The CEP was phased-in over a period of three years in a limited number of states and **will be available in Arkansas beginning July 1, 2014.**

Instead of applications, schools use claiming percentages based on the number of identified students for reimbursement in the school.

Identified students are defined as **students certified for free meals through means other**

than individual household applications in the School Year prior to implementing the provision. This includes both students who are directly certified (through the SNAP direct certification process) and categorically eligible (including Foster, Migrant, Head Start, and Runaway children).

LEAs and/or schools must have an identified student percentage of **at least 40%** (identified student percentage for 2014-15 school year is determined by dividing the number of **"identified students" as of April 1, 2014** by the number of "enrolled students" as of April 1, 2014 and multiplying the quotient by 100).

LEAs multiply the identified student percentage by a factor of 1.6 to arrive at the free claiming percentage. The difference between the free claiming percentage and 100% results in the paid claiming percentage. No meals will be claimed at the reduced

rate benefit.

The claiming percentage established for a school in the initial year is guaranteed for a period of four school years.

By April 15th of each year, LEAs must supply the State Agency with a list of schools with:

- An identified student percentage of at least 40%
- An identified student percentage greater than 30% but less than 40%

A Commissioner's Memo will be published soon with more information regarding this exciting Community Eligibility Provision. **This memo will include the steps that districts will need to take to help ADE CNU identify the schools and school districts that qualify for this provision.** Additionally, the Community Eligibility Provision will be the subject of an upcoming Distance Learning Workshop (announced by Commissioner's Memo).

2014 Summer Meals

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) through Arkansas Department of Human Services (DHS) and Seamless Summer Option (SSO) through Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit (ADE, CNU) play an Important Role in Communities.

- When school lets out, millions of low-income children lose access to school breakfast, lunch and afterschool meals that are available during the regular school year.
- Qualifying sites through SFSP and SSO fill this gap by providing free meals and snacks to children who might otherwise go hungry

Summer Meals Benefit Low-Income Children and Families

- SFSP and SSO contribute to the healthy growth and development of low-income children by providing them with nutritious snacks and meals when school is out so they are better able to learn when they

return to school.

- Many SFSP and SSO sites provide educational enrichment and recreational activities in addition to meals, which enables children to learn and stay safe when school is out. The meals served through SFSP draw children to these activities.
- Summer meals help parents stretch their food dollars at home during the summer months.

You can begin looking ahead to Summer 2014 and what you might do differently to further build your program. Consider your capacity to manage more sites next summer, to serve a greater number of children, and how you can improve the quality of each of your sites.

For additional information on Summer Food Service Program through DHS, contact Vickie Stewart at (501) 682-8869.

For more information on Seamless Summer Option through the Arkansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition Unit, contact Patricia Winders at (501) 324-9502.

Source:
Food Research and Action Center



It is never too early to start planning for summer meals. Arkansas children and families deserve your consideration!

Equipment Grants

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced that Arkansas will receive \$292,717 for FY 2013 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grant funds.

The funds are expected to make a significant investment in addressing the unmet need in our state, allowing school food authorities to purchase the equipment needed to

serve healthier school meals with an emphasis on more fresh fruits and vegetables, improved food safety, and expanded access.

More information will be released about these grants via Commissioner's Memo on the Arkansas Child Nutrition Website.

**NATIONAL
SCHOOL
BREAKFAST
WEEK
MARCH 3-7, 2014**

The Child Nutrition Unit welcomes all team members to their new positions!

Milestones—Rita Kraus

Rita Kraus joined the Child Nutrition Unit family in December. She is an Administrative Specialist providing clerical support for the seven Area Specialists. She was raised in Lamar, Arkansas and worked at Arkansas Nuclear One for around 20 years. She wanted a change from the nuclear industry and is happy about her position with the Child Nutrition Unit. “I believe it is very important for our kids to be healthy and happy,” Rita says.

Rita has a son (Cody) and daughter-in-law (Tiffany) in Knoxville, Arkansas and is patiently awaiting grandchildren. She also has two sisters and a brother in that area.

Rita has a sweet cocker spaniel named Jade. Her hobbies include bicycling (in the warm months), camping, watching old movies, and reading. Welcome Rita!



Milestones—Stephanie Starks

Stephanie Starks is from Little Rock, AR and joined the Child Nutrition Unit family in December. We are so excited!

Stephanie has no children but does have 30 nieces and nephews and a grandniece, grandnephew and another grandnephew on the way.

She loves to travel, and the best place she has gone so far

is Myrtle Beach, SC. She graduated from UALR with a bachelor’s degree in Psychology.

Stephanie has worked for the state of Arkansas within the Divisions of Behavioral Health Services and Children and Family Services for a total of six years.

She loves watching football and basketball, and her favorite

teams are Arkansas Razorbacks, Philadelphia Eagles, North Carolina Tar Heels and San Antonio Spurs. In her spare time, Stephanie hangs out with her friends and family members and relaxes at home.

Stephanie has chosen to work for the Child Nutrition’s Unit because she wanted something challenging and is very willing to learn something new.



Milestones—Vicki Hill

Vicki Hill came to Child Nutrition in December as the new SW Area Specialist.

Vicki was born in Mississippi County to a farm family. She moved to Little Rock at age 12 and graduated from Mt. St. Mary’s Academy. Vicki moved to Bismarck to raise her children in the country, and she has been there about 35 years. She graduated from Henderson State University with a degree in Business Manage-

ment. Vicki worked as a Travel Agent and Agency Manager for about ten years. She worked for AR Commodity Distribution as NSLP Coordinator for two years.

Then, the opportunity came open to work two miles from her creek-side home in Bismarck as Food Service Director. She worked there for nine years. She loved feeding the kids and working with the local district. Vicki worked

with Farm to School, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, AR Hunger Alliance, and the AR Grow Healthy Study.

Vicki says, “I am happy to be available to help the schools from my new job as Area Specialist. I hope to use my school experience to represent AR Child Nutrition programs with a director’s perspective.” We are glad to have her!

Vicki is married to Jack W Hill. She has 3 daughters and 7 grandchildren that she enjoys very much!

Milestones—Kristen Kaiser-Allen

We are happy to announce that Kristen Kaiser-Allen has returned to the Child Nutrition Unit. She is serving as the West-Central Area Specialist.

Kristen previously worked for ADE, CNU for three years as the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Consultant and as an Area Specialist. She has also worked for the Arkansas Department of Health, Health Fitness Corporation, and the Little Rock School District.

Kristen lives in North Little Rock and has two daughters. She is originally from Nashville, Tennessee and has lived in Little Rock for 17 years.



Distance Learning Workshop Topics

Distance Learning Topics for the upcoming months include:

January—No Distance Learning

February –Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Application Process; Severe Need; Seamless Summer Option; Community Eligibility

March—Community Eligibility Provision

April—TBA

Please remember that directors who are working toward certification are required to attend at least three Distance Learning Workshops. Directors working to maintain certification must obtain at least ten hours of continuing education each year.

Please visit the Child Nutrition website for more information about each month’s Distance Learning.

Distance Learning is a great way to stay informed about the latest Child Nutrition information.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program Update

The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program continues to do well.

Schools who operate this program should remember the following:

- Only 10% of the total grant award may be used on Administrative Costs
- The equipment purchase deadline for the year has passed—no additional equipment will

be approved

- The supply purchase deadline is April 15, 2014
- Schools should be spending approximately 10% of their grant award each month to ensure all funds are used.

Schools who are interested in applying for FFVP in the future should plan to attend the February Child

Nutrition Distance Learning Workshop to hear more about the application process.

Please note, the application process for SY 2014-15 will be different than in years past. The most notable change is a greater emphasis on Free/Reduced Percentages and little emphasis on application scoring. FFVP Application Deadline for SY 2014-15 is March 14, 2014.

**CELEBRATE
NATIONAL
AGRICULTURE
DAY
MARCH 25**

Share Our Strength 2014 Breakfast Grants

Share Our Strength 2014 Breakfast Grant money is now available!

In early January, breakfast grants will begin to be offered to help schools that wish to start an alternative breakfast delivery model such as Grab & Go, 2nd Chance or Breakfast in the Classroom. Grants of up to \$5000.00 per school can go toward purchasing supplies and equipment needed to implement an alternative breakfast model. Interested? Now is the time to start! If you

need help with your grant application, want suggestions on equipment you'll need to get started, or in implementing the program, contact Vivian Nicholson, Arkansas No Kid Hungry Breakfast Program Director. Vivian will meet with your Child Nutrition Director, Superintendent, Principal and others who have questions about how this program works.

Increasing breakfast participation has important benefits to kids:

- improved attentiveness
- fewer discipline problems
- better grades and test scores
- fewer trips to the school nurse
- higher attendance

If you are interested in increasing your breakfast participation, please contact:

Vivian Nicholson, Breakfast Program Director with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance/Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign 501-276-6715

Educational Opportunities and Resources

USDA Local Procurement

From January to June, USDA's F2S team will host two webinars per month on various aspects of local procurement. The webinars will occur on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, and will include guest speakers from state agencies and school districts. To receive notification of dates and times, please sign up for our F2S E-Letter: https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USFNS/subscriber/new?topic_id=USFNS_118

Tentative webinar schedule:

- Intro to procurement – January 9, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Local procurement baseline assessment – January 23, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Where to find local producers – February 13, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Informal procurement – February 27, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Using specifications to target local products – March 13, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Working with distributors – March 27, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Forward contracting – April 10,

2014 - 2 Eastern

- Geographic preference introduction – April 24, 2014, - 2 Eastern
- Geographic preference examples – May 8, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- USDA Foods – May 22, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- DoD Fresh – June 12, 2014 - 2 Eastern
- Tying it all together and digging in – June 26, 2014 - 2 Eastern

Food Research and Action Center

Child Nutrition conference calls and webinars are available through the Food Research and Action Center.

FRAC is the leading national organization working for more effective public and private policies to eradicate domestic hunger and undernutrition.

Follow this link for a list of available sessions about breakfast and summer meals:

<http://frac.org/webinar-and-conference-call-recordings/>

Cookbooks Available

The state of Vermont had a Team Nutrition grant, and they produced a standardized recipe book for school nutrition staff featuring healthy local foods. You can access it at Vermont Feed's New School Cuisine: Nutritious and Seasonal Recipes for School Cooks by School Cooks at: <http://www.vtfeed.org/tools>.

Project Bread, a nonprofit organization in Massachusetts, just released a recipe book for school meals and that can be accessed at: <http://support.projectbread.org/site/PageServer?pagename=childrenandschools>.

The state of Indiana has a new school food service cookbook that can be accessed at:

<http://www.doe.in.gov/sites/default/files/nutrition/sizzling-school-lunches-chef-cyndie.pdf>

ADE Commissioner's Communication Memos

The following Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner's Communication Memos relate to Child Nutrition Programs. A complete list can be accessed on the Child Nutrition Web page at <http://www.arkansaschildnutrition.org>

| Number | Date | Subject |
|------------|------------|--|
| COM-14-024 | 10/2/2013 | Classified School Employees with Paid Breaks and FLSA |
| FIN-14-038 | 11/12/2013 | December 2013 Distance Learning—Marketing Strategies |
| FIN-14-037 | 10/28/2013 | Wellness Committee Responsibilities |
| FIN-14-036 | 10/24/2013 | National School Lunch Program Verification Collection Report |
| FIN-14-034 | 10/24/2013 | November 2013 Distance Learning—Poster Contest, Coordinated Review Effort for 2013-14 School Year, NSLP Verification Collection Report, and Weighted Nutrient Analysis |
| FIN-14-031 | 10/8/2013 | Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School |
| FIN-14-029 | 10/1/2013 | Child Nutrition Marketing Strategies Workshop |
| FIN-14-027 | 9/18/2013 | October 2013 Distance Learning—The New Breakfast Meal Pattern Requirements and Offer vs. Serve |
| LS-14-015 | 8/3/2013 | New Submission Requirement to Identify a Foster Care Liaison to Ensure Continuity of Educational Services to Foster Children |
| FIN-14-025 | 9/5/2013 | Registration of Food Service Management Companies |
| FIN-14-024 | 9/5/2013 | Procurement of Food Service Management Company Services |
| FIN-14-022 | 9/3/2013 | 2014 Nutrition Education Poster Contest |
| FIN-14-020 | 9/4/2013 | USDA Eligibility Manual for School Meals, Revised Aug 2013 |
| FIN-14-015 | 8/12/2013 | Pre-school—APSCN/eSchoolPlus Cycle 2 Reports for Enrollment & Free/Reduced Price Eligibles |

Dr. Tom W. Kimbrell

Commissioner

Arkansas Department of Education

Miguel Hernandez

Assistant Commissioner

Fiscal and Administrative Services

Arkansas Department of Education

Suzanne Davidson

Director

Child Nutrition Unit

Arkansas Department of Education

Sheila Brown

Assistant Director

Child Nutrition Unit

Arkansas Department of Education

Stephanie Alsbrook

Project Manager and Editor

Child Nutrition Unit

Arkansas Department of Education

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