

**Nutrition Services Stakeholder Meeting
November 12, 2024**

Attendance: Erin Estey (ADS-BOA), Shana Brierley (ADS-BOA), Dan Giacomi (DSS), Allison Hughes (CT Dept of Ag), Theresa Rivera (DSS), Christian Duborg (CWCSEO), Alison Dvorak (Senior Resources), Spring Raymond (WCAAAA), Marie Allen (SWCAA), Christopher Blancarte (Senior Resources), Kathy Chase (Senior Resources), Claudia Mejia (Senior Resources), Ellen Torgerson (AASCC), Robyn Harper-Gulley (NCAAAA), Maria Buontempo (AASCC), Emily Marble (AASCC), Gretchen James (SWCAA), Denise Andreas (SWCAA), Natasha Tetreault (Town of Enfield), Joel Sekorski (LNWHENP), Nancy Isa (CRT), Gariann Chiarella (New Opportunities, Inc), In-Jee Lee (City of Hartford), Jillian Ruisi (TEAM), Eugene Theroux (TVCCA), Laura Palmieri (RW Solutions), Rose Booker (RW Solutions), Katrina Bresnahan (CAFCA)

Public Comment

None.

Update and Recap of Prior Meeting

E. Estey recapped the prior meeting.

Older Americans Act Reauthorization

E. Estey discussed that the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization still has not passed, and the Bureau of Aging is keeping an eye on activities at the federal level. The OAA is still authorized under the Continuing Resolution, but a reauthorization will need to be passed with a new budget package.

Federal Funding

E. Estey discussed that the federal government is under a CR, which means that a federal budget has not been passed for FFY25. The current CR maintains FFY24 levels of funding and is in place through March 14. With the new administration, we do not know what funding will look like, and while we would hope for increases, we want to at least see flat funding, rather than reduced funding.

State Performance Report

E. Estey advised that BOA has completed the State Performance Report (SPR) but it has not yet been certified by the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Once the SPR is certified, the BOA will share details of consumer demographics and service levels for the Nutrition program.

Wait Lists and Prioritization

E. Estey reminded attendees that should a Nutrition provider go into a wait list, they should alert their AAA as soon as possible (and before the wait list goes into effect) and stay in contact with their AAA.

E. Torgerson advised that in the South Central region, the AAA and ENPs work together to evaluate prioritization of consumers. For example, consumers being discharged from the hospital are started on the program immediately. The AAA is continually in communication with the ENPs about wait list status and prioritization.

E. Estey reminded attendees that S. Brierley is looking for providers to assist and offer input on a prioritization tool.

Other

J. Sekorski gave an update on Connecticut Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (CANASP) business. CANASP is working on scheduling food safety training, and looking at whether or not a hybrid version can be offered. A. Dvorak explained that there are several certified food safety instructors and proctors throughout the program and they may be able to assist.

J. Sekorski offered that he has been in touch with the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (NANASP) and Bob Blancato and they are on the radar with the federal government about the priorities for Nutrition providers and funding.

CANASP will have a table at the Legislative Office Building on 2/27 from 9am to 11am for a meet and greet with legislators. ENPs are encouraged to attend, offer ridealongs on Meals on Wheels delivery routes, and let legislators know about the priorities of the program.

Per J. Sekorski, there is a placeholder bill in the works related to Nutrition, but not much was shared about the specifics of that bill.

2025 Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday, May 13 at 1:00pm
- Tuesday, August 12 at 1:00pm
- Tuesday, November 18 at 1:00pm (shifted for Veteran's Day)