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MdSNA Website Update - The History of Child Nutrition

As winter starts and we are back indoors again, it's a great time to look back at our history. We have been reading through the chronology of the Child Nutrition Programs from their earliest beginnings in the 1800's to the first Child Nutrition Act of 1946 and forward. We are now in the **1980's**. I loved this decade because I was very involved in it. I was serving on the SNA Public Policy and Legislative Committee in 1984-86 and was appointed Chairman in 1986 for a 3-year term. Reauthorization was coming up and this time it actually happened. We had been through a very rough time in the early 1980's losing federal reimbursement to the tune of .21 cents. It actually took us almost that many years to get the .21 cents back before we could begin to move forward with additional reimbursement. We knew we wanted a lot in the upcoming reauthorization including more reimbursement. It was a difficult task so we did a lot of surveys and discussions with members at meetings to see what they wanted in the Reauthorization Bill. As you can see below, it was many program extensions; some additional funding and regulation changes

but only one new and very important program, the National Food Service Management Institute, now known as the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) was requested and granted. We will discuss its genesis as we come to it further down the list of items in the 1989 Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act.

Let's start in **1980 with PL 96-499** known as the **Omnibus Reconciliation Act**.

Under the provisions of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act of 1980, Congress changed the Child Nutrition Programs by **reducing funding by approximately \$400 million in FY 81**. I remember that several members of MdSNA including me as Maryland Legislative Chairman went to the South Lawn of the White House along with SNA members from many other states where we held a rally against the reduction in funding. Sadly, the reduction went into effect anyway under the Reagan Administration.

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In 1989 PL-101-147, which was **The Child Nutrition Reauthorization Act of 1989**, was introduced. The purpose was to reauthorize the **Women's Infants and Children's Programs (WIC), Summer Food Service Program, Nutrition Education and Training Program (NET), State Administrative Expense (SAE), and Commodity Distribution Programs through FY 1994**. The programs that I did not mention such as school lunch are permanent so they did not need Reauthorization but opening this Law for Reauthorization of parts of it is how you get things you want added to the Law or changed. The Act had a lot of requirements placed in it by members of the House of Representatives first and then the Senate had a chance to add or delete causing a conference committee to convene to iron out the differences before it was sent back to both the House and Senate for a vote on the changes after which it was sent to the President for his signature. The final bill that passed into law had many changes which are outlined below:

1. The law included provisions to test alternatives to individual meal counting to permit schools to **contact local Food Stamp or AFDC offices to determine meal eligibility**.
2. Required the **Social Security Number on School Lunch applications** only for the adult member responsible for the care of the child.
3. Required **low-fat milk** to be offered, and the **development of a publication**, Nutrition Guidance for Child Nutrition Programs, for use in the School Lunch and Breakfast, Child and Adult Care Food, and Summer Food Service Programs.
4. Permitted certain schools participating in the **Child Care Food Program to instead receive reimbursement for snacks under the School Lunch Program** for after-school child care.
5. Created a grant program to help schools in a limited number of states start **School Breakfast Programs**.
6. **Reauthorized the Commodity Distribution Program** through FY 1994. Permitted schools receiving either cash or commodity letters of credit (as part of a pilot project) to continue doing so through FY 1992. That pilot program remains in effect today in limited numbers of school districts.
7. Reauthorized the **Summer Food Program** through FY 1994. Expanded program sponsorship to include certain **private nonprofit sponsors** and permitted up to 1/2 of 1 percent of program funds to be used to assist States in monitoring these new sponsors.
8. Renamed the Child Care Food Program the "**Child and Adult Care Food Program**." Required meals served under Adult Day Care Programs to meet one-third of the recommended dietary allowances for adults.
9. Extended **State Administrative Expense** through FY 1994 and limited the amount of State Administrative Expense funds that states could carry over to a new fiscal year. Required State Administrative Expense funds to be distributed equally among State Administrative Agencies and State Commodity Distribution Agencies.
10. Reauthorized **Nutrition Education and Training** through FY 1994 and increased the funding authorization each year through FY 1994.
11. Reauthorized **Women's Infants and Children's Programs** through FY 1994.
12. Authorized establishment of a **Food Service Management Institute** and new training and technical assistance programs for school personnel and administrators. I was the SNA Public Policy and Legislative Committee Chairman for ASFSA now SNA during this Reauthorization and because of my proximity to Washington, DC I spent a lot of time in meetings with members of Congress and the Senate that were set up by our Legislative

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Counsel Marshall Matz, who was usually with me at the meetings and hearings where I testified before Congressional Committees. The primary interest in the proposed Institute came from Mississippi. Congressman Jamie Whitten who asked me to testify before the House Education and Labor Committee which he chaired and I did testify. That testimony is filed in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. along with all other testimony on any issues. Congressman Whitten convinced his committee to vote for spending for the Institute now known as the Institute for Child Nutrition (ICN). The bill went to the Senate next and I went with it to testify again before the Senate Agriculture Committee and it passed both the House and Senate and the president signed it. The Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee was Thad Cochran also from Mississippi. Congressman Jamie Whitten made arrangements with the University of Mississippi (his alma mater) to provide a building on the campus for the Institute. That made it easier to pass the bill because of the donated building use. Dr. Josephine Martin, former President of SNA and State Director in Georgia was named the Executive Director. She got the Institute off to a great start with staff and training programs but you had to travel to Mississippi for the training (before Zoom). I was named to the first Advisory Council and served 5 years in that capacity flying to meetings at the Institute 4 times per year and staying in the Campus Alumni House. As the Institute grew USDA funded a separate building for the Institute due to its success. Senator Thad Cochran was still in the picture and came up with the idea that there should be a research component to the Institute. Space was found at the University of Southern Mississippi (Senator Cochran's alma mater) which is still used as the research facility.

I was just looking through some of the materials posted online and it is an historical treasure trove from the

beginning of the Child Nutrition Programs to the present. I am so pleased that all of that information is preserved and available for everyone to see and use for their personal education or research projects. Best of all, it is right there on your computer and you don't have to fly to Mississippi. I hope you get to enjoy its many archives and current research. Marshall Matz's papers in Box 5 of the archives, as it is categorized, contains everything about the 1980's that is pertinent to this decade.

It has been very enlightening and enjoyable to see where we have been and to look forward to where we are going next as we will most certainly continue to do on this path to the present day and legislation hopefully in the direction of Universal Free Feeding for all students.

Stay safe and healthy this winter and be sure to visit our website frequently for winter reading, education and research. I highly recommend the websites listed under Resources on the MdSNA.org website.

Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

Mary Klatko, MdSNA Webmaster



***Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN)
Mississippi***