

From: Damore, Deborah [<mailto:Deborah.Damore@vermont.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:44 PM
To: Chrissy Gilhuly
Cc: Bruneau, Judy; Larose, Deborah; Wortman, Linda; Willard, Abbey; Minoli, Wanda
Subject: BGS Food Procurement

Chrissy,

I wanted to follow-up on testimony last week regarding healthy food standards and food procurement in state contracts. A summary of food service procurement by BGS is attached along with the Healthy Food Standards that were incorporated last year in our cafeteria contracts at 133 State Street and Statehouse with one exception; at the Statehouse cafeteria we agreed (this office, Janet Miller and the Abbey Group) to include whole milk, half and half and one additional fried item. Contractor implemented the Healthy Food Standards in June of 2015. However, there is still one item The Abbey Group continues to source which is to offer a choice of a non-dairy, calcium fortified beverage (such as soy or almond milk): these beverages must not provide more sugars than milk, provide the same amount or more of protein (at least 6g/8oz) calcium (250 mg/8oz) and provide less than 5g total fat (equivalent to 2% milk). The Abbey Group also confirm the following with respect to snacks, placement, and catering for the same locations:

- **Snacks:** Snack items are now focused on healthier options, with at least 50% meeting the criteria listed in the Healthy Food Standards.
- **Placement:** Healthy options are always given preferential placement with a variety of healthy options offered daily. Beverages are displayed with healthy choices at eye level and sugared beverages lower.
- **Catering:** Our catering program at the two sites in compliance with the standards listed for all State funded functions. We are looking forward to continuing to work with you to offer healthy foods and promote healthy lifestyle choices at our State dining sites.

In addition, we have been working very closely with the Agency of Agriculture on food requirements, and to highlight some of those efforts, please refer to articles we placed in both the December 2015 and January 2016 Purchasing & Contracting Newsletter.

- January 2016 – Article entitled “Procuring Vermont Products for The People”
<http://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/Jan%202016%20final.pdf>
- December 2015 – Article entitled “BGS Partners with VAAF in Local Food Tracking Measures”
<http://bgs.vermont.gov/sites/bgs/files/pdfs/purchasing/Dec%202015%20Newsletter.pu%20FINAL.pdf>

Please let me know if you require anything further.

Thank you,

Deb Damore