

## Minutes

**Work Group members in attendance:** FDPIR Program Staff: Roxanna Newsom (NAFDPIR President), Jaime Prouty-Nolan (NAFDPIR Treasurer), Gregory Nothstine (WR); Tod Robertson, Florence Calabaza, Nanelle Micco (SWR); Jenelle Gimlin, Lorraine Davis, (WR); Mary Greene-Trottier, Charles “Red” Gates, Kathy Walters (MPR); Betty Jo Graveen (MWR); Samia Hamdan (FNS MWRO); Stephanie Cooks, Patti Schock (FNS), Sharon Hadder (FSA).

**Work Group members not at the meeting:** Gloria Goodwin (NAFDPIR Secretary); Desiree Bergeron (WR); Susie Roy, Shari Bebeau (MWR), Laura Walter (FNS), Melissa Baker (FNS WRO), Kathy Sweitzer (FNS MPRO), Sara Hernandez (AMS); Lou Hankins (SWRO).

**Visitors:** Laura Castro, Theresa Geldard (FNS); James Monahan (FSA); Darlene Sanchez (MPRO); Pat Roberts (Menominee); Tony Nertoli (Sault Ste Marie); Connie Martinez (Acoma Pueblo); Melinda Newport (Chickasaw Nation); Kenny Chapman (Santee).

## I. FDPIR Food Package Year-in-Review Presentation

- a. The Workgroup discussed food package accomplishments since the 2011 NAFDPIR Conference to include posting of the Goals and Structure document, Workgroup meeting minutes, updated Workgroup contact list, progress on incorporating foods from ITO Regional Wish Lists into the food package, food package guide rate changes, and the USDA product procurement process.

## II. New Product Updates

- a. **Fruit & Nut mix** – some Workgroup members expressed concern that peanuts and peanut butter take rates might decrease with the addition of fruit & nut mix. Others felt peanut butter and peanuts would continue to be popular with families with children and elders in FDPIR. Roxanna Newsom mentioned that the Chickasaw program would be showing clients how to add cereal and/or peanuts to the trail mix to help make it less caloric and/or more versatile.
- b. **Almonds** – Workgroup members were asked if almonds were still desired since the new fruit & nut mix contains almonds. Some workgroup members felt almonds would have uses beyond trail mix. Some Workgroup members expressed a preference for raw rather than roasted almonds as a new food. The raw almonds might be more versatile (eaten as a snack, added to salads, etc.) and could also be added to the fruit & nut mix to increase the protein and make the fruit & nut mix last longer. It was also mentioned that almonds might be useful to those who have peanut allergies.
- c. **Frozen fish** – Betty Jo Graveen suggested white fish filets as another option in addition to pollock and salmon filets. Betty Jo Graveen will provide contact information for white fish suppliers.
- d. **Frozen fruit and vegetables** – Workgroup members were asked what particular types of frozen fruits and vegetables might be useful. The following items were mentioned: frozen berry mix (blueberries, blackberries, and strawberries); frozen asparagus, frozen green beans and frozen California blend (cauliflower, broccoli, and carrots) particularly when these items are not available through DoD fresh. Some raised concerns about adequate freezer space both at the warehouse and clients’ homes if more frozen foods are added to the food package.

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- e. **DoD fresh produce** – DoD provided a list of additional fresh items that the workgroup may want to consider (see attached list). Workgroup members agreed to check participant interest for these items and provide feedback to FNS. It was noted that some of the items have very short shelf lives and may not be feasible for FDPIR. FNS agreed to follow up with DoD regarding getting grape tomatoes added to the tomato products already available.
- f. **Seasonal take rate trends of fresh produce and new foods** – Workgroup members discussed the impact of new foods on take rate trends, especially for fresh produce. They also asked that inventory and ordering changes be taken into consideration when looking at the 152 reports.
- g. **Small saltine crackers** – not all tribes received the small saltine crackers however, those that did will ask participants whether they prefer to receive the large or small crackers. FNS will send pictures of the small crackers to workgroup members.
- h. **Pack sizes for new foods** – elderly participants may face challenges with larger pack sizes that are harder to lift/carry. Smaller households and elderly also may have to discard foods they cannot fully consume before going out of condition (i.e. grain products in 5 lb bags, 5 lb cheese blocks). Smaller pack sizes might be more appropriate for elderly and/or smaller households to prevent waste.

**III. USDA Update****a. AMS Procurement Update**

- i. **Cream of Mushroom and Cream of Chicken soups** – cream soup deliveries to the warehouses are scheduled for July 2012. Workgroup members suggested that FNS notify program directors that past procurement issues with the cream soups have been resolved so that directors will limit orders to a 2-month supply. FNS noted that AMS and FNS are working on adjusting the specifications for the condensed tomato and vegetable soups to improve palatability.
- ii. **Frozen meat/fish and eggs** – FNS sampled frozen pork chops, frozen fish, and egg products. FNS plans to make samples of these products available for the Workgroup to taste test at the fall 2012 face-to-face meeting.
- iii. **Chicken decision** – The Workgroup requested the following chicken ordering schedule for 4th quarter FY 2012 through FY 2013:  
4th quarter FY2012, and 2nd and 4th quarters FY2013 – **Whole bird chickens**  
1st and 3rd quarters FY 2013 – **split breast chicken**

**b. FSA Procurement Update**

- i. **Wild rice** – Results from the sources sought information was provided to the Workgroup. Wild rice is available from Native American and commercial sources. A one lb package ranges in cost from \$2.40 to \$6.75, with the median cost being \$3.77. NAFDPIR arranged for conference participants to sample wild rice in two dishes at the conference.
- ii. **Brown paper bag for whole wheat flour** – some like the brown paper bag and others do not. Workgroup members will get additional feedback from their participants.

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- iii. **Blue cornmeal** - sources of blue cornmeal are available. FNS will work with FSA to gather price, package size, and nutrition information and determine vendor capacity.

c. **FNS Update**

- i. **Cheese vendor** – the current cheese vendor for FDPIR is Bongards.
- ii. **End of year FDPIR food funds** – with the addition of new foods and guide rate changes this year, a surplus of remaining food funds is not expected.
- iii. **FDPIR Program messaging** –Donna Johnson-Bailey from the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion joined the Workgroup meeting by conference call to get feedback on the draft MyPlate concepts provided for the FDPIR program outreach and messaging project. The following feedback was offered:
  - 1. Is it possible for FNS to provide the text for the messages and allow ITOs to insert their own pictures?
  - 2. It would be helpful to reference more products from the FDPIR food package in the messages.
  - 3. It was requested that FNS circulate a color copy of the draft to get a better sense of how the images will look and allow ITOs to submit ideas electronically.
  - 4. Consider images used in the Native MyPlate nutrition education material from IHS.
  - 5. Tribes would like to share pictures of their communities for the project.
  - 6. Provide a pictorial representation of how much food participants receive according to household size.
  - 7. The Workgroup would like to participate in future planning/development meetings with FNS and CNPP to provide input and track project progress.
  - 8. Include messages/images that show physical activity. Tribal members liked the old MyPyramid image with the figure climbing the Pyramid. It is no longer a part of the messaging although physical activity is still very important in Indian Country.
  - 9. Highlight whole grains which receive a mixed reception in the FDPIR community (some take it and some don't).
  - 10. One tribe provides to-go containers to participants with the message to save half of meals eaten out for later as a way to control portion sizes.
  - 11. Include some recipes with the messages.
  - 12. Highlight other activities that are popular in Indian Country such as gardening, food demos, walks, Pow Wows, activities in youth and senior centers, etc.
  - 13. Include images of Native Americans across the life-cycle; from the very young to the elders.

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14. Put the images on materials that will be used regularly i.e., a mouse pad, magnets, etc.
15. Make the messages/images accessible through the FDPIR Sharing Gallery.
16. Include videotaped messages to show as PSAs, in waiting rooms, or during community events.

**Fall 2012 Face-to-Face Meeting in Alexandria, Virginia** – FNS will provide possible dates to consider for the next face-to-face meeting as well as dates that will not work.

**IV. Meeting Adjourned**