Exciting Food Services Update

Dear Statewide Family Council,

Thank you once again for the opportunity to share some information with you at the SFC meeting about the great work we are doing in Food Services.

One of the things I shared with you at the meeting was that input from different stakeholders help shape our decisions regarding menu development and food service. Recently one of our Superintendents advocated for Incarcerated Individuals, who requested a special meal once a month (a meal that was not on the regular menu). After working through some details, we piloted a special meal which was widely accepted (Cheeseburgers with all the trimmings (lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles, etc.) and a special dessert.

From the beginning, our department recognized this is something that should be done statewide and not just at one facility, that is why I want to share the exciting news about the new food service plan we are implementing statewide.

Beginning in October, a special meal will be served at every facility on the last Friday of the month (we will pause the initiative in November and December due to the holiday meal schedule and then resume in January). The special meal will be different from month to month, and we will work closely with Food Service staff and Incarcerated Individuals to shape these meals in ways that reflect preferences while meeting nutritional and cost guidelines. This initiative demonstrates how the Department values feedback from those in our care and our commitment to translating that feedback into meaningful changes whenever it is possible. It also reflects the strong support of DOC leadership, who view this effort as an important step in recognizing personal choice while maintaining responsibility for health, nutrition, and fiscal stewardship.

For the October meal, I am pleased to share that the menu will feature a 6-ounce serving of Hot Roast Beef, with mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, and a special dessert. This first meal uses a high-quality roast beef we were able to purchase at a favorable price, making it both appealing and cost-conscious.

Additionally, I have attached the most recent copy of the Food Services Newsletter that we discussed during the meeting.

I was very encouraged by the interest and questions during the meeting, and I look forward to our ongoing work supporting your loved ones with healthy tasty meals which promotes their wellbeing.

Sincerely,

Michael Cline

Food Service Administrator