

July 25, 2016

I conducted an audit of all of the CAO programs that administer food programs through the Food Bank of WNY. I went through each account to look up the following information: orders placed, food received and what was reported to the Food Bank during the current program year (Oct 2015-July 2016.) After reviewing the accounts for Edwards Saunders and Angola's Nurture programs several things appeared off and I had some follow-up questions. Catherine organized a meeting between myself, JoAnna Johnson LaShae Green-Thomas, Mary Miles and herself. I presented each order for both sites as well as the monthly reports that were submitted to the Food Bank and asked LaShae about each of them line by line. Here are my findings:

Edward Saunders Nurture Program

For each order that I spotted an item that I found unusual I asked "who placed the order, why was the item ordered and how was it used?"

- Order# 126747: There were 5 cases of frozen pizzas that were ordered. I found this odd since the children receive meals prepared by Cater Tots.
- LaShae explained that Andrew Ellis had placed this order and the pizzas were probably used by Ms. Cassandra (the cooking class instructor) because she remembered the kids having a pizza day.
- Order#127059: There were 1 case of chicken legs (35 lbs), 2 cases of chicken fajita strips (64 lbs.) and 1 case (of 48 cans) of tuna. LaShae said that Andrew placed the order and that she used 24 of the cans of tuna to make tuna salad for a parent night event at the site. As far as the other meat, Ms. Cassandra may have used some chicken fajitas for cooking class and everything else was located inside of the freezer and one day it was left open and everything spoiled. She doesn't remember what month that happened. She also mentioned giving food to School 17 because they didn't have food at the start of their program year and they may have needed food for an event but she couldn't remember.
- Order #127460: There were 3 cases of Airwick candles ordered, 2 cases of chicken fajitas (64 lbs), 1 64 lb. case of whole roasting chickens, 2 cases of lasagna (64 lbs.) and a total of 18 cases of various types of juice. LaShae said that either she or Andrew placed the order but she couldn't remember. I informed her that an identical order was placed for the Angola site for the same day so she would have been the person who placed it because she was the person with all of the login information for both accounts. She said yes then it was probably her. I asked why she ordered candles and she said that Andrew wanted them because he thought they were plugin air fresheners. I informed her that they are clearly described as candles and she said that they should still be located somewhere in the YSD storage space at the site but could not identify where. She said that the chickens may still be in the freezer and that Ms. Cassandra may have used some of the fajita strips and

roasting chickens for cooking class. I asked her how would she have cooked several whole chickens when there is only one oven at the site? She said maybe she took them home, cooked them there and brought them to the site. I said removing food from the site is a direct violation of the Food Bank policies and LaShae said yes she knew that.

- Order #127760: There was a 51 lb. bag of cake mix purchased. Lashae said that she ordered that so the they could make items for the kid's bake sales. **I informed her that using Food Bank food to make items to sell at a fundraiser was a direct violation of their policy.**
- Order #129295: This order included 1 25lb. case of ground beef , 2 cases of chicken leg quarters (70 lb) and 20 cases of various beverages. LaShae said either she or Andrew placed the order. She couldn't remember. She said that the kids were still having cooking class and may have used some ground beef to make tacos in a bag. She said that she did not know what happened to the chicken leg quarters.
- Order #129412: This order was received 3 weeks after the previous order and included 1 case of BBQ sauce and 30 cases of juice. LaShae said that she thinks Desiree Tillery may have placed the order but she couldn't remember. She believes the BBQ sauce is still at the site. I pointed out that the order was identical to the one placed for Angola on the same day so LaShae would have been the person ordering.
- Order #130948: This order contained 1 case of chicken fajita strips (32lbs), 2 cases of tuna (96 cans, 19 cases of various beverages, 1 case of frosting and 2 cases of cake mix. LaShae said that she remembered placing this order herself. She said the chicken fajita strips were probably still at the site and she didn't know if any staff had cooked for any events with any of this food. She said that she had not made any tuna salad for events since Desiree took over as Site Coordinator. **The cake mix and frosting were again used to make items to sell at a bake sale. I again repeated that it was against Food Bank policy to resell any items that we received from them.**
- Order #131352: This order contained 4 cases of bacon, 1 case of chicken leg quarters (35 lbs), fruit roll ups, cereal bars, cookies, granola bars, bugles chips, chex mix and 14 cases of beverages. LaShae said that she placed the order herself. I found it odd that she would have placed that large of an order with only 8 days left in the programming year. LaShae said that she split up the order between various YSD site. She said that it was divided between the following staff Tamara, Ray, Britney, Ronnie and Tasha, She said that they all received part of the items to take back to their site. She said that some of the bacon was used to make breakfast everyday for the YSD Staff during their summer camp training and the rest went bad when the freezer was left open as well as the chicken leg quarters. **I stated that using Food Bank items to make breakfast for feed staff members was a blatant violation of policy and LaShae said that she knew but did it anyway. I also stated**

that moving food from the contracted site and redistributing it to another site/program is also against policy and LaShae stated that she knew that too but did it anyway.

- Order #132164: This order contained 2 cases of chicken fajita strips (64 lbs), a 48lb case of onions and a 50 lb case of potatoes as well as 37 cases of various beverages. LaShae said that she placed the order herself. She also placed an identical order for the Angola site. She said that either the counselors may have cooked the fajita strips with the kids or they were still at the site. She said she used the cereal bars and juice at the Olympic Day on July 22nd and sometimes the Summer Youth workers drink juice too. She said that they gave the bags of potatoes and onions away to parents. **I stated that was against Food Bank policy since they did not have a pantry program and she said that she knew that she knew that it was against the rules but did it anyway because she would rather give it away than let the food go bad and be thrown out.** I brought up the fact that I didn't understand why the 50 lb bags of onions and potatoes would have even been ordered when they do not cook at the site at all during summer camp. She did not have an explanation. She said she just saw it and figured maybe they could use it and ordered it.

Angola Nurture Program

For each order that I spotted an item that I found unusual I asked “who placed the order, why was the item ordered and how was it used?”

- Order #127151: This order contained 2 cases of cereal, a case of Colby cheese and 6 cases of various beverages. LaShae said either she or Ray placed the order. Ray later confirmed that LaShae placed the order and he was using the items to cook at the site since their Cater Tots contract did not start for another month.
- Order #127467: This order contained 2 cases of canned beef stew, 3 cases of Airwick candles, 1 case of chicken leg quarters, 2 cases of chicken fajitas, 1 case of chicken roasters, 1 case of lasagna, 22 cases of various beverages, 2 cases of breakfast kits and 1 case of salsa. LaShae said that she placed the order.
Ray does not know what happened to the chicken leg quarters or chicken roasters. “LaShae took it somewhere.”
- Order #129300: Contained 2 cases of cereal, 1 case of ground beef, 1 case of calzone dough, 11 cases of kidney beans, 1 case of soda. LaShae said either she or Ray placed the order. She couldn’t remember.
- Order #129411: This order contained 1 case off BBQ sauce, graham crackers, marshmallows, candy canes, canned fruit and 20 cases of juice. We had established earlier in the meeting that LaShae placed this order because she placed an identical order for Edward Saunders. She said that Ray uses BBQ sauce to season the chicken he makes for the kids.
- Order #130603: This order contained chips, fruit roll ups, 1 case of margarine, 1 case of ginger ale and various snacks and 10 cases of various beverages. LaShae believed Ray placed this order.
- Order #131473: This order contained a 50 lb. bag of donut mix, a 26 lb. bag of muffin mix, chips, cereal bars, yogurt and juice. LaShae said that she placed this order.
- Order#132165: This order contained apples, 1 case of eggs, 48 lbs. of fresh onions, 50 lbs. of fresh potatoes, 15 cases of juice, milk and cereal bars.
LaShae took cases of juice, onions and potatoes with her when she left his site.

Staff Interviews

Catherine and I called the staff members that LaShae said that she had distributed some of the items to for verification.

- Racheal @ School 17- Never received any food from LaShae. Her program has always had a dining program since the first day. Neither she nor her staff has access to the kitchen. The school cafeteria staff prepares all meals and all of the food is provided by the school.
- Tasha @JFK- She has received Bugle chips and occasionally granola bars from LaShae. Nothing else.
- Fiera @Pratt- She has never received any items from LaShae she started on June 13th.
- Ronnie @Drive Academy-She received cookies and potato chips for her program in 2015 and juice, granola bars and fruit roll ups in 2016.
- Ray @Angola-Shay places orders for his site for items that he does not need nor ask her to order like chicken roasters and chicken quarters. The items are delivered to his site and Beth puts them away. When he arrives at the site he takes inventory and confirms that all of the items on the order were received. The items then go missing from the fridge and/or freezers. Ray said that the orders containing cereal bars, yogurt, granola bars, cereal are usually placed by him. The orders containing chicken are being placed by LaShae. He said that she orders things that he did not ask for and then someone is taking those items from the site. He said that LaShea comes out to his site once or twice a month to conduct pop-up site visits and takes food with her when she leaves. He said that the last time this occurred was on July 21st. She took cases of juice and the potatoes and onions and said that she was using the juice for Olympic Day. He said that he had not told JoAnna because LaShae is his boss when she is out there and he is afraid to lose his job.
- Anonymous Staff Person- said that last week LaShae went to a summer program site and took the left over summer lunches which are supposed to be discarded. She told the site staff person that she was

going to take them since they were throwing them out anyway. The staff person felt that it was odd because they are all aware that the lunches cannot be taken home by staff.

Interviews with Nurture/Summer Camp Kids

- Child #1-
During the school year or summer program have you ever had the following during the after school program?
Roasted Chicken-No
Lasagna-No
Tuna -Yes
Chicken Fajita Strips-No
Chicken legs/drumsticks=yes for a celebration
Onions=yes in salsa
Potatoes=no
- Child#2
During the school year or summer program have you ever had the following during the after school program?
Roasted Chicken=no
Lasagna=yes
Tuna -yes
Chicken Fajita Strips=no
Chicken legs/drumsticks=no
Onions=yes in salsa
Potatoes=no
- Child #3
During the school year or summer program have you ever had the following during the after school program?
Roasted Chicken=no
Lasagna=yes
Tuna -no
Chicken Fajita Strips=no
Chicken legs/drumsticks=no
Onions=no
Potatoes=no

