

North Carolina Institute of Medicine
Early Child Obesity Task Force Meeting

Policy Considerations and Options
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Context

Recent elections

- Likely changes in state agency leadership (e.g., NCDHHS, DPI)

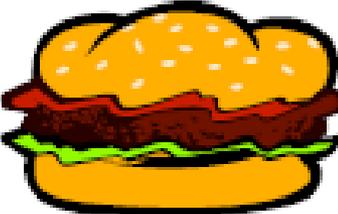
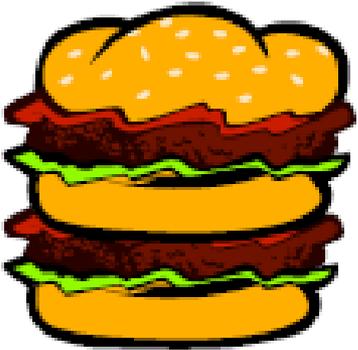
Challenges

- Culture of food
- Food-based fundraisers, corporate advertisers, and influence in early ed institutions
- The Hamburger Rubric (next slide)

Bright spots

- Increasing research, knowledge and education
- Positive influence in early ed institutions
- Wide array of experts, networks, innovations

The Hamburger Rubric

1	2	3	4
<p>Student needs reteaching and extra support to understand what is required to meet the standard.</p>	<p>Student has added some "meat" to his/her understanding of the concept and/or performance. With some revision, this work can meet standard.</p>	<p>Student has demonstrated proficiency. He/she understands the concept and has met performance requirements. This work meets the standard.</p>	<p>Student demonstrates understanding and performance beyond proficiency and has exceeded the standard.</p>
			
Getting Started	Work In Progress	Standard Work	Deluxe Work

What's wrong with the Hamburger Rubric?

- Consider the message it sends to children and their caretakers
- What is “our” measure of and message of success?
- From a blog on standards-based grading, “I would love a copy of this as well. I talk about Hamburger Writing with my students and would love to use this rubric with them.”

Policy considerations – key questions

(not covering all of these today)

- What would yield success in short-term?
Long-term?
- Where's the low-hanging fruit?
- Who are the possible policy actors and what are the related possible entry points?

Policy considerations – potential key actors

- Executive branch -- consider comprehensively (e.g. not only HHS and DPI but Departments of Ag and Cultural Resources; others?)
- Legislative branch -- consider comprehensively (are there “nontraditional” committees?)
- State and local early ed providers
- Doctors and other health professionals
- Community “meeting” places that can disseminate the “right” message (and that don’t present “food influence barriers.” Hair salons? Community centers? Banks/ATMs?)

**Task force recommendations to date
reflect three focus areas**

1. Adopt proposed nutrition standards into rules.

Key actor = North Carolina Child Care Commission

With involvement of

- Division of Child Development and Early Education
- Smart Start local networks
- Nutrition experts
- Academicians
- Child care facilities

2. Sustainability of local food in child care facilities

Action: to address barriers and challenges to local food growth, purchase, preparation, and distribution in child care facilities. Review policies and procedures including but not limited to:

- Community gardens
- Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certification
- Child care rules among different regulatory agencies

Key actor = North Carolina Sustainable Communities Task Force

With involvement of

- Division of Child Development and Early Education
- Division of Public Health
- Division of Agriculture
- Smart Start
- Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation

3. Star Rating/QRIS System Enhancement

Action: The Division of Child Development and Early Education should encourage the Frank Porter Graham Institute of Child Development to build best practices in physical activity, nutrition, breastfeeding, and outdoor environments into existing Environmental Rating Scales used in childcare facilities to improve current curricula.

Key actor = DCD & EE

With the involvement of

- Frank Porter Graham Institute
- North Carolina Child Care Commission
- Smart Start
- Shape NC
- North Carolina State Natural Learning Initiative

- For each of these three focus areas, are we unintentionally omitting potential stakeholders?
- Consider public, private, and non-profit possibilities.

Additional policy options

- As of 2011, nearly 30 states (including NC) had enacted or proposed farm-to-school and farm to child care legislation.
- Legislation includes a range of strategies, including
 - Education
 - Procurement
 - Training for food services personnel
 - Day care licensing requirements
 - Requirement of expert input regarding nutrition standards
 - Facilitation of and rewards for use of locally produced food

Federal legislation - proposed

- S 294 “To Enhance Early Care and Education” (introduced Feb 2011 by Senator Sanders)
- Bill language:
 - A plan for leveraging Federal, State, and local tax revenue from child care, preschool, and health and nutrition programs,
 - To coordinate with local health care providers for the provision of comprehensive services, including health, nutrition, diagnostic screenings, and counseling.
 - ...ongoing promotion of proper nutrition
 - ...increase in the number of health specialists or nutritionists providing training and ongoing mentoring to teaching

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112s294is/pdf/BILLS-112s294is.pdf>

NC Family Impact Seminar 2011

Policy Options

Policy options to encourage development and implementation of farm to preschool strategies. Three approaches:

1. Regulations that create incentives for the development of farm to preschool partnerships;
2. Action related to the Child and Adult Care Food Program standards
3. Ways to lessen potential legal and administrative barriers to developing such partnerships.

Approach #1

Regulations that create incentives for the development of farm to preschool partnerships

Recent examination revealed that only two states require that child care facilities serve meals and snacks that follow the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* established by the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (USDA).

Approach #2

Action related to the Child and Adult Care Food Program standards

Promote fruit and vegetable intake; limit juice

Caring for Our Children—National Health and Safety Performance Standards: Guidelines for Out-of-Home Child Care Programs.⁵ It is a collaborative effort by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Public Health Association and the United States Department of Health and Human Services to identify nutrition standards for children in child care. Child care providers often consult the guide for information about serving healthy foods and beverages to children, and many states use the guide's language when creating new regulations. 2011 addition includes increased attention to and standards focused on obesity prevention.

Approach #3

Ways to lessen potential legal and administrative barriers to developing such partnerships.

Joint use agreements – these are being implemented in NC through Community Transformation Grants

In sum...

The policy options include the adoption of nutrition standards recommended by the United States Department of Agriculture and other national organizations. These policies may also increase the income of farmers. Many states already have some or all of these policies in place. If adopted in North Carolina, they would promote improved child health with minimal budgetary impact, while simultaneously supporting farmers' livelihoods.

Back to the ground - literally

Such policy changes would promote or support farm to preschool and preschool garden strategies such as:

- Gardens at child care facilities;
- Community gardens;
- Community supported agriculture;
- Mobile farmers' markets;
- Field gleaning; and
- Buying and selling surplus crops.

Task force considerations

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Long-term?
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