# SNP Memo #2021-2022-22


**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Department of Education**

DATE: January 28, 2022

TO: Directors, Supervisors, and Contact Persons Addressed

FROM: Sandra C. Curwood, PhD, RDN, ***Sandy***

## SUBJECT: Office of School Nutrition Programs Staffing Updates

The Virginia Department of Education, Office of School Nutrition Programs (VDOE-SNP) would like to share our staffing updates.

### SNP Staffing Updates

First, please join us in welcoming Kendra Roche as the newest VDOE-SNP Regional Specialist. Kendra has a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science with a concentration in Food and Nutrition from Queens College, City University of New York. As a Food Programs Evaluation Specialist at the New York State Education Department's Child Nutrition office, she gained six years of school nutrition experience. Kendra recently relocated to Virginia and is looking forward to supporting the school nutrition programs in Region 1.

Additionally, Denise Clark has assumed permanent responsibility for both the public and private residential child care institutions (RCCIs).

### SNP Regional Specialist Assignments

* **Region 1**: Kendra Roche (Kendra.Roche@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 2**: Huong Lam (Huong.Lam@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 3**: Tom Patrick (Thomas.Patrick@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 4**: Karen Howard (Karen.Howard@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 5**: Sabrina Chappell-Strickland (Sabrina.Chappell-Strickland@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 6**: Kenndra Buyalos (Kenndra.Buyalos@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 7**: Sonya Kibler (Sonya.Kibler@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Region 8 and Public and Private RCCIs**: Denise Clark (Denise.Clark@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Private Schools**: Sasha Chamberlain (Sasha.Chamberlain@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Lead SNP Specialist**: Crystal Crutchfield (Crystal.Crutchfield@doe.virginia.gov)
* **SNP Coordinator**: Andrea Nannery (Andrea.Nannery@doe.virginia.gov)

### Child Nutrition Programs Staffing Updates

The Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) team is happy to welcome Stephen Bewley as the new CNP Regional Specialist for community sponsors in Regions 1 and 8. Stephen has a bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts Management from the Art Institute of Virginia Beach and a master’s degree in Business Administration from Stratford University. Stephen has 14 years of experience working in restaurants and U.S. Navy kitchens. Most recently, Stephen worked as a SNP Manager at a local school division.

Alexa Burnett joins the team as the CNP Regional Specialist for Regions 6 and 7. Alexa is a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University, with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. She began her career as an Environmental Educator with a nonprofit organization that coordinated outdoor learning in Richmond Public Schools. Most recently, Alexa served as an Environmental Health Specialist at the Virginia Department of Health. In this role, she conducted food safety inspections at restaurants, schools, daycares, and hospitals in the Richmond area.

### CNP Specialist Regional Assignments

* Regions 1 and 8: Stephen Bewley (Stephen.Bewley@doe.virginia.gov)
* Region 2 and 3: Callie Nickles (Callie.Nickles@doe.virginia.gov)
* Region 4 and 5: Erica Davis (Erica.Davis @doe.virginia.gov)
* Region 6 and 7: Alexa Burnett (Alexa.Burnett@doe.virginia.gov)
* Lead CNP Specialist: Jon Tirk (Jon.Tirk@doe.virginia.gov)
* CNP Coordinator: Maggie Parker (Maggie.Parker@doe.virginia.gov)

### SNP Operations and Support Team Staffing Updates

The VDOE-SNP Operations and Support (Ops) Team provides support to the VDOE-SNP staff and includes the areas of policy and research, finance, systems (SNPWeb), and procurement. In October 2021, we were pleased to welcome Diane Bontoft to the team as the SNP Finance Specialist. Diane brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the team with a master’s degree in Business Administration and bachelor’s degree in Economics and Sociology. Prior to her current role, Diane served in the VDOE Budget Office where she provided complex technical expertise in analyzing and developing the distribution of $8 billion in state public education funding.

**Ops Team Assignments**

* **Finance Specialist**: Diane Bontoft (Diane.Bontoft@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Policy and Research Specialist**: Vacant
* **Procurement Reviews and FSMC Contracts Specialist**: Vacant
* **Systems (SNPWeb) Analyst**: Sivagami Solayappan (Sivagami.Solayappan@doe.virginia.gov)
* **SNP Operations and Support Supervisor**: Courtney Jones (Courtney.Jones@doe.virginia.gov)

### Training, Program Improvement, and Grants Team Staffing Updates

The VDOE-SNP Training, Program Improvement, and Grants (TIG) Team provides support to all school and child nutrition programs in the areas of internal and external training and professional development, marketing, farm to school, wellness policies, grant management, and miscellaneous special projects. In June 2021, we were pleased to welcome Shane Logan to the team as the SNP Culinary Specialist. Shane has a diverse skillset from his experience as an executive restaurant chef as well as a high school culinary arts instructor. Shane has a bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and a Culinary Arts degree from the French Culinary Institute in New York City.

In August 2021, we were pleased to welcome Ashley Roth as the SNP Training and Marketing Specialist. In her prior role, Ashley served as the Partnership Engagement Manager and Registered Dietitian for Common Threads. Ashley has experience in nutrition and dietetics, program management, marketing, research, and adult and child education. Ashley is a registered dietitian with a bachelor's and a master's degree in Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

In September 2021, we were pleased to welcome back Lisa Bonine as the Special Projects Specialist. Lisa originally joined the VDOE-SNP team in 2019 as the Nutrition Education Training Assistant. She then transitioned to a CNP Specialist position where she provided leadership, technical expertise, and assistance to community sponsors in regions 1 and 8. Lisa has experience in marketing, nutrition/health education, and school and child nutrition programs. Lisa has a bachelor's degree in Communications from California Lutheran University and a master's degree in Nutrition Education from American University.

In December 2021, we were pleased to welcome Brittany "Bee" Thorp to the team as the Farm to School Specialist. Bee joined us from the Virginia Department of Health where she served as the Farm to CACFP and Program Specialist. Bee has a rich background in farm to school and child nutrition programs, program management, and community health. Bee has a bachelor's degree in Communications from East Carolina University and a master's degree in Food Studies from Chatham University.

### TIG Team Assignments

* **Training Specialist**: Ron Walters (Ronald.Walters@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Training and Marketing Specialist**: Ashley Roth (Ashley.Roth@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Culinary Specialist**: Shane Logan (Shane.Logan@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Farm to School Specialist**: Bee Thorp (Brittany.Thorp@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Wellness Policy Specialist**: Laura Burns (Laura.Burns@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Regional Projects Specialist**: Helen Phillips (Helen.Phillips@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Regional Projects Specialist**: John Shoulders (John.Shoulders@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Special Projects Specialist**: Lisa Bonine (Lisa.Bonine@doe.virginia.gov)
* **TIG Team Supervisor**: Kelly Shomo (Kelly.Shomo@doe.virginia.gov)

### Additional VDOE-SNP Team Members

* **VDOE-SNP Director**: Dr. Sandy Curwood (Sandra.Curwood@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Technical Advisor to the State Director**: Lynne Fellin (Lynne.Fellin@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Lead Administrative Assistant**: Crystal Christmas (Crystal.Christmas@doe.virginia.gov)
* **Administrative Assistant**: Rachel Dancy (Rachel.Dancy@doe.virginia.gov)

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