



## CAN-Act August 2006 Update

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### **We CAN-Act for better health!**

Thanks to all of you and our stellar Advisory Board, we had a great launch at the reception before the August Nutrition Network conference. The Executive Director of our fiscal sponsoring agency and my mentor, Laurie True, commissioned fabulous lapel stickers to mark our launch. If you didn't see them, log onto our website to have a look ([www.can-act.net](http://www.can-act.net)).

We have a great group of representatives on the Advisory Board:

**Bay Area:** Shared by Diane Woloshin, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Kate Clayton, City of Berkeley Department of Health and Human Services

**Central Coast:** *Chris Moss, Monterey County Department of Public Health, to be confirmed*

**Central Valley:** Jaci Westbrook, Merced Office of Education

**Desert Sierra:** Pamela Wu, Riverside County Health Services Agency

**Gold Coast:** Susan Klucker, Santa Barbara County Public Health Department

**Gold Country:** Melissa Guajardo, Health Education Council, Sacramento

**Los Angeles:** Shared by Rolinda Baker, Los Angeles Trade Technical College; Piper Mattson, Montebello Unified School District; and Steve Baldwin, Hawthorne Unified School District

**North Coast:** Terry Nieves, Ukiah Unified School District

**Orange County:** Kat Soltanmorad, Orange Unified School District

**San Diego/Imperial:** Katie Bogue, UC San Diego, RNN

**Sierra Cascade:** Michelle Sabol, Shasta County Public Health Department

**Faith Projects:** Charles Tolbert, Apostolic Faith Home Assembly, Inc., Los Angeles

**Local Food&Nut. Ed. Projects:** *Seeking representative*

**Statewide Projects:** Jessica Barthelow, California Association of Food Banks, FSNE and Food Stamp Outreach Projects

**UCCE FSNE (non-Network):** Gloria Espinoza-Hall and Lucrecia Farfan Ramirez

**Nutrition Network Liaisons:** David Ginsburg, CDHS, Cancer Prevention and Nutrition Section

You can communicate FSNE issues of concern to your regional/special project area representative or to me. Wishing your name was on this list? Then hold that thought, because each of these Advisory Board members has committed to serve for a finite period of time. A year from now, about half of these representatives will step down, and new folks will be elected to take their place. Plus, there are other ways for you to put the ðactö in CAN-Act! See the Action Opportunities below to get started.

## **August meeting with Senate Ag Staff**

CAN-Act invited Senate Agriculture staff member Derek Miller to visit FSNE funded programs so that we could share with him the innovative work we are doing and voice our concerns about the future of FSNE. Several project representatives had a positive meeting with Derek answering his questions related to their projects. Our intent with this meeting was to provide convincing arguments that FSNE is an important part of the food stamp program and that to make FSNE even better, we need to fix some problems related to the definition of "nutrition education" and targeting. We'll keep you posted as our strategy around the Farm Bill continues to develop.

## **Action Opportunity: Please provide input into our FSNE reform platform**

And speaking of the Farm Bill, we developed a series of recommendations based on document review and a series of key informant interviews conducted in early 2006 for reforming FSNE. The CAN-Act membership has not yet had an opportunity to weigh in on these recommendations, so you are cordially invited to do so now. Do these recommendations cover all the issues that are important to you? Do you feel some of the issues are more important than others? *Action: Please download the "FSNE Policy Proposal" document from the Farm Bill page on our website ([www.can-act.net](http://www.can-act.net)), mark it up, and fax it to Melody at 916/448-7826. Remember, silence is acquiescence – if we hear nothing, we'll assume you give it your whole-hearted endorsement ☺ .*

## **Action Opportunity: Endorse Prop 86**

CAN-Act has been asked to endorse Proposition 86, scheduled for the November ballot. Prop 86 is a tobacco tax initiative that will raise revenues to pay for a number of health care issues. Why should CAN-Act endorse a tobacco tax initiative? Because a) smoking still causes the largest number of preventable deaths, and b) a portion of the revenues will be dedicated to prevention, and a portion of this will be dedicated to nutrition and physical activity programs. You can get more information on Prop 86 from the website: [www.yesonprop86.org](http://www.yesonprop86.org) . Go to the navigation buttons on the left side, and click on "learn more." Public employees cannot take action on ballot initiatives during paid work time, but as an independent citizen, you are free to get involved. Public employees and private citizens can also approach governing bodies, such as Boards of Supervisors, City Councils, and School Boards to take a position on the initiative. As a non-profit organization, CAN-Act is free to take a position on the initiative; thus, if you have strong opposition or support for CAN-Act endorsing Proposition 86, please send a message to your regional representative or to [melody@can-act.net](mailto:melody@can-act.net) . The Board will be asked to determine a position by September 8.

## **Action Opportunity: Remember to write about EARS**

We sent an action alert regarding the Education and Administrative Reporting System that has been proposed by the USDA as the primary federal evaluation effort for FSNE. Please refer to the email alert from Melody Steeples sent August 22; comments related to EARS are due no later than August 11. If you need to have that email message re-sent, please send an email to [melody@can-act.net](mailto:melody@can-act.net).