

## School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: February 3, 2022

00:00:00.000 --> 00:00:05.710

Yearwood, Shannon

Hey it is 2:00 o'clock and welcome to the School Lunch Tray Table Talk.

00:00:06.950 --> 00:00:25.040

Yearwood, Shannon

I am Shannon here would with the Connecticut State Department of Education and having joined by what we have rebranded as my team awesome so. Thank you so much for joining us today for Table Talk. I we are recording this and there is a transcript being generated so I just needed to warn you of that.

00:00:25.460 --> 00:00:51.030

Yearwood, Shannon

Uhm I tried typically to do housekeeping and the beginning of trainings. But I think you will know where your own restroom facilities are so certainly put yourself off camera. If you are if you are venturing there, so we will make these available as soon as possible. And I had neglected to if he joined us for January 20th. We had quite a technology bumpy relaunch to Table Talks so.

00:00:52.360 --> 00:00:59.700

Yearwood, Shannon

So eventually have to put together some sort of bloopers reel and at some point, we will make that available to the public not the bloopers reel.

00:01:00.850 --> 00:01:30.400

Yearwood, Shannon

But we will do the recording and you can always find those at the School Lunch Tray Table Talk. I web page that we are created uh it. Both houses previous editions of the school lunch trade newsletter that you receive every Wednesday afternoon. And it's indexed to make it really easy for you to find the hot topic that you're looking for and then you just click in there and you can learn about that topic, or you don't have to dig through your emails trying to find exactly where that was and you could also see us, telling you all about those.

00:01:30.460 --> 00:02:01.290

Yearwood, Shannon

Topics so we will get this. This is a newer platform for us to use for the Table Talks. So, it is taking a little bit longer than ideal for us to figure out some of the kinks with the whole recording and transcript and making that. So certainly once we have our our few of these under our wings. Hopefully we can get a good process in place to make posters or available to you, a little bit sooner in the meantime. We are always here. So, you can always respond to always reach out to us with any of you.

00:02:01.580 --> 00:02:32.470

Yearwood, Shannon

Jim and to that end, we do have so I just I also neglected to say in your School Lunch Tray newsletter. You receive every Wednesday and it's tremendous that you guys like the new the new format. We're really excited that that's working for you, if you look at the little sentence right above

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the picture of the at the School Lunch Tray right there. At that link will always be there and that will bring you right to that school lunch trade end Table Talk web page. So, you have to search for it. Nothing you could just click on it.

00:02:32.530 --> 00:02:55.470

Yearwood, Shannon

And then bookmark that in your browser and save it right next to your program guidance bookmark because I know that all of you have that bookmarked as well. Great resources on there, so I'm really excited to be joined by my team. I know really. I can't wait to someday see them. Again, 3 dimensionally but until then will be the Department of Education. Brady bunch for you and so with that I am joined.

00:02:58.040 --> 00:03:02.470

Yearwood, Shannon

I apparently there's an unknown participant training. I didn't know that was an announcement so hello.

00:03:03.000 --> 00:03:32.630

Yearwood, Shannon

And so I'm just gonna go through really quickly and introduce my team. I neglected to do that. Last time so we have Susan Alston, who is on our school's team we have Monica Pacheco, who is who is pretty much everything. She is USDA Foods Farm to school procurement. We have Andy Paul. Some of you guys, just joined us for our food service management contract training this morning. So, he has, definitely been spending a lot of time in front of his computer with us.

00:03:32.680 --> 00:03:54.220

Yearwood, Shannon

Today's so he does food service management company fresh fruit and vegetable and procurement. We have Teri Dandeneau know who's also on our school's team and we had, and she also does all the direct certification works. So, you guys definitely know her, and we have to Re Seminary, who's on ours our summer meals team and.

00:03:54.670 --> 00:03:55.640

Yearwood, Shannon

I just

00:03:56.250 --> 00:04:23.430

Yearwood, Shannon

I really, I could go on and on, but my team really probably also wants a chance to talk. So, we have Susan Fiore, who is I refer to her as our central nervous system. She is the person who creates all of that program resources and guidance and makes it, so you don't have to recreate anything. Everything we have available to you. On our website will help you run your operations. Caroline Cooke, who is also on our summer meals team and you guys will hear a lot for both.

00:04:25.300 --> 00:04:27.510

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright unknown participant didn't wanna stay.

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00:04:28.150 --> 00:04:42.850

Yearwood, Shannon

We have also off and you live round who's on our schools team as well so. Thank you so much to my team who's been doing such tremendous work and with that. I am going to go ahead and pass it along to Teri so Susan Fiore if you don't mind pulling up the.

00:04:43.770 --> 00:04:45.010

Yearwood, Shannon

Well, I'm sure I will hand it off.

00:04:47.350 --> 00:04:48.250

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you Shannon.

00:04:49.450 --> 00:04:53.310

Dandeneau, Therese

Thank you. Everybody it's really good to see all of you, although I don't see you right now.

00:04:54.140 --> 00:05:23.010

Dandeneau, Therese

Glad you're all here. I'm going to talk about on-site monitoring, and this was in your February first, 2022, School Lunch Tray. It's important that you know cause. We do get questions about on-site monitoring and some people have asked if there's still required to do it. And yes, you are, and for both the National School lunch program school breakfast. Seamless summer option and after school snack program. You want to refer to the School Lunch Tray for December.

00:05:23.430 --> 00:05:54.290

Dandeneau, Therese

Was issued on December 22nd because that gives you some of the requirements that and in a summary format and also that we do have a template that you can use and it's specific to the seamless summer option. For example, and it's under monitoring forms and that would be the one for example, that I use that you would use for the seamless summer option and you also in addition to doing on site monitoring. It is, do it was due. By February, first if you haven't done it get it done.

00:05:54.530 --> 00:06:11.180

Dandeneau, Therese

You wanna make sure that you file it? Not with us not in your online system. But you wanna file it at your school district or in your office so that way. If you ever get audited, you will be able to take a look at it and we can pull it out or the auditors OK.

00:06:14.010 --> 00:06:17.800

Dandeneau, Therese

In addition to the onsite monitoring requirements on your also.

00:06:18.450 --> 00:06:23.590

Dandeneau, Therese

Required if you have a food service management company contract to complete a separate.

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00:06:24.170 --> 00:06:45.870

Dandeneau, Therese

Food service management company contract monitoring form and they have to be done, 2 times a year and we recommend that the first monitoring visit occur by October first and then the follow up visit occur. By February, first and the sample food service management company monitoring forms are on our website as well.

00:06:46.690 --> 00:07:09.760

Dandeneau, Therese

And so you want to take a look at those and make sure that those are done and some of you have asked well. You know who's responsible? What kind what person needs to do the monitoring and it's the person that's designated as in the RFP as the responsible for the contract oversight and some districts may contract it out and that's OK.

00:07:10.330 --> 00:07:27.060

Dandeneau, Therese

Uh and it's also OK to have another staff person completed as long as that staff person has knowledge of the program and of the contract OK and what the school child nutrition programs are all about. I don't know if Andy if you want to add anything to that.

00:07:29.850 --> 00:07:31.530

Dandeneau, Therese

If not yeah.

00:07:31.320 --> 00:07:37.690

Paul, Andrew

No, I think you I think you hit on everything and and we talked to the districts this morning about that as well so.

00:07:38.460 --> 00:07:39.920

Dandeneau, Therese

Hey thanks Sandy.

00:07:40.250 --> 00:07:40.580

Paul, Andrew

Yep.

00:07:40.650 --> 00:07:43.630

Dandeneau, Therese

So now I'm going to forward it to Monica.

00:07:45.990 --> 00:07:58.730

Pacheco, Monica

Thanks Teri good afternoon, everybody. I just want to do a quick overview of the USDA Foods Commodity Credit Corporation. Otherwise, known as CCC items that are available for ordering.

00:07:59.600 --> 00:08:16.950

Pacheco, Monica

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As many of you know, we were all an additional bonus amount of money to order additional USDA Foods this year and we had nearly 2.9, \$1,000,000.00 allotted to Connecticut. This was based on a meal counts from the 1819 school year.

00:08:17.990 --> 00:08:26.430

Pacheco, Monica

And we opened the catalog today and I'm thrilled to say that we know you all know about it because there are orders already coming in so.

00:08:27.800 --> 00:08:36.430

Pacheco, Monica

But I just want to start with first that please read the directions that we put in the School Lunch Tray yesterday. This just came out yesterday for anyone who may not realize it.

00:08:36.870 --> 00:08:56.630

Pacheco, Monica

Uh we need to first use a bonus items ordering worksheet to determine what your order is gonna be all of you have the attachment that also includes the allotted amount of dollars that are yours. Based on your district meal counts and you need to pay attention to that number because you can't order over that number.

00:08:57.590 --> 00:09:13.990

Pacheco, Monica

As with many things that have happened during the pandemic. This is a new one time only unique program that the current web supply system was not set up to do so. We're retrofitting and, in this case, we do not have a way of capping the purchasing.

00:09:15.310 --> 00:09:40.290

Pacheco, Monica

Like we usually do when you have entitlement and we set the entitlement and then can be capped the system won't let us do it with this program, so you need to make sure that you've done your calculations use that worksheet and do not exceed what was allotted to your district. I will say we will be monitoring carefully and if we see people have over ordered we're going to be canceling out those orders and letting you know you have to go back in and do it again and not go over.

00:09:41.030 --> 00:10:01.830

Pacheco, Monica

Believe it or not, that's already happened today. So, I'm glad you're excited to order UM. It's a little understandable usually are bonus items are allotted to a state in the buy truckloads. So, we have a finite amount of items that we know we can order and it's a little easier to manage this way. It's by the dollar so it's a completely different system.

00:10:02.810 --> 00:10:10.540

Pacheco, Monica

So again please look at the form that says the ordering amounts for recipient agencies. It will tell you how much you have.

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00:10:11.270 --> 00:10:11.860

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm.

00:10:12.840 --> 00:10:30.610

Pacheco, Monica

Then go into the worksheet and there's a little snip below there that you will see that shows what it looks like when you go into the catalog so you'll see a category called CCC and then you will go into the direct delivery, and you have either meat or poultry items and under either. One you'll see the tab for bonus and then you'll see the catalog.

00:10:31.980 --> 00:10:43.670

Pacheco, Monica

So it's very simple to order it's otherwise just like you normally do the directions for how to order if you need a refresher cause. I know it doesn't happen all the time we have the training guide right on our web page and.

00:10:45.020 --> 00:10:57.090

Pacheco, Monica

Also, the worksheet and that listing of the amount of entitlement or excuse me dollars for each district are all linked on our web page as well as linked here in the School Lunch Tray.

00:10:58.080 --> 00:10:59.590

Pacheco, Monica

So just a few.

00:11:01.280 --> 00:11:11.860

Pacheco, Monica

Follow UPS when you do go in, you'll notice that the pricing may be slightly different from our worksheet to what it is in the actual catalog that happens, all the time when you do your regular orders, Please remember that.

00:11:12.510 --> 00:11:14.410

Pacheco, Monica

What we take as a pricing is a?

00:11:15.040 --> 00:11:28.850

Pacheco, Monica

Moment in time pricing when we place when we create those worksheets and in web supply. Those prices are updated all the time So what you know if you go in next week in place your order. It could be a little different so make sure you take that into account as well.

00:11:30.240 --> 00:11:53.040

Pacheco, Monica

Also, please don't rush in and happy like you have to order today. This is not that short turn around. This is all we have the whoever gets it gets. It's kind of an order. You have that in that allotted amount. It is yours. So, you know if you place the order today or if you place your order the day

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before the deadline that is your amount and it's there for you, so you know take the time to think through your orders use the worksheet and prepare yourself.

00:11:54.420 --> 00:12:25.380

Pacheco, Monica

And then Lastly but very importantly, if you are new to your district and and or brand new and you don't have access to web supply or you don't know what we're talking about here. Please reach out to Alison or myself right away. It will be happy to walk you through it will be happy to get you set up in web supply. If we still need to do that. We need to have you in there anyways cause right after this comes the regular ordering period, so this is perfect timing reminder the deadline is the 15th. You have almost 2 weeks, so again think this through take advantage of these bonus items.

00:12:25.430 --> 00:12:27.790

Pacheco, Monica

And reach out to me or Allison if you need anything.

00:12:28.740 --> 00:12:32.800

Pacheco, Monica

And I think that covers it so I believe I'm passing it on to fool next.

00:12:33.990 --> 00:13:03.770

Yearwood, Shannon

And refer I'm gonna jump in really quick to come before we pass it to formula to just really reemphasize that because this is with Monica 's added retrofit and this these supply chain assistance funds. There's several different pools of money and they are meant to address the current supply chain challenges so they we get the information fast. We turn it around as fast as we can put these systems are not set up for this so we will not have the time, like we have in the past when you over.

00:13:03.820 --> 00:13:07.650

Yearwood, Shannon

Order to be able to go in and provide a lot of technical assistance.

00:13:07.900 --> 00:13:39.280

Yearwood, Shannon

And that is why it's extraordinarily important you don't go over not even a dollar over what you have. In what you've been allotted, or we will have to cancel it and you will have to start from scratch. So, you'll go in there, you might start ordering and you might realize that you aren't getting a cap and so it will be very exciting like he won the food lottery, but don't get too excited because it's not the Food Lottery. It's just the system is not set up to set a cap and this is a very fast order very fast program.

00:13:39.560 --> 00:14:10.690

Yearwood, Shannon

So, please, please, please. Please read the instructions very carefully go through with the pen and make sure you're checking off each item. And that you're following those instructions. Our team spends hours, putting those things together to make him as helpful and understandable as possible to you. We have a small, small team for a lot of you out there and so it's extremely important. You

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read that action items from fiscal lunch tray every week. The need to know and it's good if you read the good to know.

00:14:10.890 --> 00:14:40.880

Yearwood, Shannon

But you need to read those things need to follow those instructions step by step. Otherwise, you know, don't just call us right away. Make sure cause the first thing we're going to say is did you read those instructions and so please? Do that because we are stretched very thin trying to help everybody through these very strange times, so let's do this together, we're community here, we can make all of this work. If we all do our part and so that's my plea to please please. Please read the instructions go through them. Follow them and you will be OK if our instructions are.

00:14:40.930 --> 00:14:54.470

Yearwood, Shannon

Ever unclear you wanna make suggestions for improvement. We are always open to that. What makes sense to us may not make sense to you so certainly give us that feedback because we want to make it as useful as possible, and now you know you can take it over from the list.

00:14:59.840 --> 00:15:19.290

Brown, Fionnuala

OK, great, so the first item. I'm gonna cover is just a reminder. We are providing these workshops this year. This is the the second workshop covering Step 2, A 4 at the local school Wellness policy assessment, so dumb.

00:15:20.170 --> 00:15:50.200

Brown, Fionnuala

We did our we did a workshop this week in the morning and now next week on the 16th from one to 3 were going to come to redo the workshop so again this just covers Step 2 of the assessment. These are the local school Wellness policies they need to be assessed. This is the first time ever. USDA is requiring this. It was initially due in 2020 and now it's been pushed off, but it will be do.

00:15:50.350 --> 00:16:20.380

Brown, Fionnuala

June 30th, 2022, if you are on this call and you're not sure if this pertains to you. You need to connect with other individuals at your school in the district and see who this falls under it, is a requirement under the National School lunch program that any school or sponsor public, private or RCC. I that participates there required to have these local school Wellness policies and they are all required to conduct this assessment.

00:16:20.610 --> 00:16:50.860

Brown, Fionnuala

So, please if you're not familiar with this and you're you think. Maybe it doesn't pertain to you. You need to connect with the other individuals in your district and see who is taking who's taking care of it. We had probably about 40. I want to say about 40 sponsors reported at the beginning of this year that they had completed the assessment so that leaves about 130 that are somewhere in the process. They may have started it. They may have just one step.



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00:16:50.910 --> 00:16:56.320

Brown, Fionnuala

One more Step 2 book but our responses to these workshops are.

00:16:57.610 --> 00:17:27.310

Brown, Fionnuala

Are pretty low? Which is OK but we're only having about 10 to 20 individuals joint joined the workshops sponsors so. So, it's not too late next week. You can jump into Step 2, the next item. I'm gonna cover was the Resource Roundup we sent out last week and I'll give be able to point you in into the resources to be able to accomplish step. One so that's the reminder about the.

00:17:27.690 --> 00:17:39.810

Brown, Fionnuala

School Wellness policy assessments, there, it's called the triennial assessment, but this is the first one ever, but the the guidance from USDA is that this will be done every 3 years.

00:17:40.440 --> 00:17:43.910

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh so for the resource roundup, we wanted to.

00:17:44.730 --> 00:17:51.880

Brown, Fionnuala

Show you the chart and all of the resources we have to support your efforts to to complete this assessment.

00:17:52.490 --> 00:17:54.500

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh so.

00:17:58.480 --> 00:18:03.520

Brown, Fionnuala

Thanks, Susan. I'm seeing that on the screen, there, if you could just make it a little bigger Yep.

00:18:04.690 --> 00:18:25.260

Brown, Fionnuala

So we have this chart as I said, we put this together last year. We have been collaborating with the Red Centre. You come Red Centre Marlene Schwartz and then Sarah Mickey or the the individuals. We've been working with, and we've developed this so I'm going to start off on this chart and and let you know that.

00:18:28.150 --> 00:18:57.220

Brown, Fionnuala

I mentioned that you may not be very familiar with this, or you might be familiar. You might be at the point right now where you are trying to activate your Wellness committee. You're trying to get other individuals involved. You might be asking who's responsible to take care of this so the first 2 items. Here, the guidance document and then the video would be what you would want to send to

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your Wellness committee or your principal or the Superintendent to say. This this requirement is new, we, we need to take.

00:18:57.280 --> 00:19:28.030

Brown, Fionnuala

Take care of this and this first document. I'm going to have Susan click into is the guidance for the school Wellness policy training assessment, so this is a a few pages long 6 or 7 pages. We put this together, because it's a nice overview that outlines the the requirement to assess your policies and as I said, we worked with the The Rudd Center and we broke down. This assessment into 4 different steps and we spent a lot of time on creating videos.

00:19:28.080 --> 00:19:45.170

Brown, Fionnuala

In Worksheets and the chart when we go back, we'll go over that. But what's nice is that each step gives you the time needed the staff needed the materials needed, and a brief overview of that specific step.

00:19:45.530 --> 00:19:46.240

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm.

00:19:46.850 --> 00:20:17.130

Brown, Fionnuala

So just to take a a. A larger look that the USDA tasks. All of the sponsors to assess their policies but didn't really give us a process to do that, so the Rudd Center has these tools, the that cover step. One and Step 2 and so then again, I just wanted to show you this document to see that it breaks off each of the steps into the time needed the staff needed and the materials needed so Susan you could go back to the.

00:20:17.180 --> 00:20:47.640

Brown, Fionnuala

To the chart now, so if I was a food service director trying to bring other members of the Wellness team up to speed with this process or you. You've been hearing me talk about it for the last year and a half but to try and make sense of it even for yourself. I would look at this guidance document. I would send that to anyone. You're trying to make them aware become familiar with what? What is required and and who needs to do? What this first video is a 3-minute video?

00:20:47.690 --> 00:20:59.510

Brown, Fionnuala

So again this is a nice if they don't want to read about it. They can watch the video about this process and what has to happen and then as I said, we broke it off into 4 different steps so.

00:20:59.820 --> 00:21:16.500

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm the reminder for the workshop for next week is is regarding Step 2 and so it's a 2-hour workshop and it's hands on and you need to have step. One completed before you attend that workshop and it's not too late so.

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00:21:16.830 --> 00:21:47.240

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm step one is comparing your policy to a model policy. Now, if I can direct your attention over to the videos what I found was really useful. I had to help somebody with the 3rd item. There, how to find your local Wellness policy. I had a brand-new food service director and she said. Well, we have these policies, but maybe we have other items. This is a 8-minute video and it walks through for anybody who's wondering where do I gather all these documents so it may not be?

00:21:47.590 --> 00:22:06.110

Brown, Fionnuala

Neatly in a file on your desktop you may be searching around on the school's website asking the Superintendent 's office trying to figure out where policies regarding Wellness in schools? Are are held you know, so you'll be gathering, many different things. So, this is a great.

00:22:06.220 --> 00:22:25.990

Brown, Fionnuala

Come 8-minute video that kind of talks about that and then the other videos walk through this first step of comparing your policy to a model policy, which is done via the Wellness school assessment tool, which was created by the front center and it's and it's and it's a.

00:22:26.690 --> 00:22:32.730

Brown, Fionnuala

Pretty straightforward and they're the experts in that and they're available to answer any questions if you are unable to.

00:22:32.790 --> 00:22:34.650

Brown, Fionnuala

Umm uh.

00:22:35.380 --> 00:22:51.220

Brown, Fionnuala

Click on the different things and watch the video as far as how how to complete it. So, if you've done all of that and you still have questions. They're they're certainly available for that, so each step as I mentioned to talks about what you're accomplishing on the left and then we have created a a?

00:22:51.900 --> 00:23:03.290

Brown, Fionnuala

A worksheet and then a video I will say this is the first year with our collaboration with the Red Centre. They're able to Automate, now Step 2, so that was all done on paper.

00:23:03.340 --> 00:23:13.230

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh from last year and before that, but now this interview or implementation, which looks at the the Wellness practices.

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Brown, Fionnuala

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A is is automated so that's where I'm saying kind of step. One has to be done because it's all done on the well sat website, you'll get you'll have to register which can take just a few minutes and you get user ID and password. So, it's one person who's really completing step. One and Step 2 and then I have a number of sponsors after this last workshop that are on Step 3 and kind of like all right now. I need to involve other individuals, so that's where kind of highlighting.

00:23:44.190 --> 00:24:14.630

Brown, Fionnuala

Guidance document that video because as the food service director or the business manager. You're not gonna be be accomplishing. This step by yourself, which is making those connections between your policy and your practice. So, I would bring try and bring the committee up to speed and regarding this assessment and then being able to present the results of step. One and Step 2 and then you're making these connections and then the last step, which there is a video and a worksheet.

00:24:14.710 --> 00:24:32.750

Brown, Fionnuala

You need to just summarize your findings, and this can be done in many different ways. We have some districts who have a very short concise report, or you know summary utilizing our worksheet and then I've seen other districts that have.

00:24:32.810 --> 00:25:03.180

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh many pages huge comprehensive assessment and they're they're they're putting kind of everything out there that they have discovered throughout this process, so there is no right or wrong as long as you have gone through the the requirements that that USDA has has outlined and that is comparing your policy to a local policy assessing the implementation of those policies. How would they be practicing how is it happening out in the school is it happening?

00:25:03.670 --> 00:25:17.880

Brown, Fionnuala

And then Lastly summarizing your results and then making that available to the public. So, you'll have to come at the end of this June that's the deadline of June 30th, 2022, is that you will be.

00:25:19.240 --> 00:25:47.090

Brown, Fionnuala

Sharing your assessment with the public and I've also had many questions like Oh, it's it's completely overwhelming. There's so many different things going on right now for food service directors as far as something else being put on their plate. But we we really have tried to break this apart provide you the tools. I would suggest trying to get support from principles administration those other Wellness committee members.

00:25:47.510 --> 00:26:04.970

Brown, Fionnuala

The nurses, health teachers, whatever it may be so it should not be the food service director alone is certainly a finishing up Step 3 or 4 because that is not not the intent and and then finally this is just the.

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00:26:05.770 --> 00:26:36.990

Brown, Fionnuala

The assessment so no changes need to be made by June 30th, 2022, so you may discover that you. You know are doing a number of things in practice, but there's no nothing about that in your Wellness policy and you know that may be a conclusion. You come to that. You may want to present some language to the board to to adapt into your Wellness policy. Or maybe you find that you have very strong language and policies, but things are not happening out.

00:26:37.060 --> 00:26:56.660

Brown, Fionnuala

In the US schools, so it's more maybe training for staff and that all comes after June 30th, 2022, when you put together kind of a plan for the next year or 2, moving forward. So, I really just wanted to. We wanted to highlight in the resource Roundup. This chart and all of the the.

00:26:57.260 --> 00:27:00.290

Brown, Fionnuala

The tools available to you to help you accomplish this.

00:27:00.340 --> 00:27:11.480

Brown, Fionnuala

This task I am available if you have any questions, please. Feel free to email me or call me and I'll be available to to help with that.

00:27:20.040 --> 00:27:24.570

Brown, Fionnuala

I'm sorry I think I got cut off am I even still on.

00:27:25.940 --> 00:27:29.650

Alston, Susan

I think are you all set if you're all set then it then I'm up for Nova.

00:27:26.680 --> 00:27:27.130

Brown, Fionnuala

My.

00:27:30.020 --> 00:27:35.250

Brown, Fionnuala

I'm I'm all set now with my checks. Yes, I'll set passing it over to you Susan Alston.

00:27:32.100 --> 00:27:32.460

Alston, Susan

K.

00:27:33.780 --> 00:27:34.320

Alston, Susan

OK.

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00:27:35.250 --> 00:28:04.860

Alston, Susan

OK, great. Thank you so I'm gonna do the second resource Roundup and this one was from this week. I'm so you would have received it yesterday last week. USDA sent out a a document for supply chain supply chain tool kit. That wasn't originally created for by the FNS Midwest region that was then taken in kind of adapted by our northeast regional staff up at FNS and I provided it out to all of the northeast regional states.

00:28:05.890 --> 00:28:13.600

Alston, Susan

And it it's it's if PDF document that has some resources that you can use to look at the provide?

00:28:14.450 --> 00:28:20.280

Alston, Susan

A great overview of supply chain issues that we're dealing with or that you're dealing with Out in the schools.

00:28:20.640 --> 00:28:36.740

Alston, Susan

From the the document itself is a PDF. We have it linked to on our website, so that you could find it. They start with and you could see there's some quotes. They're kind of giving you a whole overview of of everything so once we get through the quotes from.

00:28:37.410 --> 00:29:04.580

Alston, Susan

The you know the Secretary of Agriculture, there, they started to get into 6 different topics that they're focusing on they talk a little bit about the supply chain challenges that are schools might be facing and they talk a little bit about the pandemic. You know truck driver shortages surge. It's in demands and the things that are causing those supply a change challenge at school a little bit further down Susan Fiore.

00:29:05.590 --> 00:29:06.190

Alston, Susan

Thank you.

00:29:07.440 --> 00:29:38.130

Alston, Susan

OK, so they talk about they go over the different supply chain challenges in school as their first first topic the second topic that they're talking about has to do with the ways that the USDA is supporting schools and what they are doing so. If someone says to you. What is the USDA doing to help you guys you know, and we know they're and they increase the reimbursement by providing the SFSP reimbursement rate under SSO this year. They've offered the meal pattern flexibility emergency noncompetitive.

00:29:39.010 --> 00:30:02.760

Alston, Susan

Per chairman so all of those are listed here and provide links so that if you're receiving questions

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from your administration or from parents and this is a good place to go to to help you kind of give you links to where you can find the information, referring back to the waivers and things like that, and the 3rd section of this, which I thought was sort of interesting and gave me a chuckle when I read it.

00:30:03.150 --> 00:30:14.970

Alston, Susan

Uhm well sorry data points, it, it gives you some updates on the different things of Mail counts and things from this school year on that you can look at and and see the reach of our programs.

00:30:16.240 --> 00:30:45.370

Alston, Susan

But the future of school meals there, it is kind of vague, you know where they know that we're looking for you know more concrete answers, but if you can you look at what it says there, we know that the flexibilities right now are only good through June 30th 2022 and then you know they put in there. What will happen next year. Well, there answer. There is it's too early to speculate about next year, which you know for any of us. It's never too early like we would have preferred to have this information.

00:30:45.420 --> 00:31:11.030

Alston, Susan

You know December first so we're all still waiting but we do know that they are in talks. They're talking with the States and the stakeholders and I'm trying to figure out what they're gonna do, and and really trying to make sure that schools and our programs are successful as we either transition out of our programs that were in this year and how we bring that back to regular operating or what this summer and next year will.

00:31:12.800 --> 00:31:29.280

Alston, Susan

The 4th section has to do with messages for schools to share. I'm so this sort of reminds me of what we snack time. Sorry snack provided when they had that tool kit for the 5 reasons to try a school meals. The first one has to do with.

00:31:30.800 --> 00:31:39.130

Alston, Susan

Hey toolkit or sort of images and letters done by project bread project bread is a nonprofit.

00:31:39.200 --> 00:32:10.290

Alston, Susan

Uhm organization that provides food assistance in Massachusetts, so if you click on that link and Susan. You don't have to you will have access to some images about what you can put on social media. If you have a a menu change for the day letters that you can submit or send out to parents of some templates for that and also what I thought was interesting in that tool kit that they provide is they have some things that you could use to highlight some of your staff.

00:32:10.590 --> 00:32:30.730

Alston, Susan

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Social media outlet through other ways, so definitely check that out. There's some great resources in that and then the other one. The second letter is from FNS and it's a template letter. So, it's a letter developed by FNS that you could use and customize to yourself on that that you could then send out to families, highlighting all the issue to go around.

00:32:31.980 --> 00:32:49.250

Alston, Susan

So probably change issues and then you can add a little bit of it. I thought it was a great starting point. I mean, if you're thinking like I'd love to let my family 's know what's happening. But I just don't know how to get there, so definitely check out those 2 links the next section is just resources and best practices, so there's you know.

00:32:50.260 --> 00:33:14.020

Alston, Susan

Anything that you might look at to trying to you know figure out what you're gonna do with some issues that you might have having so summer meals flexibility. The summaries of the flexibilities you know the chain at the supply chain issues any of those things that you might need more information on or might be looking for resources and what you can do definitely check out the links there.

00:33:14.900 --> 00:33:45.150

Alston, Susan

Uhm and the last one has to do with what the government actions were the what the government is currently doing to help support these support you in your supply chain challenges so you can click on some of these. I'm just talking about what you know the action plan for America 's ports and how they're trying to move things a little faster and and get them to you. the USDA and how they're distributing the that 1.5 billion dollars through the extra funding.

00:33:45.200 --> 00:33:54.690

Alston, Susan

Related to supply chain issues, UM and they give really do if you Scroll down a little further. Susan there is a chart there to explain each of them.

00:33:55.640 --> 00:34:26.500

Alston, Susan

The ways that that money at 1:00 point, I think it was 5 billion dollars is going to be sent out to schools. You know, Shannon mentioned I think it was. Maybe 2 weeks ago but then again at the next conference last week that Connecticut has received some additional funds for the supply chain assistance funds, and we will be getting that out to schools, and we will be sending out more information on that in the next couple of weeks. But this chart kind of takes each of those ways that we have been provided money.

00:34:26.880 --> 00:34:44.400

Alston, Susan

And how we will get them out. She is doing and you'll see that one. You know there's some of them that will tell you that USDA is still working on guidance or working on webinars for these so that



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you know, we may not have that much information about them, yet, but as soon as we did that, we would be able to pass that along.

00:34:45.020 --> 00:34:58.010

Alston, Susan

So if you haven't got a chance to look through this document definitely go back to the School Lunch Tray click on the tool kit. There's a lot of great resources in there at links and it. I also think it's a great work one stop you know fits.

00:34:59.460 --> 00:35:04.720

Alston, Susan

One size fits all right if you have questions about supply chain. This is a place to go. It kind of covers everything.

00:35:06.190 --> 00:35:11.620

Alston, Susan

And that's it, so with that I think we're gonna open it up to any questions that you might have.

00:35:12.230 --> 00:35:40.380

Fiore, Susan

Hey Susan before you do that? Can I just remind people that you can find all the resources about supply chain right here in the supply chain section of our webpage? We try to give you up to date and include everything and you'll find here. A ton of resources. Many of those were mentioned in the resource that Susan just went over and here's the tool kit that we just talked about too. So, if you're looking for more resources. They're all right here just wanted to highlight that.

00:35:13.380 --> 00:35:13.750

Alston, Susan

Yes.

00:35:39.430 --> 00:35:59.210

Alston, Susan

Yep, thank you. Susan and that just reminds me, I wanted to say that I'm don't forget that we also have our supply chain survey up that link that we sent out. I think uh. I don't know if it was in there. This this week, but we sent it out a few times before you can go in there at any time and and put any supply chain issues that you hope there, it is right there.

00:35:55.600 --> 00:35:56.780

Fiore, Susan

It's right here.

00:35:57.550 --> 00:35:58.020

Fiore, Susan

Right here.

00:35:58.870 --> 00:35:59.160

Fiore, Susan

Yep.

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00:36:00.290 --> 00:36:16.010

Alston, Susan

So that's link there, and you can go there. Anytime and you know, we do look at that weekly so if you're adding something it will get you know, we will see it and it will be forwarded on to Shannon and and to John at some point and you know, so that we're aware of what's happening out there.

00:36:17.010 --> 00:36:18.880

Alston, Susan

OK, that's it. Thank you.

00:36:22.020 --> 00:36:39.070

Brown, Fionnuala

Terrific alright so I'm going to be reading out the questions today. The first question was covered regarding the prices that that don't match Monica covered that up and then the next question, we yes.

00:36:37.060 --> 00:36:38.300

Pacheco, Monica

Hey Fionnuala- I'm sorry.

00:36:39.460 --> 00:36:43.560

Pacheco, Monica

I'm sorry I it, it would give me an opportunity just to clarify one more thing if I could.

00:36:44.170 --> 00:36:44.890

Brown, Fionnuala

Absolutely.

00:36:45.340 --> 00:37:00.500

Pacheco, Monica

Thank you. The UM worksheets when they were posted yesterday with the intent of them being available for use today. We did a quick update this morning, so there were some price changes already so I would ask that people.

00:37:01.800 --> 00:37:31.140

Pacheco, Monica

Go back and re click on the link and recheck what these prices are on that spreadsheet and if they're higher? Which unfortunately that's what we saw make sure you are using the one that's now posted we did it bright and early this morning. Figuring we were ahead of the game and like I said, we had some really eager folks who jumped right in and beat us to it, potentially so please make sure you're checking the the link and the price is that you'll see, there now because those are the most current, we have for the moment until the USDA changes them again, but

00:37:31.810 --> 00:37:34.070

Pacheco, Monica

that's the one you should be working with thanks vanilla.

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00:37:35.550 --> 00:37:58.380

Brown, Fionnuala

Thank you Monica I'm alright so the next question, we have will there be webinars for steps 3 and 4 of the local school Wellness policy assessment. Yes, absolutely will be doing. Those hopefully we may be able to start in March and so we'll have workshops. The same thing will probably offer 2:01 in the morning 1:00 in the afternoon.

00:37:58.830 --> 00:38:02.920

Brown, Fionnuala

Uh we might actually combine those depending on how much if we.

00:38:03.550 --> 00:38:32.700

Brown, Fionnuala

And get it all covered in the 2 hours, but we will be having webinars and on that virtual and you know, obviously webinars so be on the lookout will send out the reminders were also sending individual invitations to sponsors that completed the survey and any active sponsor so we have the list and everybody if you are not one of those, 40 to have told me you've completed your assessment and you'll be invited to this as well.

00:38:33.410 --> 00:38:52.700

Brown, Fionnuala

Uhm alright so the next question, we have why direct certification updates are not coming weekly will this be this will be more important as we get closer to April since we need to recalculate CEP data. Teri, I'm thinking you will take this one away.

00:38:53.540 --> 00:38:54.140

Dandeneau, Therese

Sure.

00:38:54.730 --> 00:38:55.550

Dandeneau, Therese

I'll be happy to.

00:38:56.280 --> 00:39:01.860

Dandeneau, Therese

Uhm I know I'm looking at the direct certification run and the last one was January 25th.

00:39:02.520 --> 00:39:09.310

Dandeneau, Therese

Uh and it was done every week in January. I believe so it looks like there wasn't a run this week.

00:39:10.010 --> 00:39:27.770

Dandeneau, Therese

I'll certainly contact our IT Department. I agree it is very important that they be done. I I know that it is short of staff and that could be part of the issue. But I do appreciate you bringing it to our attention. I don't know if Shannon if you want to add anything.

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00:39:28.980 --> 00:39:43.680

Yearwood, Shannon

During that time, yeah, with with quite a few new programs that we are operating both in our nutrition space as well as the education space in general, not only as our IT staff pretty.

00:39:44.780 --> 00:39:54.150

Yearwood, Shannon

Over stretched stretched into capacity. They are also having loads of additional work that they have on on there.

00:39:54.800 --> 00:40:06.740

Yearwood, Shannon

Our place, so we are working closely with them. We're trying to figure out if there are other ways. Unfortunately, some of the data. That does come to us through that directs or program or or direct cert exchange is.

00:40:07.440 --> 00:40:35.440

Yearwood, Shannon

Data that has that takes quite a bit of time to manually clean up before we can actually make it available into the web system, so we are working with our partners at Department of Social services to see if there's anything. We can do to try and make that a little bit more of an automated process to help make this little bit more efficient and help us meet our goal of making sure that that matches done weekly. We are very well aware of the April First Date.

00:40:35.880 --> 00:41:05.910

Yearwood, Shannon

And and you know, one of the things that I haven't talked about yet, but I did talk about it and I feel like I talked about it every day otherwise is right now. June 30th, 2022, is when USDA 's waiver flexibility does end their ability to issue nationwide waivers, which is part of why we're in this rock and a hard place with beef with kind of knowing what's what's going to happen next year. Right now, we all have to plan that all of our programs will go back to operating.

00:41:05.960 --> 00:41:09.390

Yearwood, Shannon

How they operated prior to the public health emergency?

00:41:10.570 --> 00:41:43.250

Yearwood, Shannon

We are hopeful that there will be some sort of congressional authorization to allow USDA to help ease this transition with us. We know how very challenging. It is and we know that it's February and that ideally we would have known about this months ago but this is that that's just not where we're at, and that just doesn't seem to be where we will be at during this public health emergency so we will absolutely continue to keep trying you know, we, we will we have not had a huge staff expansion as we've had a huge expansion around our administrative.

00:41:43.310 --> 00:42:12.820

Yearwood, Shannon

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Do these all across the board, so I certainly Please be patient with us, but we do know that April first data should there not be additional congressional authority should USD not be able to extend or change any of those rules and regulations written into Community Eligibility Provision. We do know that that April first is a very important critical hard date for you for being able to calculate your identified student percentage and you're claiming percentages for community eligibility.

00:42:14.260 --> 00:42:28.060

Yearwood, Shannon

So, please be patient definitely let us know. We don't get an alert if that direct cert is not run. We know by checking the system or by hearing from you so if it doesn't happen. Let us know. We will be on that, and we will do all we can to make sure that it happens.

00:42:31.000 --> 00:42:35.440

Brown, Fionnuala

Alright, thank you. Shannon so we have one more question, I see in the chat.

00:42:31.540 --> 00:42:31.930

Dandeneau, Therese

Right.

00:42:36.270 --> 00:42:43.480

Brown, Fionnuala

And I believe it's for you, Monica if we placed an order for bonus items are we able to go in and adjust.

00:42:38.200 --> 00:42:39.380

Dandeneau, Therese

I think that if we place.

00:42:44.630 --> 00:43:00.340

Pacheco, Monica

OK thanks so if you are looking to add more cases. Add more product. You could go in and just put in a second order with the additional number of items. You want if it's any other type of adjustment no can't I will have to.

00:42:51.470 --> 00:42:52.120

Dandeneau, Therese

Could go ahead?

00:42:53.060 --> 00:42:53.340

Dandeneau, Therese

Or.

00:42:56.670 --> 00:42:57.910

Dandeneau, Therese

Any other type of adjustment.

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00:43:01.580 --> 00:43:04.200

Pacheco, Monica

Or myself or Allison will have to make that change and or.

00:43:04.250 --> 00:43:24.580

Pacheco, Monica

Uhm cancel it and let you resubmit so please contact us. If that is the case so this just does highlight that please use you know worksheets and think this through before you place the order because yeah once placed, it is locked in there unless Allison or I take it out so reach out if that's the case.

00:43:26.350 --> 00:43:28.130

Yearwood, Shannon

So then Monica I have a question.

00:43:29.370 --> 00:43:58.530

Yearwood, Shannon

So since so since this catalog will close before the general like USDA Foods catalog opens does this catalog include items that will also be available through the the regular catalog when we open that so I'm just wondering in case folks that go in there and they're like, Alright Uh, I've got this amount. I can spend what I really want to be able to purchase this other item, but that will put me over my budget since I'm not ordering anything that's going to go above what I've been.

00:43:29.440 --> 00:43:30.110

Pacheco, Monica

Yes.

00:43:58.580 --> 00:44:06.610

Yearwood, Shannon

Allocated will I still have that opportunity to be able to put those to use my entitlement on that it during the regular catalog opening.

00:44:07.240 --> 00:44:35.140

Pacheco, Monica

Yeah, that's a great point. Shannon Yes, these are all items that you normally see in will normally have and will have again in the regular catalog, so this is just an opportunity to use extra dollars to we, we have a center of the plate items, some on beef and poultry items to try to help provide you with some of those higher cost items to have these additional dollars to do that. But if you needed 50 cases of something in your allotment only allowed you to order 20. You can still get the additional 30 cases with your regular order using your entitlement.

00:44:36.350 --> 00:45:06.290

Yearwood, Shannon

That's great that's I think that brings us back to when we were talking last week for those of us who were able to join that USDA food show and in partnership with the school Nutrition Association of Connecticut, where we talked about forecasting forecasting and when you're talking about planning that's something you should be able to take into account is that this is really this just keep in mind as

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far as supply chain assistance. So, just what Monica said is you know with with the increase in prices with the increase of the decrease in availability.

00:45:06.780 --> 00:45:32.290

Yearwood, Shannon

Really taking a lot of that into account too. But I just I just thinking about that and going. You know it. It we might have folks going in there and saying but we really do need a little bit more of this, or we needed another item. That's over allocation so that's great news that will be able to still order that and it's A and it's important to know that so that we can ask folks can forecast appropriately and be able to look at what their overall plan is not just the this portion of it.

00:45:36.240 --> 00:45:56.960

Yearwood, Shannon

Alright so here's where we come to the point where I am going to again encourage you to watch her or to be able to bookmark program. Guidance this will give you a chance to enter some more questions in the chat. We do not have the hand, raising enabled nor do we have the ability to unmute you we have enough technology challenges and?

00:45:39.440 --> 00:45:40.120

Brown, Fionnuala

It's bad.

00:45:57.750 --> 00:46:06.760

Yearwood, Shannon

Uh and other ways, so we are limiting it to what we were able to manage while we are alive with you so familiar if you have or things, you'd like to say you go ahead.

00:46:08.160 --> 00:46:26.730

Brown, Fionnuala

How did you know I did have one while we had some time, I thought this would be good just to remind everyone with the USDA waivers. The if you were implementing any of those waivers that was due. January 31st, 2022, so please go in and check that you have.

00:46:28.120 --> 00:46:58.270

Brown, Fionnuala

Completed that that went out in the I won't be able to go to where Susan Fiore said with the School Lunch Tray. It was definitely on the last one or the one before that, and we had the instructions and then when the video or the recording goes out from 2 weeks ago. Our first School Lunch Tray of walked you through that. But everyone needs to complete this. Everyone is participating in SSO for the most part so that is the first wave or even if you aren't participating the other items and again. It's not if you are participating.

00:46:58.320 --> 00:47:21.330

Brown, Fionnuala

Even if you're looking to participate at some point this year, you can get approved for it, so please. Please, please. Go back and see that you have submitted that Teri, Susan and myself will be very

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happy that we're not going to have to reach out and and call you or email you so please just please get that entered thank you. That's all I had was the USDA waivers thanks.

00:47:21.960 --> 00:47:35.660

Yearwood, Shannon

But if you do, do that and do it correctly. We may even send you a virtual. Thank you award for doing it, so well so you don't know what that looks like until you do it, you'll do it, you'll be able to do that by following the instructions.

00:47:39.330 --> 00:47:41.920

Yearwood, Shannon

Great any anybody else on the team that looks like.

00:47:42.640 --> 00:47:57.820

Yearwood, Shannon

Looks like we have no other questions, so I'm very excited. Everything has been very clear for folks very excited that you guys will join us today for School Lunch Tray Table Talk. I'm just gonna open it back up to my team. If anybody else, has anything any last words of wisdom. You want to share.

00:48:00.070 --> 00:48:02.740

Yearwood, Shannon

This is where you hold very still as if we're in an auction.

00:48:04.120 --> 00:48:27.320

Yearwood, Shannon

In case I call on you alright so thank you all. Thank you to my team. Thank you. Everybody out there in the field for all of the work you're doing. We appreciate you each and every day and hopefully this is helpful to you and if it's not let us know. We'll try it will present it won't hurt our feelings. But we'll take we'll take suggestions if it can be more helpful so thanks everybody and have a great great day.



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For more information, visit the Connecticut State Department of Education's [School Lunch Tray and Table Talk](#) webpage, or contact the [school nutrition programs staff](#) in the CSDE's Bureau of Health/Nutrition, Family Services and Adult Education, 450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 504, Hartford, CT 06103-1841.

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