



Bridging the Gap - Aging Inmates, News and Events

By Barbara Wakeen, MA, RD, LD, CCFP, CCHP

Greetings Corrections Experts!

It has been quiet on the listserv this quarter, which leads me to believe everyone is busy...I for one!

This June, I began my position as Chair of Dietetics in Health Care Communities (DHCC) one of the Dietetic Practice Groups (DPGs) of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics which houses the Corrections Sub-unit and the Home Care Sub-unit. Two other ACFSA members also sit on this board - Joanne Zacharias MS, RD, LDN is Treasurer and Marlene Tutt, MS, RD is the Corrections Sub-unit Chair and the ACFSA Network Representative, so Corrections is well represented.

I wrote about DHCC in the last Insider and the ACFSA Network relationship. This network is the formal relationship that keeps ACFSA and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics connected.

DHCC is predominantly a long term care (LTC) practice group with probably more than 95% of the membership (approximately 4000 members) working in nursing homes and other extended care facilities. When you think about it, we all work in extended care facilities. We just have a different audience!

Have you noticed, our populations are aging - we are long term care? A recent article in the Huffington Post addressed the aging inmate population: "Elderly Inmate Population Soared 1,300 Percent Since 1980s: Report"

Source:http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/06/13/elderly-inmate-population-soars_n_1594793.html
Accessed 6/14/2012.

It addresses a report by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) noting the number of those incarcerated who are 55 and older is almost 125,000.

This opens the door to more considerations for our populations such as mechanically altered foods and nutritional supplements for more than a broken jaw, special feeding devices that typically pose a security risk and the consideration of feeding those who are unable to feed themselves. This doesn't even include the wheelchair access to the dining room. With this growth in population, I believe some of the roles of the dietitian might be expanding to address these needs of what was typically a short term, possibly security issue to a long term care quality of life position.

Continued on Page 8

The aging inmate population and recent changes to the Child Nutrition program will be two of the topics at the Dietitians in Corrections Networking Luncheon. This brings me to some announcements about meetings and conferences:

AUGUST

Monday August 20th - ACFSA Dietitians in Corrections Networking Luncheon Please see conference information for details. Thank you in advance to Good Source for sponsoring this event. Please email me directly bwakeen@neo.rr.com, if you are planning to attend. I have heard from many already – looking forward to seeing you there!



OCTOBER

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
Food and Nutrition Conference and Exhibition
October 6-9, 2012
Philadelphia, PA
www.eatright.org

DHCC Events at FNCE

- **Saturday, October 6th** - DHCC hosts a PreFNCE Workshop scheduled for this is an all day workshop with various speakers including ‘our own’ ACFSA President, Major R. J. ‘Jim’ Beach, CCFP. Jim will be speaking on disaster planning, followed by a panel of registered dietitians sharing first-hand experiences of their geographic disasters. The conference theme is ‘Are You Ready...?’ 5.5 CPEs available and lunch is included.

- **Sunday - October 7th** - DHCC and Renal Practice Group (RPG) joint Member Networking Reception and Cruise

- **Monday October 8th** - Corrections Sub-unit Meeting

For details on all of these events, visit the DHCC website at www.dhccdpg.org.

NCCHC

National Conference on Correctional Health Care
October 20 – 24, 2012
Las Vegas, NV
www.ncchc.org

Membership Information

If you would like to be added to the Dietitians in Corrections networking EML, please email me directly at bwakeen@neo.rr.com. This is an informal discussion group and your name/email address will be listed in each email sent to the group. You do not have to be a dietitian to be on the list.

If you are interested in joining the DHCC Corrections Sub-unit or if you are already a member and want to subscribe the DHCC EML or be listed in the directory, visit the DHCC web site at www.dhccdpg.org or contact Marlene Tutt at lenetutt@yahoo.com. Emails communicated through this group are sent through a private email address.