RESULTS

• A total of 40 (65%) surveys were received
• State agency directors reported that they have CN professional staff with the following:
  • undergraduate degree in nutrition (92.5%)
  • graduate degree in nutrition (80.0%)
  • Registered Dietitian credential (80.0%)
  • experience as a teacher (62.5%)
  • undergraduate degree in business (62.5%)
  • experience in foodservice management (62.5%)
  • experience as school nutrition director (60.0%)
• First year training for new CN professional staff is provided by:
  • on-the-job training (100.0%)
  • independent learning (97.4%)
  • individual counseling (97.4%)
  • individual review of policy/procedure manuals, training resources, etc. (87.7%)
  • mentoring (94.6%)
• Professional development/continuing education for CN professional staff is provided by:
  • USDA/FNS (92.5%)
  • professional organization conferences (87.5%)
  • seminars/workshops (67.5%)
  • webinars (65.0%)
• Analysis of job descriptions revealed 12 commonalities among the activities performed by CN professional staff.
  • The 12 commonalities were utilized in an electronic analysis to identify significant themes within the job descriptions of CN professionals employed in state agencies.
  • Thirty significant job function themes were identified from the job descriptions.

APPLICATION

• State agency staff members perform a pivotal role in ensuring that CN Programs comply with government regulations and positively influence the services provided to children in school districts and child care facilities.
• Results can be used to determine job functions, competencies, and skills needed to perform effectively as a CN professional in a state agency.
• Identification of common functions, competencies, and skills needed by CN professionals working in state agencies contributes to building a strong training infrastructure consistent from state to state.