Leveraging State Policy to Improve Nutrition in Child Care

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We are a statewide policy and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of low-income Californians by increasing their access to nutritious, affordable food.
Why CHILD CARE policy?

- National movement – people are talking!
- ~11 million children under age 5 in some form of child care
- Average = 35 hours/ week
- A significant portion of daily nutrition
- Quality across states varies greatly
- Policy = opportunity
Policy Impact

1. Law itself
2. Action taken by administrators
3. Partnerships built around a movement
AB 2084 (Brownley): Healthy Beverages in Child Care

Passed – 2010
Implemented - 2012

Water Available
1% or Nonfat Milk Only
No Sweetener

Only 1 Serving of Juice
AB 1872 (Alejo): Improving Child Care Nutrition

- FCCH providers follow the CACFP meal pattern for all meals and snacks served;
- Local licensing authorities to inform FCCH providers and child care centers about CACFP
Educate child care providers about early childhood nutrition

Ensure child care providers are informed about the resources of CACFP
Future Directions
Family Child Care Nutrition

- Nutrition Standard Development
  - Ideal nutrition & existing standards
  - Capacity of FCC providers
  - Supporting workforce

- Pilot Test & Evaluate

- Feedback & Implications

- Communications

- Policy Change
Key Partnerships

- ECE Working Groups
  - Idea generation
- Like-minded advocates
- Local and state agencies
- Program administrators
- Policymakers & staffers
Thank you!

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