



SUMMER LUNCH REGIONAL SUMMIT-FRESNO

Wednesday, October 23, 2002

Edie Jessup (Fresno Metro Ministry Hunger & Nutrition Project): It is very exciting to have the heart of the San Joaquin Valley here talking about the accessibility of really good food and nutrition for our kids. This first Valley Regional Summer Lunch Summit is cosponsored by Fresno Metro Ministry, Cal/Neva (California/Nevada Association of Community Action Programs), and California Food Policy Advocates. Matt Sharp from CFPA and Lisa Tadlock from Cal/Neva, and myself are folks that you can talk to about summer lunch collaboration during the day.

Matt Sharp: Good morning, buenos dias. My name is Matt Sharp, and I work with **California Food Policy Advocates**, a statewide organization. I came up from Los Angeles to share with you what we do and why your work is so valuable to us and to a lot of kids and families around California. **CFPA is a statewide nutrition policy and advocacy organization working on strategies to increase the use of food programs to make sure that families have enough to eat and have good, nutritious food to eat as well.** So I'm really here to just say thanks for doing so much in your communities. So many families and kids benefit from these programs. I get a chance to visit a lot of the sites every summer and am just amazed at how grateful people are. CFPA is grateful to get your input and feedback about what works well with the Summer Lunch program, what can be tinkered with and improved to make it easier for all of you to operate in order to feed more kids and families. This is my sixth fall doing summer food meetings, and at each one I learn more and more, and so I'm excited and looking forward to the dialogue today and hoping that we can continue to translate some of your ideas and concerns into changes.

Let me give you one example of something that people in this room did that improved the Summer Lunch Program. We had a conversation much like this last fall at which one of the sponsors here raised the concern about how often they were monitoring their sites even though it was experienced staff, even though the sites were running smoothly for years, and how much money had been spent to get out and visit these programs over and over again. And because of that conversation the rule was changed. The Summer Lunch programs can operate a little simpler and less costly from now on in response to the concerns raised by people like you in this group ---by Gary Joseph in particular here. **So there are changes and possibilities that can happen by all of you coming together.** But more important than anything else Ca. Food Policy Advocates just want to say thanks for all the hard work you're doing to feed kids and families.

Lisa Tadlock: Good morning. I'm Lisa Tadlock, with **California/Nevada Community Action Association**, and like Matt and Edie I want to thank you for coming. I think these meetings are

very important to get the information we need to take back to the legislature and to policymakers on how we can enhance this Summer Lunch program.

Eddie Jessup: We have a very full agenda today, but probably one of the most important things is for us at this very time to have you all introduce yourself. If you would please just give us your name and tell us what your program is and what county you're from. We are recording our remarks today so that we will be able to transcribe what people said and summarize it for you. We will get it out to you, and then we will also share it with other people that might make a difference with the Summer Lunch Program.

Introductions of all participants.

Eddie Jessup: It's very exciting to see the diversity of kinds of programs, and I'm just very anxious today to hear more about what you have done and what you hope to do. I'd like to take just a few minutes before we begin our program to go through your packet so you know what is here and we know a little bit about what is going to be expected. We are ready at this point to move along to welcoming Dr. Suzanne Callor from the USDA to make a few remarks.

Dr. Suzanne Callor, USDA: I thought I would start by talking about what the role of USDA is with the state and with the sponsor of Summer Lunch Program. Some of you have seen USDA come out to review sites, and maybe some of you don't even have any idea what we do in general or why we come on certain reviews. How it works is that **USDA works with the state.** Our primary role is support and technical assistance, and then we also do reviews of the state. And pretty much they do the same things with you as sponsors of Summer Lunch, right? **Reviews, technical assistance, and support.** But just to keep a good understanding of how the programs are running and to actually meet the people on the front lines, we actually attend some state site reviews. Now usually how we pick which reviews we go on is we'll call and we'll say, "Hi Karen. I have some time in September. I need to go on a review. Who are you reviewing in September?" or, "We need to do a private nonprofit. Which ones are you doing this summer?" Or a Seamless Waiver. And that's how you get chosen for review. We don't say, "Hey, who's really problematic?" or, "Who's really good?" We say, "Who are you doing this week?" So when USDA comes out to a site we really are there to support the state and provide extra technical assistance. So I hope you're not more nervous when we're there, because that's not the intention at all.

And then I will talk a little bit about the **Seamless Waivers and the reauthorization of 2003** and some of the big things that you can expect coming up. Last December was the beginning of the big push for Summer Food for this last summer. As you know our undersecretary, Eric Bost, has made it one of his priorities to really help get summer meals out to kids. The reason is, **USDA finds that there are 12 million kids who don't get meals during the summer who are being fed during the school year. So, where are these kids, and how do we reach them during the summer?** The first thing we did was we met with the state agency, some sponsors and we really tried to come up with some good strategies for attacking the problem that we have of getting kids who are not eating in the summer into sites.

One thing you need are more sponsors, right? And so what's the big problem with being a sponsor? You've got all this paperwork, and there is not a lot of money involved. And it's also hard to get kids to sites. It's a great idea to have a site at a school, but if you were a kid, were you going to come to school during the summer to eat lunch? Maybe, maybe not. What if you lived in an apartment complex? That's a great idea to have a site inside an apartment complex, but when you were kids did you wear a watch and go, "It's 11:30. It's time to go eat lunch." No, you know, you got hungry and then you looked around for food. And it may or may not be at the time food was served in your apartment complex. Those were kind of the issues that came up, and they actually generated some ideas.

I hope that today you will generate more ideas that I can then bring back and share at another USDA meeting we're having in November to talk about solutions. And one question is: **Are schools really well adapted to handle the administrative work of Summer Food and produce meals?** Private nonprofits are really well suited to having activities that get kids in the door and actually feed the kids. So in states like Idaho they have had this huge push to really link up private nonprofits with schools. And so you have schools sponsoring instead of private nonprofits, but all of these **sites that used to be sponsors under private nonprofits are now participating in sites under schools, and so private nonprofits can give up the administrative burden of running the program, but they still have all these kids coming in, and they're still doing what they do best while the school does what they do best.** That was one really great thing that we all found that worked really well in Idaho, and I hope that it continues to grow in our western region.

The other thing that has worked really well to get kids to lunch sites, and some sponsors – we actually went with **Valley Vineyard this year on public review – and one of the things that they do is they might walk around the apartment complex and let kids know it's time to eat lunch.** If you're in a migrant site it's sometimes easier to drive through the neighborhood honking your horn, or maybe you have a bell. But at sites where there is no activity to draw the kids in, you need to remind them that it's time to eat lunch and give them some way to know that this is the right time. So there were a couple of good ideas that came up, and I hope that you guys can all use those ideas.

But the other things that we talked about were the administrative burdens, and we had **Suzanne Duverea** come in and talk about the **Seamless Waiver**, and her original idea had been, "I'm a school district, and I would be willing to serve meals in the summer if it was like the school lunch program." So that's where the Seamless Waiver was born and the idea that **schools can serve summer meals under school lunch rules.** Now my guess is if you looked up seamless in the dictionary it would not look at all like our Seamless Waiver. *There are all kinds of seams in the Seamless Waiver as far as I can tell.* There are really now two sets of rules, so it's almost like a third program, but with the **2003 reauthorization** that we'll talk about in a couple of seconds, I think that they might – at least it's being proposed, and I don't know how likely it is to pass – but the idea is it will actually fold permanently into school lunch, and then **maybe we will one day truly see a Seamless Waiver, or (inaudible), a seamless program where schools can offer meals under the school lunch program permanently.** We'll see how that works.

There is another exciting thing that unfortunately doesn't affect private nonprofits yet, and maybe part of the 2003 reauthorization will fix that, I'm not sure. But there's something called the **(inaudible)** which has been running in 14 states. This was the second year that it has run. And it eliminates the cost comparison. So if you know what it's like to do all the work associated with mealtime grades, expenses, or your budget and figuring out what reimbursement you get, this eliminates that. You may have the paperwork to show that your expenses are allowable, but you **just get meals times rates.** Unfortunately, this has not been tried out with private nonprofits, and I don't know if reauthorization would eliminate that or not. But that's a couple of things coming down the pipe that you can look forward to.

So I keep talking about the 2003 reauthorization. Has anyone ever heard of this before? Yea, Matt Sharp has. And Edie, okay. So we'll talk about that first then. **Every few years, like maybe every five or six years, Child Nutrition and WIC come up for reauthorization. And 2003 it's the big reauthorization for us this time,** and luckily it's not an issue as to *whether* or not Child Nutrition will be reauthorized. It's more a matter of how the program will change. So Eric Bost and his crew traveled the country, and they actually had nine listening sessions, or hearing sessions as they were called, and people from the community, sponsors, nutritionists, state people, a wide variety of people came in and had three minutes to say everything they wanted to tell him about how to improve the program. And, of course, you could submit written

papers, reams of paper if you wanted. But you had three minutes to get up and say everything you wanted to say. We compiled a report and did each session, and then they put them all together in D.C., and they are actually going to consider every single suggestion for the proposal for reauthorization. So making it a seamless program was one. I believe private nonprofits would probably like to see childcare and summer become seamless, whereas schools would like to see summer and school lunch become seamless, the issue of eliminating cost comparisons, and I only made 30 copies, but I will pass them around. All this information is **available on the web site** so you can see what kind of ideas people suggested. And so that is coming up. Now I have never been here through a reauthorization period. Have you, Matt? How long does it take to actually implement something for 2003 reauthorization?

Matt Sharp: The legislation for Child Nutrition Reauthorization will be signed in the summer to the early fall of 2003, and change will hopefully take effect for the following summer of 2004.

Dr. Suzanne Callor: Okay. So for 2003 reauthorization we can hope to see changes in 2004. So probably this summer will not operate much differently than it did the last summer except for Seamless Waivers should go much smoother, I hope, just because of the fact that we've all had practice for one year.

But the other exciting thing that we have coming that actually applies to everybody is a **sponsor kit**. Now if you've ever felt at a loss for materials, for fliers, for different kinds of things and wish that you had something that somebody else developed, that's what we've tried to do, and we hope to get this to the state agency by January 31, 2003, and we should make it. But the kit will have a **CD ROM with all the materials on it for use so you can print them off as many times as you want and other things**. The state will kind of compile what they think applies to you and bring that out to you. And so I brought examples. I only put in a few things that I thought would apply to everybody versus materials that might apply to some people and not to others. So you can pass them around. There are cards and door hangers and fliers and advertiser sites, but we really are trying to make things easier for sponsors, but there is only so much that we can do. A lot of stuff depends on Congress. And we have, me personally, I have no pull over any of those things. **So we'd like to hear how your life could be easier and make it easier for you to serve more kids**. We all are in here for the same goal, you know, from Eric Bost all the way down to the people who help out at the site. We want to feed kids, we want to do it in the most effective and efficient way possible, and we all recognize that we have to follow the regulations to do that. So we want to try to make it as easy as we can realizing that there's only so much we can do. And I'm available for questions if you have any questions later.

Eddie Jessup: Thank you. Note that in your packet you have some information on Child Nutrition Reauthorization. We have represented here various kinds of sponsors: school sponsors, community-based sponsors, and then another big category is EOC sponsors. Karen Simmons Gillian, who is the CDE representative here in Fresno, and Gloria Cabrera with CDE are going to follow up with a few words.

Karen Simmons Gillian, CDE: Good morning. I, too, am excited to see so many people here and so many different counties. I'd like to say that we're **putting the Central Valley on the map**, because what I hear is that our summit is maybe the premier summit in the state in terms of turnout, in terms of diversity, in terms of the number of counties. So give yourselves a pat on the back. We are trying to feed kids in the Central Valley, and I think every year we do a better job at that task.

I'd like to follow up on Suzanne's comments about the Summer Seamless Waiver. **We have one of the two pilot districts in the entire state with us, and that's Fresno Unified.** So Alisal on the coast and Fresno Unified were the districts in California that **piloted the idea of summer Seamless Waiver.** We also have with us school districts that were brave enough to put their foot in the water and take that lead and try summer seamless this past summer thereby expanding the outreach of the Summer Food Program. **I'm very happy that we have our traditional summer sponsors here as well,** and of course we've heard about Gary Joseph doing some things that actually made a change nationwide in terms of making the program just a little bit easier to manage. So I'm not taking anything away from our traditional sponsors. We could not do without them. But what I would like for those of you who are attending here who are not directly involved with summer feeding, I'd like you to take back a task into your communities, and that task is to **contact your school district,** your local school district, and **ask them what are they doing about Summer Seamless.** Some of your districts may not even know about summer seamless. Lots of paper comes across their desk, and they just haven't had time to take that in. So I'd like to challenge you in this room **to be advocates for Summer Seamless.** Say to your school districts – not just your superintendent, not just your food service director, but your elected school board representatives – what are they doing about seamless? **How can they use this paperwork-reduction effort to expand the number of children who are fed in the community?** And if you have anything to add to that, if you'd like to talk to me about that during any of the breaks or lunch, I'd love to talk about it. Again, let me tell you the schools that did summer seamless for the first time that are here. Why don't you raise your hand, because I know **Firebaugh did it for the first time,** and do we have any school districts from other counties? **Kerman Unified** also did it. **Sanger Unified** did it. So those are school districts that if you go back into your community you could ask your superintendent, your elected officials, to talk to those districts about their experience with Summer Seamless.

Gloria Cabrera, CDE: Good morning I work basically with school districts from **Tulare County,** but I am **also the representative for the nonprofit agencies,** and we had lots of participation from the school districts on the Seamless Summer Waiver, and they did a fantastic job this summer. I went out and observed four districts, and we're really excited about that new option for the districts. **And they're excited because it's a lot less work for them to operate that versus the Summer Food Program,** which is still an excellent program. So again, if anyone wants to talk to me regarding **Madera County, Tulare County, or Mariposa County,** I'd really like to talk to you, and I'm kind of excited that one of the largest nonprofits in Madera County is here today looking at the option of becoming a Summer Food sponsor. Thank you.

Eddie Jessup: Thank you Gloria. So Gloria and my friend Karen are the folks that can really facilitate your becoming a sponsor, your expanding your sponsorships, your seeing that sites are developed in your areas. So do talk to them. The next person we'd like to hear from is from Vicki Day, who's from Fresno Unified School District Food Services, and Fresno Unified has been brave in really piloting, as Suzanne mentioned, the Seamless Waiver with Alisal Unified, and then this was taken nationwide. So we're very proud to have done that, and we just would like to see it happening all over the valley. Vicki.

Vicki Day, Fresno Unified School District: Hi, I am Vicki Day from Food Service of Fresno Unified. I just wanted to tell you that we are doing pretty well. We have **30 sites that are doing Summer Seamless.** We're serving 99,000 lunches, last summer over 11,000 breakfasts. Most of our customers are from the lower grades. We're not having too much luck with secondary, so if anyone has any suggestions on how we might capture those. And we also need help with our community. We do have **fliers** that we send out to all our traditional schools for the kids who

are out over the summer. We send fliers out to the year-round kids who are out so...they don't have much offered for them where they can come and eat. We have **banners** on our fences to all the sites that offer summer feeding, so we're really trying to promote it. **Elementary, we're having good show, but like I said, the secondary in the community, we're not getting so much.** So if anyone has any suggestions, we're open. Thank you.

Edie Jessup: Thank you. I hope that you will talk to **Beyer High School** -Beyer High School has a display for you that you're going to want to look at over lunchtime. They have some very exciting things they've done with kids to help promote Summer Lunch.

Through California Food Policy Advocates we have developed some **mapping of Summer Food Sites**. Now we actually only have that mapping for **Fresno and Tulare Counties**. We can work on it for your counties. Before I put those slides on I want to just give you a little bit of overlay here about the poverty rate in the Valley. If you will notice that darker blue space there, that is us, and that is **greater than 30% overall poverty rate**. This is a look at the poverty rate for children in California, and once again we are looking at the highest poverty rate being located right here in the Valley. And our point is **that this feeding program that you are all involved in is critical, and the health and nutrition of our children is overwhelmingly impacted. Poverty is the biggest indicator that kids are not getting enough to eat. We know here in the Valley that the iron deficiency anemia rate is over four times the national rate, and that means permanent brain damage to our children here in the Valley. And so the importance of kids getting nutritious food year round is overwhelmingly important.** That is the context in which we're looking at Summer Food Programs. If you will look in your packet and find the list of *traditional school food sites* for your county, those will be kind of the first part. They're different colors depending on your county. This is the list, and I'm going to look at Tulare County. You have a copy of this map, and this shows in Tulare county where the traditional Summer Food Program sites were this last year and the Summer Food Service waiver sites in Tulare County. This is overlaid over the number of children in poverty. The waiver sites are blue, and the summer food traditional sites are purple. When you see the red area, this is an area of **52% and above childhood poverty. If you will notice the dearth of sites in those areas, this is the challenge that we would like for you to leave here with today, that places to develop sites we would hope would be concentrated in those areas that are darker.** You will have to identify the small communities for yourself, but I'm sure that you can do that. And if you can take these and begin to flaunt the information in your community it would be a wonderful thing.

I will do an overhead that Fresno County also has in their packet that also shows the same situation, really. **There's a concentration of sites in Fresno. I'm sorry we don't have the city broken down, but we will do that between now and sometime so that we can take a look in Fresno City where things are happening.** Gary Joseph (Fresno County EOC Food Services Director), you've done primarily most of the sites that are out in the County, and you can see that those are areas that need to be developed, and fortunately in Kerman and Mendota and Firebaugh this last year the school districts have picked up some of those sites also, and that is really a fantastic thing. But once again, you can see down here in the Huron area there is very little. We've got some additional sites, and certainly the fact that the waiver is being used is very exciting.

Madera? Are there sites operating in Madera? Can somebody help me with that? How come they're not on here?

Participant comment: There are no waiver sites there in Madera. **(Inaudible.)**

Edie Jessup: There is one nonprofit, I believe, in Madera that is doing summer food, but it's open territory for folks to come on line in Madera County.

So these overhead reports are going to give us some idea of the challenge that is out there for us, and those of you who have been Summer Lunch participants encourage other people and use yourselves as models. I also want to point out that this is primarily school district stuff and that **one of the things that has increased sites here in Fresno County is both Gary Joseph as sponsor and Jim Chapman here as sponsor, and this is a different way of providing Summer Food Services sites.**

Jim, you increased how many sites this year? Eleven. **Jim increased from going from like two to eleven sites this year that he sponsored.** He **umbrellaed** these different sites and helped them with it. Gary Joseph, we'll hear from you a little later about how you have increased the number of sites and your program. **So there are both the traditional ways that the schools can work on this, there are the waiver sites, and then there are some nontraditional community-based programs that can contribute to making sure that kids eat here in the Valley.**

Now that we've heard a little bit about what is happening, we are going to do some **table work on how the program went this year and the things that went on.** We are going to pass out some **flip chart** pages, and you will find a recorder at your table, I'm going to leave the overhead on here so that you can look at how it was this year for **access, participation, for outreach issues**, the kinds of things that you did that **worked and that didn't work** and looking at **community collaboration**, how you worked with your community or didn't, looking at **year-round Summer Food site issues and the use of the Seamless Waiver.** You're going to have about 25 minutes to do this, and we hope someone will record, and we will report back at 11:30 to the larger group.

Table workshops.

Edie Jessup: Welcome Ken Hecht, Executive Director of California Food Policy Advocates. He has just walked into the room and is just in time to hear us talk about the kinds of things that worked really well this year. Please state your name if you're the reporter. It looks like **Randy Moins from Fresno County EOC** will be our first speaker.

Table #1 Spokesperson, Randall Moins: I'm Randall Moins with Fresno County EOC Food Service. At our table, in regard to **access what's really, really important is walking distance to the site**, because we found that there is **always a transportation issue that kids can't get to a site.** Maybe both parents are working, and it's important to have it in close proximity to where the children are. It's very difficult to get kids to come to a site that is not surrounded by homes or apartments or **Recreation – we found that most of the sites that are the busiest are the ones that have recreation for the kids**, lots of *Parks and Recreation* that have organized programs, they're the ones that tend to have increased participation. **We collaborate with other organizations** and other entities, apartments, Parks and Recreation, and of course transportation is a big issue, especially in the rural communities where transportation doesn't exist or is very limited. In regard to **participation**, the Salvation Army, one of the people represented here, they have some innovative ideas about *having stickers, like stars, maybe having children's name on a roster and every day that they come in they get a star for participating.* I think that was a good idea. A lot of sponsors have **fliers** that they send maybe to the school before school is out or have fliers that go out to the apartment complexes or homes in the area; fliers that you can stick on the doorknobs. **Serving-time flexibility**, that's important, *because you're going to get better participation if you adjust your serving time.* Maybe summer school, maybe there isn't any Summer Food Service Program at that summer school. Kids get out of school, maybe you can time it so that kids will be available for that type lunch program. Another innovative idea is the **collaboration with Senior Nutrition Sites. Senior Nutrition Sites are sites that are year round.** We have a site in the city of Firebaugh, and sometimes seniors can be rather territorial about their sites, but at the same time they really

enjoy having small kids, enjoy being around small kids. Some of them don't get that opportunity, and that's really worked out really well for us is combining it with that. Again, for outreach, we're talking about fliers, and incentives. **Banners** have been really great in identifying sites. We have these big, huge banners that are displayed, and that really tells the children where the sites are located. And then **news releases**, getting the word out in the service areas that you're providing Summer Lunch, doing news releases, just letting the community know through newspaper, radio, etc. Again, this is a little bit redundant, but **community collaboration**. We've worked a lot with the Parks and Recreation Department. We've done that, and it's been collaborating with them, particularly recreational sites that have activities, it really brings a lot of kids in. Also in the rural areas of Fresno County we have, it's called the SAL Program, *Sheriff Activity League*, they actually have programs for kids that are organized, and we've worked with them in having a sack lunch site there along with their activities. And then the urban areas would be the *Police Activity League*. They do a similar thing with children. And we've collaborated with *churches*. I know **Jim Chatman** is involved in the program with churches and *Parks and Recreation* and *apartment complexes*. It's amazing where in a few apartment complexes they'll actually give up some of their office space or they'll give up actually an apartment and allow us to have a sack lunch site in that building. And **so it's great because the kids are right there, and it really works out well**. Year round site issues – we have **two sites that are year round currently**, and what we've seen is basically, it's been a year round – it's inside the city of Fresno – because it's in a location where **there is year round school, so kids are on track and off track, and what's difficult is you're going to get some kids off track and then other kids are going to be on track, and then the numbers tend to fluctuate quite a bit, yet your costs remain the same whether you have a lot of kids or you have very little number of kids**. It makes it very difficult because you've got to always have somebody there to hand out the sack lunches, and you want to at feed at the same time, and it makes it very difficult when there are kids off track and on track and trying to keep...the counts fluctuate. And then the use of the *Seamless Waiver* – *nobody in our group was involved in the Seamless Waiver*. *We're a private nonprofit organization, so we're not involved in that National School Lunch Program*. Does anybody have any questions?

Eddie Jessup: Thank you very much. Good work! Okay, next table.

Table #2 spokesperson: We had the opportunity over here to talk with **(inaudible) High School, who is with Modesto City Schools, different from Modesto Nutrition Services**. And then the other participants in our group were kind of observing, and some new ones were getting some great ideas, but they have a great program up there, and they have over 30 years of experience running a summer food program up there, so they are a great wealth of knowledge. Their access – they go and use through the Title I schools, the **majority of them are at parks that are adjacent to schools, so they are able to really glean on the kids who are coming right out of summer school, go right to the park, get their lunch on the bus, and they go home**. So they're really able to utilize those parks in their community. They have **three traditional school sites** that they're using, so there is some of that there. Their participation – we went more with numbers and age groups, because I think that's one of the major concerns that everybody sees is **how are we going to get these older kids who actually need the nutrition just as much as the younger ones?**, if you ever see what they eat on a regular basis. I have a 15-year-old, so. Their **participation is about 75% or lower all in lower grades. Most of the kids obviously are junior high or less, and then they have about 25% participation in high school**. And one of the ways that they have been able to really bring some of those kids out is that they **involve other teens as part of their employees and part of their ROP group who are high school students themselves who are actually working for the program**. So they are able to utilize those high school students, have some

connection with those kids who are coming to the program so they don't feel that it's beneath them to be able to come out and participate in these programs. **As their outreach, again, they use the teen workers that relate a lot to the kids, and their site managers are of young ages** and what Brian said was young at heart, so they try and keep that age group so that they can really relate with these children. And then he feels that they have about **six to eight different languages in their area** that they deal with on a regular basis, so they really have a challenge there to be able to get all of those kids out. I'm really impressed with their **community involvement** and where they have gone with that. The major community part of this is their ROP program and have really brought out their kids to come out and work. Their Parks and Recreation, deal with the Salvation Army, and they felt their police department gives them a huge amount of support, which I'm assuming is probably a PAL group. Is it like the PAL group? Okay. But one area that I thought was very, very interesting is where they have brought **industry** in. **They get a huge support from Modesto Sysco, and then Foster Farms has actually developed a product or produces a product during the summer only for the program that they don't normally do, and that's strawberry milk in a half pint** that the kids just absolutely love. So they have been able to work in **partnership with industry to increase their participation** just by being able to give the kids something that they really, really do enjoy, and that brings those kids out there. So look at industry for support. That's a great way to improve your participation is to get that support from those industry people out there. What this program really, really stands out and says is **youth empowerment and connections**. They have really, really brought that up and out, and they have been able to capitalize on that emphasis. So that's a great, great thing, and I want to applaud **(inaudible)** food service for their group up there.

Table #3 Spokesperson: Well, I had a chance to take notes for a great group of folks from **Fresno Unified** from **Foodlink** (Tulare County's Food Bank), and from the **City of Dinuba**, so we had a lot of different input about **what worked well this summer and where they can go next summer**. In terms of **access** to the sites and to the places to get lunch there is **one year round location operated by Fresno Unified where kids are welcomed back on campus for Lunch during their school break (inter-session)**.

During the regular summer there are a few sites in the **parks in Dinuba that are operated in conjunction with the Foodlink (Tulare Co. Food bank), and there are over 40 sites operated by Fresno Unified at different schools that are offering summer school**. Some are doing the waiver, but the locations were available. We spent much of our time talking about **why participation might be low**. It was identified that **community kids who are not participating in a program or who are not in summer school are the most underrepresented. Children who are not in summer camp or not in class don't show up nearly as often as the kids who are already there**. As far as how information gets out, how do people find out about this program, the locations and time it's offered, the most common ways cited by everyone were **fliers** to the schools. It also sounded like all the sites have **banners** that are making sure people walking by know where the site is at. **Newspaper advertisements** were done. Announcements were done. **Door hangers** were distributed in a lot of areas to get out the word. **Bookmarks** were printed up and sent out. **(Inaudible)** received a sucker with the site location. **Health fairs** were a place where a lot of was support drummed up, including **balloons** we heard about. One of the conclusions, though, that came out of the outreach conversation was that **the media work hasn't been as useful. Of all the ways that families have found out about the program and decided to also come, media seemed to be one of the least effective ways to reach them**.

A number of different media outlets were tried among the groups at the tables here, and compared to their other outreach activities it was felt that they weren't the most effective uses of

time, but certainly **in some rural areas the Spanish-language radio is the most effective tool to reach people.**

Why do elementary school children seem to be the only ones getting the lunches? Why do high school kids believe that the program isn't for them or that it's not cool? And we brainstormed a lot of ideas. We certainly heard that there **needs to be more hot food at sites. That's a problem we see all over the state is where cold sandwiches, it's hard to sustain a participation throughout the summer.** The variety that's available in cold lunches is a lot less, certainly, than if there were hot meals. You know, the program isn't as cool as perhaps just shooting basketball during the lunch hour, and there have been a few creative things tried, advertising a water day, a movie day at the site. **There is certainly interest in trying to look at how to make the high school kids feel like it's not a free program, like it's just something to hang out and do.** And so everyone talked about trying to come up with some energy and interest in targeting high school kids, whose participation has been lower than other children at the sites.

Table #4 spokesperson: Hi We've got Tulare County and Madera County here. We were also talking about **being close to the high schools so when the students are finished with their summer school Lunch is right there.** It also *helps that one of the high schools in Visalia is near a skate park, and that's where a lot of the kids spend their time.* And then also with the **youth centers**, if there are activities provided the kids come, and they'll eat there. One of the things about outreach that was helpful were the **churches**, to involve the churches in the community. And another issue that came up was **childcare issues. A lot of parents will tell their children, maybe they're home alone, "Don't go anywhere," and they don't want them to go to the park for lunch, but maybe they would feel more comfortable allowing them to go to a church, so the churches would be a good place to outreach to to provide the lunches.**

One of the other **problems** that came up with timing had to do with **not being told that you had the grant even though the year for the grant had already started, and that was real problematic for outreach, because if you didn't know you were being funded you couldn't outreach early enough** or get an earlier start with outreach. A couple of activities that were helpful **were face painting**, to offer face painting, and the kids would come for that, or activities like **Bingo**. One of the things that was mentioned was **finding community talents. There is one guy in Tulare County that can juggle, and when he comes to a site and is juggling, the kids come in droves to have lunch and to watch him.** The other thing that was offered was to **offer field trips**, and so when the kids would come for lunch then they would also get to go on a field trip, and that brought a lot more kids in too.

Table #5 spokesperson: Hi. We have information here about **Valley Vineyard Church** that's a **Sponsor** located here in Fresno County. **They have 11 sites right now that they're using with Summer Food Service Program.** They had some challenges. **The challenges they faced in the last year were just finding sites where the children are, finding site volunteers at those sites, and also as accessible sites** is also an issue as far as **busy street crossings** in front of the site. **Language barriers** are another challenge, and **the information going out needing to be culturally appropriate.** Also, **refrigeration** is necessary at all of these sites, so that's another challenge. **And the reimbursement, funding shortfall, of course, is also a challenge.** So they use about *75% of their staffing is through volunteers*, which is great. And they also get very creative and seek out supplemental funds as needed. So their participation, **they do have a year round program because they do serve the kids where school isn't in session. Their year round program also serves younger children.** In their Summer Lunch Program, **a major barrier to participation is the community not knowing about the program.** So *marketing* is their tool that they use to get around that

barrier. So getting the word out that it is a **free program, there are no ties connected, that it's just a nutrition program to keep children healthy, and also activities surrounding the meal time draws the children in.** And also there is some outreach they use to get the word out. A big one that helped Valley Vineyard was the **Fresno Bee. There was an article written in that newspaper. It kind of was the catalyst for getting the word out to television stations, and they did have an alternative form of media with Hispanic and Hmong radio advertising.** *And also they get information about off-track students and they take fliers to those students.* Some **collaborations they have done are with apartment complexes and also school districts, Fresno Unified School District, and because they are private nonprofit they don't deal with the Seamless Waiver at this time.**

Table #6 spokesperson: I'll just address some issues that we covered that have not been brought up before. **When I moved here about four years ago one problem that I found with my school district was that they were not even aware of the Summer Food Program. We'd always use the National School Lunch Program.** Coming from Kentucky I felt like I had a better handle on that particular program and was **thrilled to be working with a superintendent who said if you know about it go with it. But what I found was the paperwork was very cumbersome.**

I was in Firebaugh. **I was thrilled with the Seamless Waiver Program, because really it answered all of our needs once it came about, and again I had the same superintendent who said if you know about it we'll go along with it.** And I've learned that that's not always a typical situation. But we found with the **Seamless Waiver that it worked very well for us. Our biggest problem that we had was with our bookkeeping department saying is this all you need. They kept coming back and saying, "Are you sure, Betty, we don't need more documentation?" "Are you sure you don't need more information?"** "Karen, I hope not, cause that's all we've got." But I was really thrilled about that, and school districts who are here, I'll share with you that it worked beautifully for us. **Where we've really tried to improve our program is in accessibility to our program.** We are fortunate in *through our 21st Century Program we've developed a quite large summer program for our children, so we have a captive audience that's there.* **We expanded out the Seamless Waiver Program to our traditional summer school sites as well, and that's worked really well for us.** This next year in Firebaugh *we're going to look at expanding out into the community because we're not getting all of the children, and I will be the first to admit we're not getting the children who need the program the most.* So we're going to move out into that particular area. Our participation, we have found that **if parents are aware then the children do come. Something that I've instituted is that I have asked parents who traditionally will not participant in free programs to be examples into the community. I've asked them to actually come with their children.** And that's a Southern way of doing things, but that's worked really well because we all know in small communities there are people who need to be seen participating. And if you can get those people to actually come with their children, then other people follow them. And that's worked real well in our program, and I go after those people as well. The community collaboration is very, very important, but we focused in our group on some things that we need to see as improvements along that particular area, and we agreed **as a group that we need to contact nontraditional leaders in our community, those individuals who are leaders in the community but they're not official leaders in the community, and make sure that they're aware of the programming. Also we need to contact the Board of Supervisors and get some real commitment that they're going to put some pressure where it needs to be that more programs will be available for our children.** Logically, we need to contact **parent groups** in the community, make sure the education program is there about programming and contact the special types of parent groups that deal with particular sectors of our community and make sure they're aware as well. What Ethel and I

did that came up in this group was to **encourage kids to help other kids**. We all have specialized programs in the summer in our schools for children that we've targeted. Make part of **community service there for the kids** when they go back to their **community to choose three or four or five kids to bring with them to the Summer Food Program**, and make sure that other children are participating. And a key component is **parent education all the way from the level of the importance of proper nutrition to the availability of programming in the area**.

Table #7 spokesperson: Well, Mr. **Chang Jiong** is the supervisor in **Merced for the Lao Community Group**, and this is sort of an outline of what his program does. *They feed 100 to 150 children a day when all the kids are out of school. It drops to about 50 a day because they have several year round schools, so the kids come and go. They've done a lot of outreach in both English and Hmong with fliers and T.V. ads, and they advertise all year because theirs is an all-year program. And they use CalWORKS participants to help with the serving and cleanup. And they also pay high school students to provide the food, make the meals*, which is another good idea.

The Program I was involved in, which was running the summer lunch for one school, which was **Holland School**, and I learned a lot of things not to do as well as some things to continue doing. (Report will be after lunch for Holland School Lunch Bag Lady).

Edie Jessup: Thank you so much. We will summarize this information and get it out to all of you, so make sure you have signed in and give us your addresses so that we can get this information to you. In order to introduce lunch, I'd like to have **Gary Joseph from Fresno County EOC Food Services** come up and tell us a little bit about how his program has worked, and then he will invite us to lunch, which EOC has provided. Cal/Neva is sponsoring lunch today.

Gary Joseph, Fresno County EOC Food Services: Good afternoon. My remarks will be really short, because I think everybody is getting hungry, right? First of all I'd just like to welcome everyone here to Fresno and tell you just a little bit about our program. **We started doing Summer Lunch back in 1991**, and it was kind of a trial thing. We knew that the **City of Fresno was heavily involved, but nobody was really doing it in the rural area, and being that we are a private nonprofit organization doing social service work throughout the county, we already had vehicles accessing senior sites and Head Start sites in the rural community**. We were actually **going to 85 different spots**. *So we thought when the Head Start program was in recess for the summer we could utilize the equipment to get food out to the rural areas, so we tried this.* I was really reluctant because the City of Fresno showed me the procedure that was involved to get involved with this, and it was just absolutely horrendous. *The application process, the paperwork, but anyway, we went ahead and we set up two sites, one in Mendota and one in Firebaugh and went through the whole process and a tremendous amount of work, but I soon realized that to get into this and make the reimbursement rate work it was actually going to need to be a game of volume.* So we learned very quickly that in order to reach the break-even that you needed to grow and to make sure that you had a lot of volume, especially with the distances that we were going. So we started with the two sites, and then the next year we went to four and then to eight and then so forth through the years, and we finally got to **25 sites, which is the maximum that a private nonprofit could attain**. *We did need to get a waiver to go beyond the 25 last year, so I had written a letter to the state and didn't get a whole lot of response back, and I think it was just because maybe they weren't used to getting these letters like this and they didn't quite know where to go with it.* So we were sort of back and forth with them and then finally got a hold of Karen who made one phone call and got it taken care of in a hurry. Not only did we get the four or five sites that we wanted, she got many

more on the waiver than we had originally expected. So we do thank Karen for her work in that, and it certainly does help to know people in high places. So we did exceed our number and on the list. You'll see if you count them up we have a **total of 33 sites that we have served over the years**. Now, as far as just talking about that growth a little bit, there has been a lot of **collaboration**. Randy talked to you today a little bit about how we've hooked up with the Sheriff's Activity League, the Police Activity Leagues, and people have stepped forward like Diane Scott here. I can't thank her enough for what she's done for our community and for feeding those kids out there, **so there's a person that stepped up, was persistent, came to our meetings, and finally we started sending her some lunches, and she's done great things over there, so we do appreciate that Diane Scott**. I can't go too much further without mentioning the fact that we've had these meetings over the years, and I have to tell you that for those – I know there's a lot of people here new that are thinking about getting into this – the *paperwork and the hassle factor that I call it that we started with in 1991 is completely different from the way it is today*. There have been a tremendous amount of changes that have taken place to make this **really sponsor friendly**. And we might have started off with a list of 20 items, and we're probably down to, what do you think Ken, about 14 or so, maybe six or eight to go, but I do want to **recognize Ken Hecht from the California Food Policy Advocates, because every time we've had these meetings his people have worked very hard to take our ideas back to Washington D.C. to make sure that changes get made**. And I have to tell you, it does take time, but changes do get made, and that's why this session is very important and this afternoon to get your thoughts known in terms of those things that are still a little hassle that maybe we could change, because they do change. So I will end it with that.

One of the changes that we did make was that the requirement calls for you to make a visit on the first week at each of your sites, and if you have five sites that's not a problem, but if you have 20 or 30 or 40 sites it takes an army to get out to visit each of those sites during the first week, and then you've got to turn around and you've got to do it again within the first four weeks. So we were able to change that for sponsors that have been around a long time where there has been a change to that policy, and that's been a beneficial change, and that's one of the things that I'm talking about that you can make a difference at this meeting by bringing up those things that you think should be changed, because they do get done. So with that I'll conclude, and lunch is served over here

Edie Jessup: Thank you, Gary. And we will have lunch. Reverend Walt Parry is the executive director of Fresno Metro Ministry and is responsible for everything. Thank you, Walt.

Edie Jessup: The next part of our program, this is part of our working lunch, and there are two presentations. The first one is going to be from Tulare Foodlink, which is the Food Bank in Tulare County, and they are a sponsor of the Summer Food Services Program this again is another **innovative community-based sponsor program**, and so Sandy Beals and your staff, please come up and tell us how you do it. Thank you.

Sandy Beals, Tulare Foodlink Food Bank: I'm Sandy Beals, and I'd like to introduce the chief staff people at Foodlink who do our Summer Food Program, Becky Kennedy and Mandy Mahaney, who will talk to you a little bit later.

What I wanted to start out with was a little bit of history and how Foodlink got started and why we got started sponsoring a Summer Food Program. Our story starts back in **1989 and 1990. Some of the school nurses and the school staff were coming to me since we were in the nonprofit food bank and said, you know, the kids are coming back to school in September, and they're not ready to learn**. It takes us a month of review and constant working with them to get them back to where they can start to learn anything new. And what they thought a big part of the problem was is the **kids were so malnourished over that three**

months of summer that they just physically were not able to accept new information, and this was a problem. So we talked with the people at *the youth centers and mentoring centers and community centers, and sure enough, the kids were coming in to do some recreational activities and play with each other and participate, but the problem was the girls were whiney and the little boys were aggressive and kind of punching each other and they said, you know, these kids are just experiencing behavioral problems. We think they just need to eat.* They're coming in hungry. They haven't had breakfast. Some of them haven't had a decent dinner the night before. They need a good, solid meal. So as a Food Bank we scratched together things and put together the best we could and we were giving them day old bread and peanut butter and scraping our pennies together to try to get some jelly, forgive me nutritionists, but jelly on the peanut butter, and you know, non-fat dried milk when we had it and odds and ends and fruit when it was available. A real scratched together lunch, and it was not great, and the kids ate it like they hadn't eaten a meal in days. So it told us that food, such as it was, was really important. So we kept doing that every summer as long as we could. **In 1991 things changed for us, and changed in a very dramatic way. The nice folks from CFPA, and I think there are a few folks here today, called me on the phone and they said, Sandy, just to make sure you know this, and of course I didn't, the Department of Education USDA Summer Food Service Program is now going to be open to nonprofit sponsors. And I said oh!** And they gave me more information, and I thought, you know what, this is something we can do. And I'm not going to tell you it was easy, but we got together a vendor and worked with the folks and we got our first Summer Food Program together in 1991. Numerous problems in those days, a lot of which have been resolved, thank goodness. But one of the big problems we had, Tulare County, as you know, is a very, very rural area. It's made up of one or two larger towns and tons of little tiny communities. So serving those areas is not easy. You've **got big transportation problems, you've got trouble finding clean and safe locations for the kids, bathroom facilities are few and far between, sanitation, you name it. It costs more to do a program in a rural area, that's all there is to it.** Well, in exactly 1991 Tulare County had been declared by the Census Bureau what they call an SMSA. That makes us urban. So USDA says you're urban, your reimbursement rate is lower, and I said, please come visit us, because I think you're going to get it that **we are not urban** in any way other than statistically. So they did. Cleo Davis, who I wish were here today, was so instrumental in getting our program going. He did come down from Sacramento and paid us a visit, and he said, Sandy if you ain't rural, nobody is. So I don't know what strings he pulled, **but he got us a rural reimbursement rate, which we still have today, and that makes it possible for us to do our program.**

Becky Kennedy of my staff who has been coordinating our Summer Food Service Program for the last couple of years, and Becky has not only done a bang-up job of organizing the program, she has gotten new sites in areas where I didn't think it was possible, so she deserves a lot of congratulations, and I wanted to tell you how she did that. And also Mandy Mahaney, who is our communications director, has done a just incredible job of outreach and advocacy for the program. So I'm glad to welcome my staff. Thank you.

Becky Kennedy, Tulare Co. Foodlink Foodbank: As Sandy said to you, this was just my second year involved in Summer Food, and last year I was kind of just thrown into it and got really behind it when I found out what the program really was and what we were trying to accomplish in feeding these kids that otherwise would not be having lunch. I'm glad that I had no preconceived notions going into the program, you know, paperwork, all of that, because I really went in it with my eyes wide open thinking, wow, this is neat. Let's just go with it, and how can we make it happen. When I started working with the program last year we had seven sites that we were serving. **One of our sites was at the very south end of our Valley. It's a little community called Tavistin, and we were basically round trip driving about an hour-and-a-**

half to deliver 15 lunches on average, but in the times I took that trip down there I'm thinking to myself, okay there are all these little communities on the way down. What's happening there? And so during previous year I was talking to people and I found out that there were actually no sites in two of our really poorest communities. **Earlimart and Pixley** had absolutely no sites that were serving lunch, and there are a lot of kids down there and a lot of very poor kids. So just by calling and asking questions and finding out, I started with our local **C-SET office to see if they had any agencies down there existing, and a good surprise was that they already had two youth community centers that were already down there.** So what I did was I just called the right people I guess, because I was able to partner up with them, and I said, you know, we have this summer food program. You've got these kids coming in here already. *How would you like to feed them lunch?* And they were just very excited at that prospect. So that's basically what I did. We had another little pocket community called **Delph Colony** which kind of falls between Dinuba and London, which were two sites that we already had, but there is a pocket of about 500 people that live in this little area, so there again I just happened to call the right people, and I was able to contact a pastor of a church there that was very, very responsive and was thrilled at the idea of giving kids lunch. So that's basically how we established our new sites that we currently have.

One of the other things that happened in one of our existing sites is we had a site in Goshen. Some people approached me. They thought that the youth center would be a better idea to have the summer food site there instead of the church that it was existing at, and I'm telling you this story because this didn't quite turn out the way I had hoped, so **we decided to shift our site from the church to the youth center that was a little more centrally located.** Well, the problem we had there is, yes, we got all these new kids coming to this youth center, but all of the kids that were going to the other site were not coming to the new site. So, yes, we were serving new kids, but we weren't serving the kids we were serving before. So I contacted the powers that be at the Summer Food Program, and they let me open back up the site we had, so then we were able to *establish two sites and we were serving two groups of kids, the older kids at the youth center, the younger kids at the church*, and there was our other site we established.

I have some statistics. As you all know, it seems as though when the program first starts the numbers are up really high and everybody is gung ho and the kids are coming, and then for the *second half of the program traditionally for us our numbers drop to almost half of what they were.* With the implementing of our four new sites this year last year's average daily participation for the second half, which I call July through August, we had an average daily participation of 180 kids. This year during that same time period we had an average daily participation of 354 kids. So **we almost doubled the number of kids that were getting lunch**, too. It's very exciting. We still have a lot of work to do. As Sandy talked about, there are **so many little pockets of communities out there that are not being served**, and my personal goal for next year is to try and get out into the community and brainstorm and try to find ways that either Foodlink ourselves can sponsor or we can find additional sponsors so that any child that wants to get a lunch can get a lunch. And just coming to this summit enables us to take ideas back and come up with new strategies and new ways to try and get additional sites, *and just with a few phone calls and a little bit of leg work we practically doubled our numbers this summer, and I would like to see the same thing happen next year.* And that is made possible with the help of my cohort here, Mandy. I'd like her to talk about some of the really neat ideas she came up with this summer for outreach and kind of neat little treats for the kids and ways to get the message out.

Mandy Mahaney, Tulare County Foodlink Foodbank: At Foodlink we added these new sites this summer, and they were in very underserved areas, so we had a great population to work with. The key was going to be to bring these new kids in since a site hadn't been there before,

and so at Foodlink we did some **new outreach activities this summer for our current sites and these new sites, and many of them are very successful.** I've just put together a little poster of some of the examples for you guys. I'll leave it sitting around someplace if you want to wander around and look at them. But we put together **signs, large posters** that were put up in the *community centers, the youth centers, the local stores, post offices,* places like that. We also distributed **bookmarks that listed all of the sites** because our sites are very rural and there aren't libraries in many of the locations, but the Bookmobile does travel to each of these little communities, and so we distributed bookmarks *through the Bookmobile.* Several of the youth centers where we were starting sites already had reading groups for children or children and their parents, and so those **reading groups distributed bookmarks** that listed the sites and the times. We also distributed **door hangers** in each community that were specialized *with the location and time appropriate for that community.* **Fliers in our food boxes at our food pantries and our food distributions, and fliers to the schools** in the areas where we had lunch sites. Another really effective and really cute and fun promotional outreach thing we did was most of these places had their own **little health fair, safety fair, children's fair with balloons** and dunking booths, and the policemen came and gave demonstrations, and so **Foodlink set up booths at these locations with happy little balloons that say Free Lunch in English and Spanish.** And the kids were so excited to get these helium-filled balloons. So all the kids would line up and get their balloons, but tied to the bottom was a little tag that mentioned free lunch and where they could get it, the address and times and dates, and so while the kids lined up to get the balloons, the parents ended up with the balloons after a few minutes usually, and the tag was on there, and a lot of people really responded to that. That's just an overview of some of the promotional activities we did.

Edie Jessup: Thank you so much Sandy and Mandy and all. Okay, our next speaker is **Fresno's famous Lunch Bag Lady, Diane Scott,** and I'm really pleased that she's come to talk. She persevered in starting a site here in Fresno where she saw one was needed, and I just want to say that her recruitment came from an article in the Fresno Bee. A reporter reported about the need for summer lunch sites, and that was effective in having some local community folks come forward. So Diane, come tell us how it was and what you think.

Diane Scott: Good afternoon, everyone. Well, my little grandson has attended **Holland Elementary School,** and I knew that it's a very diverse group of children that come to school there from a lot of different households, and so being a former social worker I figured that probably those households didn't have a lot of money, and so I talked to the principal who told me that about **60% or more of the children came from homes that qualified them for either free or reduced-rate lunches.** And she also told me that **Holland was not having a Summer Lunch Program because they weren't going to have a summer school program at that school.** And so immediately I ran to Edie and I said, "I've got to do something about this," because I just have a thing about not wanting any child to be hungry, and I think it's a carryover from my grandmother. So Edie said, well, come to this meeting and I'll introduce you to Mr. Joseph (EOC) and we'll see how to get this started, and he was very helpful, and my site was one of those extra ones that he got. And of course I had to start looking for a place, and I started with **Cary Park,** which is right next door to Holland School, and I started with the low man on the totem pole that was in charge of the park and was told that that definitely wouldn't work. **They couldn't let me do that having to do with insurance, you know, all those children. Well, wait a minute. What's a park for?** But anyway, finally by the time I had talked to a number of people and got to the head of the whole thing he said, "Well, sure you can do it there." And then Randy came over to look over the site with me and let me know that we **needed a place to store the food overnight that wasn't eaten by the children, and the park didn't really have enough of the tables and benches, and he said, "Why don't we ask the**

principal if we could use some of the facilities there?" So we did, and she was thrilled to be helpful and said, "*Well, you don't need to be over there in the park. We've got a really nice place right here on the school ground,*" which was much better because it was contained, and it had trees, and it also had more lunch tables, and she said, "*And you can use the PTA room because we've got a refrigerator in there. It'll be great.*" Well, about this time I was thinking I must have done something right sometime. It's going too well. So we were ready to start the program and it was going to be the last day of school, and I thought, this is my last chance to get any information out to the parents, so *I developed this little flier and took it over to **Andy Vu** at the Parent Engagement Center and asked him if he would please get it translated into Spanish and Hmong for me. He not only did that, he printed up enough to send one home with each of the kids.*

So we only had about 10 children that showed up the first day and for most of that week. I found out later, which I should have known anyway having had five kids through the public schools, that **not a very large percentage of these fliers ended up in homes.** And then Randy brought me one of the **big signs that I put up on the fence**, and it actually stayed there okay for quite a while before some kids tore it up. But anyway, finally some other children started coming until **by the end we were serving about 45 lunches a day**, and there were a couple of days when we ran out of food, and I'm fishing around in the goody box, you know, well, here's a sandwich that somebody didn't eat, and there's...and I hated to send anybody away hungry. So I always ask for more food for the next day, which I usually had some left over, but anyway. **Most of the children that came were preschool children, or the ones that started coming, and their parents brought them**, their mothers mainly. They would come with this little line of children, the youngest one in the stroller, and these *parents got to know each other.* They would sit there and chat and swap horror stories with one another while the children ate. **There was this one little boy that was the most darling child in the world, and he would come up to me with those big blue eyes open and say, "Could I have another milk, please?"** I could usually find one in the goody box. But anyway, there were a lot of really **good things that happened there besides just feeding the kids**, because the parents got to know each other and the kids made friends with one another. My little grandson who will be eight in December went with me most of the time and would help carry out the heavy boxes of, well, the milk was always the heaviest because they've got ice all over it. He'd help me carry that out, put it on the tables, and then he'd help me count it, because you have to count each bag and each carton of milk, and if you were lucky they came out even. So he helped me do that, and then he liked to help give them out to the children. And as it turned out, later on in the program some of the older boys decided they wanted to get in on that too, so they started helping with the boxes and giving out the food, and sometimes I'd have to say, "Slow down. I have to write down how many of these you've given out." But anyway, it wasn't just my grandson, but it was **a lot of the children that came to feel that doing things for other people was a good deal. And then there were older children who came**, and even occasionally some teenagers. They didn't have smiles on their faces, but they came bringing their younger siblings. So we ended up with quite a large age range of children there. And the last day we had this little celebration where all the kids got a juice bar or a fudge bar or something like that, and this one little boy, his mother said she put a really clean shirt on him to come that day, and it was chocolate all the way down. And another person brought some small gifts for the children. And it was just like, you know, you got to know those people and everybody began to care about each other, and **we just became a small community of caring. I think that was one of the best things that happened, and I hope that can happen at a lot of the schools from now on.**

Edie Jessup: Thank you Diane. And I hope that that will encourage you to encourage other people to take on being a site coordinator to offer sites to folks as you can. Table work at this

time will focus **on what we'd like to have with the Summer Food Service Program in the Valley for next year.** I have put a few issues on the overhead that we would like to have you **discuss at your tables about successes to build on, what we'll improve upon, and what we'll definitely change.** We very much are interested in the kinds of things that you have experience with already that you don't want to do again next year and looking at barriers, particularly the things that could be **changed that would make your program better and more accessible to kids, the resources you might need, and who you should be collaborating with.** So we'll take again about a half hour. If you'll choose a recorder, and we will try and work on the kinds of things that we're going to build into programs and outreach for next year for the Summer Food Program.

Table workshops.

Eddie Jessup: Folks We'd very much like to have you report out on some things that you're committed to doing this next year with Summer Food.

Table A spokesperson: We found that some of our successes were finding the necessary **funding we need to help supplement the program. We found that without the extra funding we wouldn't have been able to expand.** We found that getting the **media attention** was a success. We were able **through EOC to find work-experience students that we were able to train, and the funding came from EOC, and one of the other successes we found was with the Boys and Girls Club, they brought in youth workers** that ran the program for us. Some of the **things that we thought could be improved on were the reimbursement rates, and I'm just going to leave that at that. A way that we could serve hot lunches as well as cold lunches** would be an improvement, because we do find that the *teenagers prefer hot lunches and the younger children prefer the cold lunches.* One of the other improvements was we found that a lot of times they ran out of flavored milk because the **children just like flavored milk.** One of the things that we're going to try and change is that we're going to try and grow some more, and the **barriers that would keep us from growing** would be *not finding the funding and not having interested sponsors.*

Eddie Jessup: Can you give me one thing that you're going to do for sure next year, committed to doing next year?

Table A spokesperson: You mean other than grow?

Eddie Jessup: Grow is good. Okay. I have a question before we get off this table. You mentioned a number of times the funding issue. **Can someone tell us what specifically is the issue around the funding. What is it that is not being covered that is essential to be covered?** Not that the federal government is going to increase reimbursement rates, but what is the issue?

Table A spokesperson (Rev. Jim Chatman): We are a vended urban sponsor, which means that our food costs are out of our control, and they are based on potential vendors. The food cost is a major portion of our reimbursement. **Our food cost today is \$2.10. The reimbursement rates today for us is \$2.50, which means that it is literally impossible to break even.** It is impossible, so in order to facilitate that we have to seek *outside funding through grants and individual donations,* and it was mentioned again, and I don't know, nobody else seems to have considered it maybe because only the nonprofits are faced with this, and I'm sure that Gary is faced with it, but *it's very difficult to operate and expand when your whole focus is on trying to get your costs down, whatever you can do to get your cost*

*down, whatever it takes to get the cost down, and many times rather than expanding and taking a chance on a site that could be profitable you just won't do it. And I think that may be the greatest barrier to expansion for the whole Summer Food Service Program. We were able to facilitate expansion because we had collaboration, particularly **Empty Bowls**, and I see that **Ms. Nylander** is no longer here, but they were a major factor in our organization being able to expand.*

Eddie Jessup: Okay, thank you Jim. **And your vendor is Fresno Unified, is that right? Yes. Fresno Unified School District is the vendor for Jim's eleven sites.**

Table B spokesperson (Ray Ensher): I think every table has mentioned **success to building – expand school sites**, Firebaugh and the community, site in every elementary school. **What to improve upon – advertising, getting the word out, marketing it similarly to what we had USDA showing us and some of the advertisement things you can put out, parent involvement, improvement of menus, stop sending food that children won't eat, cultural sensitivity on food offerings – we need to be considering that. In regard to change – food, strawberry milk good, with waiver paperwork is great, it's evidently less.**

Barriers – perception, free food problem still, part of camp, particularly older have a problem with that evidently, and also not going into the cafeteria, politics, parents not allowed to eat, food not to leave the site, liability issues, transportation issues, sponsors to sign up. These are some barriers that they mentioned.

Resources needed – more sites, of course we've mentioned that already, get word out, again the **advertising** aspects of it, **volunteering, get young people helping other children, peer help there, use local ag foods**, and I don't know whether that's a liability situation as we talked previously, and then **collaborating with Board of Supervisors, congregations, retired teachers, RSVP, companies, businesses, and medical professions was mentioned, to collaborate with medical professions.** So that's about it.

Eddie Jessup: Is there something that folks at your group said that they were definitely going to do this next...?

Table B spokesperson: Yeah, **they want more signs.** They're going to work to get more signs and talk to their politicians, elected officials, and tell them **this is ridiculous to have over 100,000 kids not being fed out there. We're only feeding 4,000**, so, yeah, absolutely.

Table C spokesperson: We came up with **successes – keep locating new sites** was one of them. Continue to **increase our numbers** is another. Doing **more outreach, particularly target children's media.** One of the local medias that we have in Visalia is Channel 18. What we'll **improve on – parent involvement, and we would like to see less restrictions.** I know sometimes that's impossible, but I think that if we work together there is a way that we can find how to, because I believe that **a lot of restrictions keep a lot of kids away from getting a lunch. Prepare menus for children to take home, culturally appropriate foods and new food items and ideas.**

As far as changes – **new promotions, more money, and more money not for us to make a big profit but only to serve the children that need to be served.** There are a lot of them out there.

Barriers – limited space, I'm sure a lot of people go through that with storage, refrigeration, time restrictions, we're looking for a longer period to serve a lunch so that we can catch more kids, staffing and volunteers, and delivery, there are a lot of different ideas for delivery. *We had an idea of somebody going around in a vehicle and announcing that there's a lunch going on.*

Resources needed – see above list. Collaborative partners – with the churches, schools, police department, City Council, community CBOs, and parent groups. Thank you.

Edie Jessup: Thank you. Is there something from your group that you are committed to doing this next summer?

Table C spokesperson: More sites.

Table D spokesperson (Randy Moins, FCEOC): We'd like to increase the number of sites that we have. We were given a waiver and it was above and beyond what we expected, and we'd love to have more sites. Of course we'd like to increase the number of children that would come to the sites. We think we could do more in marketing of the program. Currently we have done some things in Spanish and English, but there are a lot of other Hmong and other languages that we could reach out to more kids, and probably more so would be adults. A lot of kids already know our language, English, but the parents may not know.

Edie Jessup: For Suzanne's benefit I just want to iterate that in this area there are over 100 languages spoken.

Table D spokesperson: And we'd also like to increase the food choices and have a greater variety of foods that would be available and perhaps some innovative ideas to get kids to eat the vegetables and that type of thing. Changes – we'd like to see this Lugar Act currently that is going on in other states where they're streamlining more of the paperwork. There is a horrendous amount of paperwork involved in the program, and anything that we can do to streamline that to make it less time consuming would be beneficial. And combine reimbursement rates.

The barriers that we found in Fresno County EOC's program is our vehicles. We only have so many vehicles that can go to these different sites, and we need more vehicles in order to get that food out there to those sites. You know what's difficult is we do the Head Start Program for Fresno County and the Senior Meals Program for Fresno County and there is no Head Start in the summertime, and so we can kind of work with the resources that we have to do it, but then there really aren't any funds that are available, or much funding available, to actually put into the Summer Food Service Program itself. So we're kind of just utilizing really what we already have rather than having more. And we send our meals, we do cold sack lunches, and we put them in Cambro carriers, which are insulated carriers, and it keeps the cold food cold and the hot food hot, but we really ran to the bottom of the number of Cambro carriers that we had available, and again, it really becomes one of those things that you're just kind of utilizing the equipment that you have, and there really isn't much in terms of being able to get more equipment, and the resources again are vehicles and equipment and additional funding for that.

One of the things that we want to accomplish this year, and this really has been an eye-opening event for us, is we want to collaborate with you sponsors, because I think there may be some overlap that's going on. So, we can focus on another area so we're not bumping heads with one another, and that way there is plenty of opportunity for all of us to grow, and that would be very helpful. So that's the main thing we want to accomplish is continue to collaborate with you out there.

Table E spokesperson: We identified some of our successes. Our table was just made up of Foodlink. Our successes for this year – we established several new sites, we had some very motivated site leaders which really helped with our outreach because they were out in

the community promoting and being excited. Another success was **outreach at the actual site**, which kind of goes along with the motivated site leaders.

Improvements for next year – **we'd like to have more creative lunches** with some more variety. We also have *cold lunches because our sites are rural and they're delivered, so we'd like to find some ways to be more creative with that rather than just sandwiches every day.* We'd like to check out the **possibility of mobile distribution and more...vans where you serve lunches.**

Participant comment: If you're serving right out of the van, I would encourage people to check out **Beyer High School. It's worth the drive to Modesto to see what Beyer High School is doing both in terms of menu creativity – and we've handed out a sample menu – and also the serving out of vans.**

Table E spokesperson: Another improvement is **more creative locations.** Someone mentioned today **apartment complexes**, and we'd be very interested in doing that for next year. And ongoing outreach throughout the summer – we do a big push at the beginning of our program and it dwindles off. So we'd like to improve that **and target older children**, because mostly we serve younger children.

Definite **changes for next year – ongoing outreach throughout the summer and more sites.** We added four sites this year, and we'd like to keep doing that.

Barriers that we see are the on-site consumption rule, the stigma attached to the word "free," the reimbursement rate, and our inability to serve hot meals due to our rural locations since we're dropping them off.

Resources needed. Money is our number one. Isn't that everyone's? And **community involvement** is also a resource that we would need. And **collaboration.** We do some collaboration right now with the schools, but *working with the schools more closely would definitely be a benefit to the outreach and getting new sites.* **The nontraditional community leaders** that a group mentioned was a great idea. **Service groups and industry.**

Gloria Cabrera, CDE: I just want to add, Karen and I would really **like to be involved in the collaborative efforts. If there should be meetings within the counties, please involve your CDE consultant, because we would like to work with you as well.** Also I talked to a few **sponsors today who are interested in menu sharing**, and I don't know if there is a vehicle that can be developed for sharing menus among sponsors, maybe get ideas.

Edie Jessup: I've been making notes myself. **Fresno Metro Ministry and California Food Policy Advocates here in the Valley would be very happy to help your counties convene some meetings so that you can begin to work the collaborative issue and maybe involve then the CDE folks in being a part of that. Menu sharing – we'd be happy, we've got all your names and numbers, and hopefully if you have e-mail that would facilitate passing those things along.**

I want to thank you so much for your participation. Again, I'd like to have you make sure that you fill out both your event evaluation and the Summer Food Program written evaluation. You will notice that for application process we've given you the CDE 800 number, web site number, and Karen, has the date been set for the training?

Karen Simmons: The question that Edie was putting to me is has the **California Department of Education set the date for the Summer Food Program training workshop.** We have not. The difficulty there is we're always looking for free space, so our meeting planners still have feelers out there, but generally speaking, the Summer Food Service workshop training in Fresno is towards the end of March. I talked to the meeting planners yesterday in Sacramento. So

what I'd like you to do is put a reminder to yourself **to if you're not a current sponsor and you haven't heard when the training is in the month of March, give us a call, call that 800 number in Sacramento and find out, because we do want you there.** .

Terri Soares, Fresno Count Office of Education: Just a quick idea. You wanted to share menus. **Why not just bring copies of menus to the training and exchange them**

Eddie Jessup: We can do a sharing table at that training meeting, and I'll actually put that on our list of things to do.

Terry Soares: If you could just tell them how many people come so they could have copies brought, or I don't know.

Eddie Jessup: We'll tell them that, but also we can ask our meeting planners if there is some way that at the meeting location we'd be able to make copies as well. So Gloria and I will make a note and we'll have to remember that that **idea bubbled up from the Central Valley – menu sharing.** Timeline-wise this means that **in your counties you need to be getting together to plan in December or in January before this March training happens so that you will be geared up if you're going to work some collaboration.** Let me also remind you that **you must attend a training every year in order to be a Summer Food Service Program sponsor.**

If you're a school district and you're doing Seamless Summer Program the training isn't mandatory. But if you're a traditional Summer Food Service Program sponsor you must attend a training. So if you're thinking about being a sponsor you should be there. *Even if you don't want to be a sponsor and you want to operate under someone else's umbrella, it's a good idea to come to that training. And I know last March we had some people who came and they thought they wanted to be a sponsor and they found out they didn't want to be a sponsor but they did want to have a site.*

That's the Diane Scott story, and we helped to hook her up with somebody. I think that that entire Summer Food Program that happened at Holland Elementary is one of the most inspirational things that's ever happened in terms of somebody **getting around the paperwork jungle.** That's what Diane did. She made a service happen without finding herself lost in the paper.

I have one question because it came up and maybe you can answer it, and that is about the **use of local fresh produce in the Summer Food Program. Is that okay, or is that encouraged?**

Dr. Suzanne Callor, USDA: I think all our USDA programs really encourage using local produce. WIC has a farmer's market that's being funded. **We promote local produce and supporting the local farmer.**

Participant comment: I mean, **local farmers here in the Valley that want to give lettuce or oranges and so forth are not donating because there is a liability** on the farm.

Dr. Suzanne Callor: What's the liability? Are they afraid that if a child gets sick they'll be blamed?

Participant comment: Yeah, right.

Participant comment: There is a Good Samaritan Law that was passed a number of years ago, so anyone who donates food in good faith is exempt from liability. So local farmers can donate.

Participant comment: Okay, then that's a myth that ought to be dissuaded.

Participant comment: It's a myth. The food banks have very good materials that spell this out to their donors, and we'd be glad to share that with you to share with any local farmers.

Edie Jessup: And in fact, **in Fresno County, we do have local agricultural interests donating to childcare centers.** I know out in our rural areas and in Tulare County Migrant Head Start in the past, not at all of their sites, but have had the local parents and growers giving produce at certain times of the year.

Participant comment: Thanks. More on the issue of the donation of local produce. Our understanding, and I'd like to verify if this is true or not, is **that if we accept for our Summer Food Service Program apples or oranges or whatever, and put them into the lunches that the value of that has to be counted against the meals, so it's a liability to us trying to save some money on the cost of the meals. SFSP will now deduct the value of that donation from our reimbursement, so it counts against us.**

Participant comment: However, we have programs that are already operating at a loss, so if you're already operating at a loss, you should feel free to accept in-kind donations.

Participant comment: *And if the Lugar Pilot ends up getting expanded and private nonprofits can participate you would just get meals times rates anyways.*

Participant comment: That would be great. Okay, so *it does count against us. That's what we were told.*

Dr. Suzanne Callor: One other thing I wanted to share that came out of the summit in Oakland was somebody was actually there from an assembly person's office, and she was **offering to the people in Oakland that they get in contact with their political offices and when they go out and they distribute fliers and talk to community members to promote their politician that they would be more than happy to distribute materials for Summer Food Service.** So if you're having a problem paying people or finding volunteers to help you advertise in the community because you don't have somebody who is willing to go out and hang door hangers all day long and things like that, you might **try calling your local politicians, and they might not even be that well aware of Summer Food, and maybe hearing about it, it doesn't really cost them anything to promote the program since it's funded by the government already,** so they might be very open, and maybe even they'll put it into their platform or something like that. But utilize the resources you have available. And people have talked about **talking to your county commissioners** or people like that, so don't forget about all those people who go out canvassing neighborhoods every day for other reasons and trying to capitalize on that. And the other thing people have brought up is **has anybody here applied for grants to help support the program? And would people like to share resources so that other people who want to apply for grants to help fund the program would know where to look?** Anybody?

More like if you're running your program at a loss already and **you need supplemental income, there are organizations out there who I guess are willing to donate money,** but you have to write a grant proposal that will help get additional funding.

Participant comment: I've been on the *Empty Bowls committee* for a number of years, and it's where the **Fresno Unified kids make the bowls for a public fund-raising dinner with restaurateurs give us the soup, and then you get to keep the bowl**, and we don't have enough applications. Every year we only have three or four people that even apply for any grants from Empty Bowls, and we'd love to spread it out and give a thousand here, a thousand there, a couple thousand there, five thousand here, whatever, but we can increase that. That was in your last folder from the Hunger Forum (an application form). So do take advantage. That's one thing that's available locally here.

Participant question: What's the grant range?

Participant comment: It all depends what we make. I think last year they made about \$17,000. So we try to spread it out. I mean, if Holland School needs \$1,000 to help their program we're happy to give them \$1,000. I mean, that's for the committee to decide where the need is and how the grant has been written on what you want to do with it.

Participant comment: Fresno Unified School District, Sue **Nylander** is the chair of Empty Bowls they put on every year through the the Cooperative Arts Program they have in Fresno Unified. Yes?

Participant comment: *We're a nonprofit SFSP sponsor. We have been told by CDE every year for the last ten years that if we raised any outside private money it would be counted against our reimbursement for Summer Food.*

Participant comment: I think, again, what you have to do is make very certain that you claim all of your costs. What we often see is that **some of the costs that are attributed to this program are not claimed. When all of the costs are claimed we do have agencies that are operating at a loss, and those grant funds can then be used to offset those losses. What you cannot do in this program is make a profit**, but the reality is that I don't think many people are in that situation. So your **grant funds can offset the shortfall that you experience.**

Participant question: **Would the grant funds have to be included in SFSP eligible costs? Because a lot of the costs are just not eligible.**

Participant comment: **You could use the grant funds to cover costs that are ineligible** because those grant funds are outside of our control. And we did have an agency that did that. They had some costs that were ineligible under Summer Food Service regulation, but they covered those costs with outside grant funds.

Participant question: **This is a complete reversal from what we've been told for quite a long time. Do you mind quoting regulations on that so we have something in writing?**

Participant comment: Oh, sure, it's section...no. **We don't quote regulations out of the blue, but Pastor Chatman actually is one of the people who has some experience with this and has a hard time getting his program to make money because, as you know, the vending costs are very expensive for him, so he has applied for several grants and he has received a grant**, and so maybe this would be a good opportunity for you to kind of share some of that information.

Participant comment: Let me say one other thing. When you are doing your application for funding – and of course with Summer Food you have to do it every single summer – you need to **speak directly to the person who is reviewing your budget, so you can either speak with the person who reviews your Summer Food Program, and in your case it is actually somebody from Sacramento, or the person who happens to be reading your initial application** prior to the start of the summer, and let's take a look and see what we can do in terms of first **making sure that you've claimed every cost that is actually associated with the program, and then secondly, is there a shortfall, and let's look at using some grant money to cover those shortfalls.**

Edie Jessup: In the past there have been startup grants available through the state. I understand that this year they're not sure yet whether there is going to be such a thing. Could we ask, **Karen, when you could find that out? If you could let us know and we could let people know if there happens to be state funding available for start up grants.**

Karen Simmons Gillian: I think in the past we've known that in January and started to send out the letters. **Let's have Gloria and I make a commitment that if there is startup money available – we mail to all current sponsors, school districts, there is a huge list – but let's also make sure that we let Edie know, because our community-based organizations know each other sometimes when we the State don't know them. So we will make sure that that notification goes to you as well.**

Rev. Jim Chatman, SFSP Sponsor/Valley Vineyard Church: First of all, one of the national organizations that have kind of helped me to **stay posted on things that are going on with Summer Food is FRAC**, and I don't even know, it's the Food Research and Action Coalition- it's www.frac.org on the Internet, that's all in can tell you. But **grant funding is available**. It's available everywhere, and that's probably a big part of my job is to find the funding that we need. *I have been successful* in obtaining two separate grants, one from the *Children and Families Commission, which here in Fresno is First Five*. I don't know if that's statewide, but First Five is very much interested in any kinds of programs that assists children between the ages of one and five, particularly prevention programs. And **our Summer Food Service Program is a prevention program. It prevents all kinds of lack of school learning in addition to health problems.** The other agency here locally that has assisted us is *Empty Bowls*, as the gentlemen mentioned, and Ms. **Nylander** is a part of that. She was here earlier. Those are the two who funded us this year. *We did apply to several other agencies and were politely told no, and then I learned later that your first time out you shouldn't be amazed to not get funded,, but then I did receive funding so I am amazed because it works.*

Edie Jessup: Thank you Jim. For those in Fresno County I have Empty Bowls applications. If you'll get in touch with me I can get you one. I know that you all have numerous questions and you have ways I think of getting in touch with us here, and we'd be glad to pass your additional questions on to folks. I want to thank Suzanne Callor for coming down from USDA. And I wanted to remind you again about evaluations that you have in your packet, and I really appreciate all of your coming here today and working so hard. We will compile all of this and we will get it to all of you.

Kenneth Hecht, California Food Policy Advocates: Because I have the last word I have the most restless audience, so I really want to just say three words about this meeting, and one is **inspiring**. You can't drop in on a meeting like this the way I have and not just be knocked out at the ***numbers and diversity of people who are just absolutely committed to running an insane program.*** Second, it's an **extremely dangerous** meeting. Out of this meeting and

meetings like it in the past have come what have really been the *most important changes to the Summer Food Program since I've been looking at the Summer Food Program, and they're coming from right here*. **No matter what people may tell you, the Seamless Waiver isn't the Seamless Waiver, it's the Fresno Waiver, and this is really where it happened because of Gary's complaining and hollering for years and years. You've got two other changes to the program, one that lets nonprofit sponsors handle more than 25 sites, and the other letting nonprofit sponsors with good sites not have to go out and give them an unnecessary inspection, which saves enormous amounts of money.**

So these meetings really work, which brings me to the third word, which is **necessary**. First, to thank the folks who brought this meeting together, Cal/Neva, Fresno Metro Ministry, Ca. Food Policy Advocates. It's really a good meeting. **The right people were in the right room at the right time**, and of course, thanks to USDA and the Department of Education for being here, because you're the ones we want to holler at.

I did want to mention also **Reauthorization** for just a second. It, as I'm sure you know, is the **way that the federal program gets changed and altered and improved each four or five years, and that's going to happen in 2003**. So what you all had to say today and what other people have said in other cities that have had an opportunity to go back and take a look at Summer Food, and as Gary said, this is the only way you get a chance to do that. **There are no other gatherings that call on sponsors who have had the experience to come together and identify the pressure points and the hot spots in the program, but this is the year for us to take all of those different observations and experiences and try to use them to improve the law.**

Of course we want to make the **Fresno Waiver a permanent** part of the law. Of course we want to make the **Lugar Pilot Programs** *where you don't have to keep track of all your costs but you just get a meals times rates kind of a payment a permanent part of the law*. **No one in the Valley misses the fact that it costs more to run a program down here with transportation and small sites, and that's got to get recognized in the law too, and the paperwork needs to be reduced and the reimbursement needs to be raised**. We are, as everybody mentioned earlier today, making some progress, which is astonishing.

You look at these programs and you say what in the world can I do? Well, you do it. And by your running these programs and finding out what the problems are and mobilizing together to make changes, **we've actually made changes, and we'll make more changes thanks to you**. Thanks a lot for coming today.

Eddie Jessup: School's out. Thank you very much. I hope that we can reconvene you in smaller groups so that the collaborative efforts that you've been talking about work. Thank you very, very much for being here. Please contact us, USDA, and CDE for further questions.

www.cfpa.net

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www.fresnometroministry.org

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Cal-Neva, California Food Policy Advocates, and Fresno Metro Ministry