

School Lunch Tray Table Talk Transcript: May 20, 2021

Presenters/Attendees: Speaker 1 – Fionnuala Brown, Speaker 2 – Caroline Cooke, Speaker 3 – Susan Alston, Speaker 4 – Allison Calhoun-White, Speaker 5 – Michelle Rosado (Hostess), Speaker 6 (Guest) – Shannon Raider Ginsburg UCONN, Speaker 7 – Teri Dandeneau, Sean Fogarty,

0:04

Speaker 1 - Hello, and welcome to the School Lunch Tray. We're delighted you're here to join us today. My name is Fionnuala Brown, I'm an Education Consultant at the Department of Education in the Child Nutrition Unit, and I'm going to be hosting the Table Talk for today. I'm filling in for Shannon Yearwood the Education Manager, and I'm joined by my colleagues in the Child Nutrition Unit and we are going to um take a deeper dive into the School Lunch Tray that went out this week. And then we are going to highlight some of the items in last week's School Lunch Trays. So, we're going to um all work together to, to report out on that for you.

0:45

And as you have questions, please pop them into the, the question section, and we will be answering questions after we go through all of the items before we go into the Resource Roundup. And um Teri is going to be discussing the Resource Roundups from last week and this week, so, we have a jam packed agenda. We're gonna finish up before three o'clock. We have some of our colleagues that need to start another webinar right at three o'clock, so we'll definitely be finishing up on time or a little early.

1:22

So, with that, we are going to get into the first item from this week.

1:33

This is just a reminder that the Triennial Assessment of your Wellness Policies are due on June 30th of this year and we have been sending information out for the last several months and we've been providing webinars and opportunities to support districts in this effort. But really, we wanted to let you know, we're getting down to the wire here with um just a little over a month. And the UCONN RUDD Center is here to help, so they have identified some actions that they can take with, helping you complete your Assessment.

2:15

So if you are right at the beginning and completing step one, they can help you with scoring your written um policy. They can help you with the second step, um evaluating implementation and identifying what individuals you need to interview, they can help you connect policies and practices.

2:37

And also the last step of, of preparing a report. And having that available on your website. They can work with you to ensure it has everything, everything there.

2:49

So I would strongly encourage anyone who is still going through this process to reach out to the RUDD Center. It's Marlene Schwartz, and Sarah McKee. Sarah's e-mail is here and all you do is you send her an e-mail and you'll set up an appointment, and as I said, it's on, if you're struggling with any element of this assessment, it's overwhelming.

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3:16

I think um if you haven't started it, but there are tools and resources that we have on our webpage. The length is right there. And we rolled that out. We've been talking about that since 2021, this year with the videos and the resources we have. But it still can be um challenging to get through it. So, if I was in your shoes and I was still trying to get this done, I would definitely reach out. Sarah is wonderful, as is Marlene and they have a number of individuals there that can assist with it.

3:51

And just as a reminder, it was the Rudd Center that developed the Well SAT, the Wellness School Assessment tool that you're using to uh evaluate your policies and developed the Wellness School Assessment Tool on implementation or interview, is assessing that portion.

4:14

So they're definitely the experts in this area, and, and I really encourage you to um avail of their expertise.

4:24

Alright next, we have, um, an update about summer outreach material, and I think it's Terese, who's or Caroline, who's going to be doing that.

4:36

Hi Caroline.

4:37

Speaker 2 - Hi, this is going to be a quick one. So we do have some summer meals, outreach materials available for order, and you just need to click on the link in the School Lunch Tray or for Summer Food Service Program sponsors. You should have received an e-mail with the link. It will just take you through the options of what materials are available and you can indicate the number of materials that you're hoping for, and then those will be available for pickup from End Hunger Connecticut, either on June third or June fourth.

5:12

If you have any questions, you can certainly contact End Hunger at the phone number they have provided, And that's it.

5:28

Sorry, and I shouldn't.

5:34

Speaker 1 - All right. Thank you so much. That was quicker than I thought. And so the next item we have in the School Lunch Tray. This, this is just, we wanted to bring to your attention.

5:44

The, um, the RUDD Center again, for food policy and obesity. They conducted a study last summer. They studied spring of 2020 right after COVID hit.

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5:57

And we actually sent out this report a few months ago, but we wanted to highlight and provide you with a link to the published article, *The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*.

6:13

They actually published um on the study, and so, you can look there at the, at the, the complete study, and the um abstract is just listed, listed here. I mean, overall, and I think we kind of reported this out, but I will just take a minute to give you, give you the highlights is that they looked at operations um outside of the cafeteria, the structure of operations, And they also looked at the rates of participation.

6:43

So, no surprise that they saw that, overall, there was a decrease in participation and, um, looking at March thru May significantly lower than the overall rate with participation.

7:03

But then, um April, through May, 2020, the free and reduced meal participation was close to the previous year. So, interesting information about the rates of participation.

7:17

And then, really, what they, um, drew from it was some, some ways to kind of overcome challenges and some opportunities for um learned lessons in moving forward. So, those are just highlighted here in the abstract.

7:36

Um tailor your program to community needs, identifying strategies to facilitate participation, developing partnerships, and, certainly, establishing programs that encourage resiliency. So, it's, it's a good study and has some great information.

7:55

If you have not had an opportunity, to, to look at that, I would encourage you to do that.

8:04

And, so, next, I believe Susan Alston is going to be jumping on to go over the next item.

8:10

Speaker 3 - Hi, everyone. Good afternoon. So I'm going to talk just for a few minutes about the Federal Communications um Commission is Emergency Broadband Benefit program, so what this is doing is offering discounted Internet services to um qualifying households.

8:27

And so there's a little bit of information there that you can get from the website. I just want to let you know that in the next few days, probably, in next week School Lunch Tray will be sending out more information about this from the USDA. They just this morning issued some additional information that go along with it.

8:46

Um Households that have a student that is eligible for free or reduced lunches or breakfast, along with any student in a CEP School or District, are eligible for these benefits, again, for discounted Internet services. So, in the next few days, and we do send out additional information, there will be a frequently asked questions and also, a Toolkit for ways that you can help communicate this,

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this option or this service is available to families in, your, in your district. So how, you know, the next Table Talk that we have, I might revisit it just to kinda make sure that you see the information.

9:22

I kind of browse through what they had, and, you know, they have, there are sample tweets and Facebook posts and flyers and web buttons for your website, so the USDA is really promoting this as a way to offer additional services to your family. Stay tuned and look for some additional information coming out about.

9:46

Speaker 1 - Thanks, Susan.

9:49

Okay, next, we're going to highlight, as I said, some of the items from, from last week, certainly everything that was included in the School Lunch Tray um is important, but we just wanted to highlight a few, and Allison is up first.

10:09

Speaker 4 - Hi everybody, and happy Thursday afternoon. And the first thing I am, thrilled to report about, we have breaking News, an update to requests for excess food orders from April.

10:19

As I've literally right now, while we were on this webinar, Sybil Walton finished the last I believe five, she had an ascending out receipts for all of them right now.

10:30

So we finally worked through all these orders. This has been a huge lift.

10:34

We, Sybil, she transferred thousands of cases, from folks that weren't really using them appropriately to folks that have been using the food this year.

10:46

And we are happy to report. It's finally done.

10:49

So I'm going to have probably a glass of champagne after it works. So if anyone wants to join me in celebrating this, feel free to do that.

10:56

So, as a reminder, HPC will deliver through the end of June, and Steve, Cowper, would be the person that you could be in touch with.

11:07

If you have any issues with the delivery schedule, they have been very flexible about changing delivery, that people needed it.

11:16

But however, remember, per contract, they do not need to change them.

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11:21

So if you have a conflict, please ask nicely and then if they can't accommodate you, let me know, But more likely than not, they will be able to accommodate you.

11:33

So again, thanks for your patience with that. And I think we can move on to the next one then, and I can see it right here.

11:39

So the second thing I wanted to talk about was the USDA DOD Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the school year.

11:46

So as a reminder, we do have additional DOD funds available.

11:50

So if you need dollars to get you through this school year, please send me an e-mail Make sure you tell me the district, especially if you have multiple districts, I need to know where the money is going and how much you estimate would get you through the end of the year.

12:05

This year, so far, we have been able to fulfill every single request we've had. And, just to give you an idea of the volume of requests on top of the regular DOD, we have transferred \$1,746,300 as of this morning, and I probably did \$50,000 more dollars today.

12:25

So, the volume has been incredible, and in terms of pounds and processors, we have transferred over half a million pounds.

12:34

So, we're very happy that, you know, ultimately, the extra funds that we have in the state are getting to the kids, and especially with those fresh fruits and vegetables. That's amazing.

12:44

So I guess that's it for me. I am going to stay on the call, though, if there's any questions and so I can give it back. Thank you.

12:55

Speaker 1 - Thanks so much, Allison.

12:58

Okay, alright, so, um, the next item we have from last week that we wanted to highlight was around this um a memo that went out to Superintendents and we just wanted to bring this to your attention.

13:15

We know that many districts and Food Service Directors are getting calls about P-EBT um and a lot of those are around student attendance or how students were coded. So a memo did go out to superintendents, the link right here, to the, to the memo. We wanted to bring it to your attention again, this doesn't necessarily fall under the Food Service Directors responsibilities, but we wanted to make sure everyone was aware of what is going on. And there, the memo highlights, two ways are two opportunities districts can submit corrected student attendance and one of

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those. Unfortunately, path to discipline, or fortunately, or unfortunately, it will open up and again in June.

14:00

So I encourage you, if you're getting calls to take a look at this memo and this will just give you some information about how the Department of Education is collecting uncorrected data regarding Pandemic EBT, and the monthly student attendance.

14:24

Now, if any of my colleagues had anything further to add on that?

14:31

Okay, now, alright, so um also last week, we had some information about signing up for local on your trade, off for the next school year, school year, 2122 and I hope that I have special guests here to kind of speak a little bit about that.

14:54

Shannon Raider Ginsburg, she's the Project Coordinator of Put Local on your Tray with New Clients Extension Program and, Shannon, if you are on the line, you can unmute yourself.

15:13

Alright.

15:15

I'm a line on the line, bear with me here.

15:25

Speaker 5 - Can you ask her to raise her hand, so I can unmute her?

15:29

Speaker 1 - There we go, Shannon can you raise your hand?

15:43

Speaker 5 - What's her last name?

15:45

Speaker 1 - I'm looking right here, Shannon Raider Ginsburg, are there?

16:03

Speaker 6 - Can you hear me now?

16:04

Speaker 5 – Yes, go ahead.

16:06

Speaker 6 -Excellent. Sorry, I couldn't see where to raise my hand.

16:09

And GoTo meeting is sort of a new platform for me, but thank you for giving me a few minutes. Hello, everybody, and I'm not quite sure other who are there. So my name is Shannon Raider Ginsburg and I'm the Program Coordinator for Local on Your Tray. And I, we have just announced, we've opened up sign-ups.

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16:27

We didn't do official sign-ups last year because of COVID, and we know everybody was overwhelmed with having to navigate their work in a crisis situation. And so we just kept everybody on. But we've taken the time to refresh our commitments and we have a whole new sign up. And taking a local trade pledge. If you follow the link that's there, um it'll take you to more information. And that we're here to help you achieve, to set your own goals about procuring some local products, fruits and veggies fresh fruits and vegetables, milk, um and all the rest of the good stuff to help connect you with local farms, connect you with resources to help just, any set any of the goals that you set for yourself, for getting some local food into your, onto your menus, or in taste tests.

17:17

And just to be this, just assisting you in all in that, especially after hearing all that DOD money, one of the things that we are interested in is how to get more of your DOD money towards local, and in the meantime, how can we connect you with a lot of these wonderful farms in Connecticut. So my name is Shannon Reader Ginsberg. You can find my e-mail through the link. I invite anyone to reach out to me with any questions.

17:43

And that's it. Speaker 1 - Great. Thanks so much Shannon.

17:47

Speaker 6 - Thank you.

17:52

So, before we get into the Resource Roundup, I do see that we have one question that's come in Allison. I believe this is your question. Did you see it?

18:04

Speaker 4 – Yes, I did, it is a great question, and Kate was asking about timelines for DOD over the summer, and I vacillated about talking about that, because we haven't put that out in the school lunch show yet, but since she asked, do we have time Fionnuala to a couple of new alerts, how are we on time? Speaker 1 - Yeah, we're good.

18:28

Speaker 4 - Okay, so, so there's a couple things with DOD over the summer.

18:32

So the first thing that Connecticut has had in place for, I think going on four years now is the SFSP DOD pilot.

18:42

So if you are running the SFSP program or actually ran it last summer, I've already reached out to those folks and we have extended our pilot to anybody who wanted to participate this year based on the list of folks who participated last year.

19:00

So, there's going to be more information coming to them, but just know that I have assigned the dollar amounts based on Meal Count and that will start on July one.

19:11

So, more details to come on that.

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19:14

So if you are doing SSO or NSLP over the summer, I realize there is a, a great need to continue feeding over the summer for a lot of folks, and a lot of folks who haven't done it in the past.

19:31

So, considering all of the problems we've had with delivery and with HPC, and considering that they typically wouldn't be delivering over the summer and we're already expanding the SFSP pilot.

19:47

I am being very cautious about moving forward with offering the DOD program over the summer for the rest of the folks.

19:56

And that being said though, we already are in negotiations with HPC to see if they can handle the volume anticipated volume.

20:06

And, you know, if they can't honestly get to everybody and service them in a matter of which is going to make everybody happy.

20:16

We don't want to set this up to fail.

20:18

So there's going to be more information coming on that. So keep an eye out on the School Lunch Tray and HBC may be reaching out to some folks.

20:28

You answered the NSLP survey about Continuing seamless over the summer. So I took that list, provided it to H P C.

20:38

They are now in turn reaching out to some folks asking about, know, where are sites maybe things like that?

20:44

So please if you plan on continuing summer feeding, answer HBC, give them what they need so they can figure out if it's logistical, logistically feasible for them to run this program over the summer.

20:58

And, you know, again, it's when I actually looked back at the numbers, it's amazing what HPC has done considering the National Driver Shortage and COVID and all this, because last year, our DOD maxed out, we did about five million already to date. We're at six million and anticipated to get to seven million.

21:19

So I mean, there have been a lot of hassles. We all know. I believe me, I've been in the midst of all of this, too.

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21:25

But bottom line, there's going to be \$7 million more fresh fruit and vegetables to the kids this year.

21:31

So that's awesome, but we don't want to set you up for failure. So I don't really have great answers for everybody, but that's what the situation is right now. And I'm gonna keep everybody appraised basically through the School Lunch Tray or doing some direct mailing. The SFSP pilot people I already have that listed.

21:49

Those would be direct mailing information on SSO and NSLP will be coming out, most likely in the School Lunch Tray as I learned.

22:00

I hope that answered the question. I know it was long, but there was a lot going on, so.

22:05

If you have, if you need more clarification, e-mail me personally, or you can shoot another message in there.

22:11

Is there something else - will be an opportunity to increase uh, if you sign up, so, lots of questions. Alright. So, we do have extra funding available in terms of if we can continue the SSO NSLP feeding.

22:30

And we would be able to distribute that, but I can't talk about that now until we know if HPC can deliver. So we're not going to even go into that at this point.

22:38

There is a fixed dollar amount for the SFSP based on the summer meals that were served last year, and that again will be distributed based on a meal counts.

22:49

And I will be getting that information to you guys probably like in the next couple of weeks or so.

22:54

I think it's really hard for me to see the questions, because I had this little tiny box. So anybody else sees anything.

23:03

Speaker 1 - I think you covered it, Allison, I think you covered on it and questions are there.

23:07

That was great Thank you.

23:13

So, that brings us to the resource round ah which Terri Dandeneau will be taking over in bringing us to the homestretch here, okay.

23:28

Speaker 7 - Thank you very much Fionnuala.

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Hi, everyone, it's great to see you, even though I can't see you. But I am going to talk to you a little bit about the disclosure release form and about disclosure requirements, just a little bit.

23:43

And I think we're the state agency.

23:46

We all get requests periodically from determining officials', which is the person that approves the free and reduced meal application or from food service directors, because they're not quite sure what to do.

23:58

If a person requests access to the free and reduced eligibility information.

24:03

And it's very good that they're guarded and that they ask questions and that they just don't release this information because it is consider to be highly confidential.

24:12

And there's lots of rules and regulations that are around it, and you need to realize that a person may ask for this information.

24:21

Um because they want to provide additional benefits to low-income children.

24:25

Things like free physicals, or uniforms, or play to pay, sometimes, those to partake in those activities or to get access.

24:37

You would need to be eligible for free or reduced price meals. So, a person may be asking for that reason.

24:45

A person may also be asking because eligibility also can provide additional funding to a school if there are low-income students. And if there's a large population of low-income students at the school or in the district. So they may ask for that reason as well.

25:01

So you do need to carefully consider those requests, and the first thing that you should do is ask them to complete the disclosure release for free or reduced eligibility status of students in School nutrition programs.

25:15

And that's a form that is on our website and Fionnuala, if you could click on the form just to kinda give them an idea of what it looks like, I'd appreciate it.

25:24

If you go to our website and you go to form and, and you go down to D, you will see the disclosure release form along with a memo that talks to you about or discusses regulations around that.

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25:41

Okay, and you can see what it looks like here.

25:43

And so basically, I would recommend that, you know, where this form is, you might want to print off some copies and just keep it in a folder.

25:52

So that way, when somebody asks you this access to this information, you would have them complete this form, and they would submit it to you.

26:01

And basically, the form tells, has them provide why the information is being requested, who is going to have access to the information, and it allows you to review it.

26:16

And it allows them to see that if there's any misuse of this information, there could be criminal penalties that are involved. And they need to understand how confidential this information is.

26:28

Now, just because they fill it out, sign it, and send it to you, that does not mean that you can automatically approve it.

26:36

They actually have to read why they want it, and you need to uh refer to the second resource that was mentioned in the School Lunch Tray, and that's the Eligibility Manual for School Meals.

26:49

And that manual is a USDA manual, it's used for processing free and reduced price applications, it's used for direct certification, it's used for verification, and there's a whole section in that manual.

27:02

Um it's, it's Chapter, Section five, it starts on page 83, and it discusses disclosure and confidentiality.

27:12

So, when you get this request, you review it, and then you determine whether or not you can give access.

27:21

And, it's important to note that, there should be a primary contact within the school or the district that handles these requests. That way, there's consistency on how they assess the information, and how they process it.

27:37

In some school districts, they have multiple determining officials, and that's usually the person who would be the go to, as far as requesting disclosure.

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27:46

And if you have multiple determining officials, you may want to consider having one person that handles any disclosure requests in the district.

27:55

And that's important. And that's the best practice that USDA recommends.

28:00

So, when you're looking at chapter five, and you're looking at the disclosure release form, you really need to consider two things.

28:10

And that is, there's two questions that you want to ask yourself. Is the request from one of the programs or sources, that's authorized under federal statute, okay.

28:22

And also, if so, are the persons who will receive this information? Do they have a legitimate need to know, are they working directly with the authorized activity?

28:33

And so, you have to make sure that both factors are addressed and review when you look at the chapter in Chapter five, when you look at the information.

28:45

Um, so, just because you have um a principal who has access, for example, you want to be careful, because that doesn't mean that, that principal can share that information for other things.

29:00

Or, if you do give a person access because it's legitimate, and you review the guidance, they cannot use it for other reasons.

29:08

Even if it's, it's for the benefit of the child, there may need to be written permission from the parent or guardian that's granted, okay, and that's why we have addendum A, and addendum A, it was not on the Resource Roundup for today, but it's important to mention because it ties in directly.

29:27

An Addendum A is sharing of information with other programs, and so when you notify a household of their determination for free or reduced price meals, whether it's through an application or direct certification, you may want to consider using Addendum A because that outlines all of the additional programs that you have to offer them that have nothing to do with the eligibility for free or reduced priced meals.

29:53

Um and it allows the parent to review that information, and who will have access to that information.

29:58

And that's very important to include that on the Addendum A, and then sign off on it, and grant, permission to use it for whatever reasons are outlined on the Addendum A.

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30:08

So there are going to be circumstances where, um, the reason that the person is requesting disclosure of information, it's not going to be approved, and so that's one addendum A would come into play.

30:22

So that pretty much ties out what I was going to be talking about with disclosure.

30:28

And I don't know, if you have any questions, I will, I will want to say to you that it is not easy thing when somebody comes to you and asks, can you release this information?

30:41

It's not always easy, especially if they're an administrator of the program. And that's why you always start off with having them complete the disclosure release form, and that gives you some time.

30:55

You can always contact your technical support person at the state agency, so that way they can assist you, because it's not easy, and a lot of the areas are gray.

31:05

What I do is, if it's a program I've never heard of, and it's not clear, if it's a federal education program, for example, or state education program, I will often Google it and look it up, and you should do that to, to find out more about the program.

31:19

But, if in doubt, check it out. And make sure that you contact your state technical support person for assistance, because we'll be happy to do that.

31:26

And sometimes we have to actually go to our administrators to find out more about the program as well, because we don't know all of the programs that might be tied into the state education or the federal government.

31:39

So, do we have any questions?

31:44

Speaker 1 - Teri, I'm not sure I was kind of late with my clicking and getting there, but I finally got to, I'm not sure. If you see the screen. I finally got to the On Page 85 for that chart, that is in the Eligibility Manual.

31:58

Speaker 7 – That's okay, if you do see that up on the screen, I do see the recipient of the information and who may be what may be disclosed, and as well as the requirements.

32:13

And so, if it is allowed, so you have to also you have to look at all three categories because sometimes, not all of the eligibility information that's on the application can be shared, only the child's name and their eligibility status. Many times can be shared and that's it.

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32:30

You can share things that are considered to be aggregate data. So, for example, you know, you could share that there's 100 free kids in the district and 25 reduced eligible kids in the district. That's considered to be aggregate data, as long as it doesn't overtly identify individual students.

32:51

And sometimes when you have really low numbers of free and reduced eligible kids, you can be overtly identifying those students, and so you have to be careful with aggregate data when you're releasing it.

33:04

Speaker 1 - Great.

33:06

Speaker 7 - We have a little bit of time about Medicaid, and sometimes the eligibility manual guidance will reference, having a memorandum of understanding with another, like state agency.

33:18

And in the case of Medicaid, we're very fortunate that Connecticut is one of, I think it's 18 states in the nation. That's part of the demonstration grant for Medicaid.

33:28

So we already have an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Social Services.

33:34

So we're able to go back and forth and share that information with each other so that way you can determine childrens' directly certified for free or reduced priced meals via um Medicaid. So that's something that you don't have to worry about, because it's already on our, we already have that Memorandum of Understanding.

33:52

And when it comes to Direct Certification, that's eligibility as well.

33:56

So you have to be very protective of that information and guard it. And that follows all of the same regulations regarding disclosure and confidentiality, as a free and reduced meal application.

34:09

Speaker 1 - Awesome. I also pulled back the disclosure release form, just because question came in, and I think Susan Alston maybe popped on to answer the question, but I thought, maybe, no, Okay, there is a question that says, asks if a specific person is mentioned on the Sharing Information form, which is the agenda may and apparent checks out off, does that person requesting who is listed on the form, doesn't need to fill out the disclosure form.

34:38

We say that they should, because you really want them to be aware that they can only use the information for the purposes that the parent had checked off, so that they could share for free, Physical, and that's it, right. If ask that person to, that person doesn't then, in turn, use that information to provide opportunities for free, something else. Right, so, it's, it's good to have them, It is required for them to fill it out, because then they could see the misuse of the re eligibility reduced eligibility is has penalties and imprisonment um if it's not followed.

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35:19

So, it is important for a while, and you know it'll, it's allowed for that particular parent who checked off the Addendum A. You want the person who is going to be receiving that eligibility information to be aware that they are. And, again, it's just a good reminder for them that they can only use it for the purpose that they have been identified to use it for, its the best intentions. But, you know, sometimes still not allows. You know, if they're on it.

35:47

Extend another benefit, and that is something the parents did not check off. So, the answer to your question is yes. You have them fill out the form. So, you are aware that they understand the responsibilities with having this information.

36:03

Speaker 7 - Great question.

36:05

Speaker 1 - Yeah, it's a great question. Um, yes. I don't believe there's any other around on disclosure release form. We do have, and now we have a number.

36:19

Another question that came in around USDA Foods. I believe we're, Allison, wanted to clarify something. But there is a question about also about summer camps. So.

36:36

So, Allison, you do want to clarify something first and then we can get to the next question.

36:41

Speaker 4 - Okay, thank you. Absolutely. Yep.

36:45

So, there was another question in regards to funding for the summer programs. So, one of the things I did not mention before is the very small amount of funding or reimbursement that the SFSP program provides for food distribution.

37:03

It is literally a fraction of what the NSLP entitlements. So, just to give you an idea, even with all the waivers last year, I believe the whole amount we have to spend for the SFSP pilot is around \$100,000 and that's for everybody.

37:22

So, don't, if you are in that pilot, don't get too excited, it's not going to be a lot of money, and it's a block grant, so once that money is gone, it's gone.

37:31

It's based on last year's meal counts, and it's not going to change whether your costs go up down, whatever this year. So that is what it is.

37:39

If we are able to move forward with the other pilot, all I'm going to say for now is that there is more funding available significantly more than that, and we will be able to provide you some on top of what you already allocated for DOD.

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37:51

So, I'm gonna leave it at that right now, and then go back. OK, hopefully that answer your question, John.

38:00

Speaker 1 - Awesome, thank you, Allison.

38:03

It looks like we have one more question that has come in around summer and operating on summer camps, and I see our summer individual queen, I was going on.

38:16

So, Caroline, did you want to answer that question update that? I think this is actually the Seamless Summer Option district.

38:27

Speaker 2 - I will take it anyway, even though you all have been the Queens for the Seamless Summer for the last 14 months, 15 months.

38:35

So I just wanted to read the question that I wanted to do a little clarification before I answer.

38:39

So the question is, are summer camps able to be a close site for feeding this year if there is one open site for curbside pickup?

38:49

And so, the first clarification I want to make is a reference to summer camps because in the summer food service program, we do have sponsors that are residential camps, which is different than a community having a summer meal site that is providing a day camp experience or programming for kids, but is operating as either an open site or a closed enrolled site, rather than a campsite. So, there is a difference between the two and I believe that this question is really related to either an open site or a closed enrolled sites, not a campsite, but it happens to be associated with a day camp program.

39:30

So, we have not specifically provided this information yet, and it was based on some clarification that we were awaiting from USDA.

39:38

Um and it really pertains to, I think, the Area Eligibility Waiver. So, if there's no Area Eligibility Waiver involved, if there is a summer meal site, whether it's Summer, Food Service Program, or Seamless Summer Option, you can have an open or closed site if there is Area Eligibility.

39:59

So, if we're talking about the fact, that, we continue to have the Area Eligibility Waiver available for this summer, for Summer 2021, to allow sites that do not meet traditional income eligibility requirements.

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40:15

Um, it's dependent upon what the state has in place for their Area Eligibility Waiver in Connecticut in order to serve in areas that are not traditionally eligible. We have required that that site has to be open to the public.

40:33

Um, so, this is a very, very specific question, whether or not it would be allowable for closed enrolled sites, as long as there was another open site available in the community.

40:45

Um and that is something that you're going to work with your seamless summer option consultant on, and most likely, they will be able to work that out for you, but it requires some information on our part about the specifics of your community. So, we will be sending out information about the application process for seamless summer sponsors that will be continuing to provide meals during July and August.

41:09

Please be very attentive and watching for those communications, Also, those instructions very carefully. And if those instructions do still leave you with questions, you'll be able to reach out to your consultant at that point for particulars regarding your community.

41:30

Speaker 1 - Great. Thank you, Caroline.

41:34

Um looks like we have one other question that has come in. Um, okay.

41:47

So, to Teri, do you see the question is, if a person or service is not listed on the original addendum a signed, but we are able to give consent from the parent, does it need to be in writing non-verbal or does it mean to be on the Addendum A, hmm, hmm, question, sorry, they would need to get it in writing from the parent, and it would need to be very clear.

42:16

Speaker 7 - And the person who, um, was going to be, granted, Fionnuala, had said, the information, they would have to complete a disclosure release form.

42:27

So if there's a request, and it's not covered by the agenda may that comes in, you want to make sure that the parent fully understands who's going to have access all of the components of the addendum.

42:42

There's no reason why you can't revise your agenda may to include it and have them sign off on it. But you definitely have to have everything in writing, and you definitely want to have a disclosure release form for that, that new person that's going to have access to that information.

42:56

Did you want to add anything, Fionnuala or Susan?

43:02

Speaker 1 - No. You got it.

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43:07

Alright. So, I think we were able to answer all of your questions that were submitted.

43:13

So that's great, and we are, have gone through all the content, and so I think we're all set to, say, have a wonderful afternoon on the sunny Thursday afternoon. And we will not be hosting a Table Talk for the school entry next week, but we will be back in two weeks. Next week we have the summer food service program training, right, Caroline, for those operators. They'll be attending that training on next Thursday at two o'clock.

43:47

And we will see.

43:52

Speaker 2 - sorry, yes, we are going to be talking about the online application process and administrative review process.

44:00

Speaker 1 - Awesome. So, all of those SFSP sponsors will be joining that and for the rest of you all, have a great weekend and weeks, and we'll see you in another week, OK? Take care.

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