GOOD TO BEST

Linda Handy, MS, RD

Handy Dietary Consulting
Retired Surveyor/Trainer – CA Dept. of Public Health

After working at Boston City Hospital and more than a decade as a Food Service Director at two of the largest multi-level continuing care campuses in San Diego, Linda accepted a position as a Specialty Dietitian Surveyor/Trainer for CA Dept. of Public Health, where she was extensively trained. She participated on the survey of many hundreds of CA hospitals and nursing homes. She also taught over a 1,000 surveyors how to inspect using state and federal regulations in "dietary services" in the New Surveyor Academy in Sacramento. She was loaned from CDPH to participate on the CMS Workgroup to revise the Surveyor Guidance for Sanitation and develop the first Investigative Protocol for Kitchen Observation (issued Sept 2008) which is still being used. Now retired, she uses that wealth of regulatory compliance knowledge in providing Mock surveys and consultation to hospitals and nursing homes as they develop Plans of Correction after difficult surveys. Her website at www.handydietaryconsulting.com lists her self-study training manuals, approved for continuing education for dietitians and dietary managers, and she is widely sought after for her dynamic presentations at healthcare conferences. She says, "I believe that most dietary leadership are hardworking, diligent folks, who would want to be compliant with all regulations, but often do not know what is required. And the federal requirements are becoming more challenging as CMS is demanding that surveyors hold hospitals and nursing homes more accountable. My passion has been to share my good fortune and experience."

Linda has a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition from Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah and a Master's Degree in Food and Nutrition from Framingham State College, MA. Linda has taught at 5 different colleges, including full time for two years, and is currently Adjunct Instructor/Advisory Board in the Dietetic Division of Mesa College, San Diego. Recognized for her professional contributions "to many DPG (Dietetic Practice Group) meetings, publications, and committees," she received a Distinguished Member Award, at FNCE 2011 (Annual Conference of Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, AND). She has contributed articles to many AND publications, participated on publication revisions, and was asked to be a member of the committee to develop the Scope of Practice/Scope of Professional Responsibility for Registered Dietitians in extended care (2010). She is also an advocate for the dining culture change in nursing homes to promote elder rights, choice, liberalizing of diets, and quality of life, and from 2010-2014 was asked to be on the CMS/Pioneernetwork Task Force for the development of the new Dining Practice Standards (issued Sept 2011) and "ToolKit" for its implementation (issue date April 2014).