



DC Metro Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

August 2024



## DCMAND USDA and WIC Seminar - August 8, 2024

### **What's New With Government Nutrition Programs? We Got the Scoop!**

You know how critical WIC, SNAP, and other USDA programs are for people in need. A whopping one in four Americans take part in at least one of USDA's 16 nutrition programs. But how familiar are you with the programs' policies and recent updates? Thanks to two highly informative lectures, the attendees of the August 8th DCMAND event are now a lot more up to speed.

At the "USDA & WIC 2024 Seminar" Elizabeth (Liz) Campbell, MA, RDN, filled us in on SUN, a brand new USDA summer food program for children. Ms. Campbell is the Branch Chief, External Affairs, at the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. She also walked us through recent updates to school meals. (Including, among other things, an emphasis on plant-based meals, a weekly cap of less than 10 percent of calories from added sugars, and a weekly requirement that at least 80 percent of grains must be whole grain-rich.)

Meanwhile WIC has recently gone through changes of its own, as described by Darlena Birch, MBA, RDN, Senior Manager, Public Health Nutrition, at the National WIC Association. WIC now aligns with the current Dietary Guidelines for Americans, which means more fruit, vegetables and whole grains. She also

ran through a history of the program and touched on its far-reaching benefits, backed by solid research.

You might imagine that a seminar on policy details would be a little dull, but not this one! Ms. Campbell and Ms. Birch were compelling speakers who sparked questions and lively dialogue from the audience. DCMAND knows how to pick 'em!

From DCMADA member Janis Jibrin, MS, RD, Health Writer and Adjunct Instructor at Georgetown University, who attended the DCMAND USDA and WIC Seminar.

Leila Saldanha (DCMAND First Seat, Professional Development Committee) opened the meeting, Nicole Pruitt (DCMAND Member Relations Coordinator) introduced the speakers, and Matthew Walker (DCMAND Second Seat, Professional Development Committee) closed the meeting.

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## DCMAND Member Spotlight

**We are excited to share that this year, we will be featuring a DCMAND member in each newsletter!**



This month, the spotlight is on Jenny, our Member Events Coordinator. Jenny Coutts, RD is the Nutrition Coordinator at Northern Virginia Family Service for the Head Start and Early Head Start programs. She has served on the Board for 6 years and is currently volunteering as the DCMAND Events Chair. Jenny is looking forward to engaging with members at various networking, volunteering and professional development events this year. Her favorite event was a service day at Food & Friends. Outside of DCMAND, she enjoys hiking, gardening, and trying new restaurants. We invite you to share event feedback and ideas with Jenny at [events@eatrightdc.org](mailto:events@eatrightdc.org).

If you are interested in being featured in a future newsletter, please let us know! We would love to share any recent achievements, goals, or ideas you'd like to spread the word about. Please email Jenny at [events@eatrightdc.org](mailto:events@eatrightdc.org), or Nicole, our Member Relations Coordinator, at [membership@eatrightdc.org](mailto:membership@eatrightdc.org) to express interest.

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## Maximizing Payment: Unveiling the Connection Between CPT Codes and Value

The Academy will host a free webinar on September 5 titled, "[Maximizing Payment: Unveiling the Connection Between CPT Codes and Value](#)" to enhance our understanding of how to use CPT codes to receive payment in value-based care models that supports positive patient care outcomes. Proper usage of Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) is critical for demonstrating value since it provides a consistent and accountable way to report services in both hospital and office settings. At the same time, dietetics practitioners are striving for more fair and equitable compensation for our work and expertise.

In this webinar, attendees will learn how the Academy is monitoring and advocating through code creation and valuation and supporting integration into value-based payment models. They will also learn about how CPT codes are defined and valued, as well as the Academy's role within the AMA/Specialty Society Relative Value Scale Update Committee. We encourage you to share this invitation with colleagues and attend so you can understand how to optimize use of codes and contribute to their development and improvement in the future.

[Learn More & Register](#)

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## Submit Comments - Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Proposed Rule

Please consider submitting comments about your experience and expertise related to proposed opportunities for RDNs in the latest Medicare Physician Fee Schedule proposed rule. RDNs are important members of the care team who should influence these policies and rates!

This rule establishes payment rates under Medicare Part B, other Medicare Part B payment policies (e.g., changes to telehealth place of service or the Medicare Diabetes Prevention Program), and proposed changes to the Medicare Quality Payment Program (e.g., additions or changes to quality measures). The 2024 proposed rule contains many implications for RDNs (as "auxiliary providers" related to community health integration, caregiver support, screening for health-

related social needs, and other areas). You can read more in this [presentation](#) and on [CMS's website](#).

The Academy held listening sessions earlier in August and solicited comments from members so they could respond on our behalf. If you missed those calls, you may still be able to email Kim at [kiles@eatright.org](mailto:kiles@eatright.org) with your input. And you and/or your organization are still able to provide comments directly to CMS! Read the full rule and submit comments on the [Federal Register website](#) by 9/9.

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## **FNCE® Registration is Open!**

We hope to see you at FNCE® this year! The early bird deadline to [register](#) is August 20. You can view available hotels and discounts for flights on the [Academy's website](#). Any students or dietetic interns who have registered to attend may apply for a [full registration scholarship](#) from the Academy Foundation by September 4. Also, for any attendees who will go with colleagues from the same organization, you can register at a 10% discounted price if the five of you register together.

Those who attend may also be interested in visiting the free Health and Fitness Expo happening right next door in Saint Paul, occurring in conjunction with the [Twin Cities Marathon](#), while you're there. Finally, register for a [joint affiliate reception](#) hosted on 10/6 from 5–7 PM at the Hyatt Regence. More details and registration can be found below!

[Register for FNCE®](#)



Register for the Joint Reception



## Academy Elections

The Academy is seeking dynamic and visionary leaders who are ready to make a meaningful impact and be a part of this exciting journey towards a bright future for our Academy. Nominations for President-elect, Treasurer-elect and Speaker-elect close on **September 9, 2024**, with all other positions accepting nominations until **October 21, 2024**. Self-nominations are encouraged!

Learn more about the [responsibilities and qualifications](#) for each role, then submit your nominations [online](#) or [via email](#). Every nomination counts towards

shaping the future of our Academy!

[Learn More](#)

## DC Metro Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

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