

**A Policy Development Project:
Ellyn Satter's *Division of Responsibility in Feeding* (sDOR)
in Early Childhood Programs**

Presenter:

Mary A. Musil, MS, RD, Manager, Child and Adult Care Food Program, Early Childhood Services Bureau, Montana Department of Public Health & Human Services

Introduction:

This project uses the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to improve and support food service management in all childcare institutions and facilities in Montana. The intended beneficiaries include children enrolled in licensed childcare centers, registered day care homes, Head Start Programs and afterschool programs. The CACFP is a program of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service. The Department of Public Health and Human Services is the administering state agency for the CACFP in Montana.

Project goals:

To improve food services in the state's early childhood programs by adopting a CACFP policy that recommends the *Division of Responsibility in Feeding* (sDOR) by Ellyn Satter, MS, RD, MSSW, and providing significant training in support.

Methods:

The state agency applied for and received \$15,000 in 2014-2015 USDA FNS Team Nutrition Funds to hire the Ellyn Satter Institute (ESI) to provide full-day in-person trainings in three cities to teach the sDOR. The trainings were aimed at directors of the CACFP, food service managers, cooks, staff, and professionals serving early childhood. The state agency served as host for the trainings. These three ESI trainings led to the development of a new CACFP policy that recommends the sDOR in CACFP operations. The new CACFP policy adopts the eDOR in whole by reference and with the author's support and approval. The policy potentially reaches all early childhood programs statewide.

Results:

Approximately 300 individuals attended the three ESI trainings. Evaluations of the training indicate that these individuals understand the eDOR, support the state agency policy that recommends it, and are interested in adopting related policies for their own child care institutions and facilities.

References:

<http://www.ellynsatterinstitute.org>

<http://dphhs.mt.gov/hcsd/childcare>

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/cacfp/child-and-adult-care-food-program>