

Minutes
CT Food Policy Council May 10, 2012
CT Dept. of Agriculture

Present:

Members: Linda Drake – UCONN, Willard Seedman – DSS-SNAP, Gloria McAdam,
John Frassinelli – DPH, Stan Sorkin – CFA, Mary Parizo, End Hunger CT(for Lucy Nolan)
Guests: Helena Hoover-Litty – CDA, Jean King - consultant, Ellen Sloan – DCP, Linda Piotrowicz -
DOAG

Minutes of the April 12 meeting were tables due to lack of a quorum.

Old Business and Updates:

Discussion of how the CFPC can work with the Governor's Council and which working groups are most related to our work: Lind Piotrowicz discussed the current process of interviewing 60 different persons across the state to assess strengths and weaknesses. Project Goal: Grow CT Farms: Developing, Diversifying and Promoting Agriculture. Council members saw a number of areas where our work has common concerns. They felt that rather than single our specific work groups at this time the Council should look the barriers to development that emerge from the interviews that relate to CFPC goals. CFPC should then look at policies that we can promote that will address these issues. Our work should identify roadblocks to progress and our role in changing those. Areas where the CFPC saw immediate linkages were in Food Security, Farm to Institution, and in linkages to work of state agencies.

New Business:

Stan Sorkin described how the NY State Food Alliance is working with grocery stores to find ways to increase SNAP enrollment. After considerable discussion the CFPC agreed to set up a subcommittee to look at similar possibilities for CT, especially working with SNAP Outreach staff at DSS. Committee will include: DSS SNAP Outreach staff person, Stan Sorkin, Mary Parizo, and Gloria McAdam.

John Frassinelli discussed the Multi-Agency Integrated Eligibility process , a master MIS system that is in development. Also, there are 110 new WICC certified stores in CT. WICC is also moving towards a card based system for recipients.

It was noted that many people are losing unemployment benefits in the next months and assessing SNAP benefits for them is important.

The Council reviewed the latest data provided by Jiff Martin for the Food Security Study in progress.

Legislation:

Legislation passed (Bill # 5143) provides for insurance coverage for perishable food. This affects stores who may lose power (as in October storm) and wish to donate food. It provides that they can receive their insurance payments for losses when they make conations, not just when they throw food away. Bill 5326 that suggested ways for grocery stores to identify local foods on receipts did not pass. Stan Sorkin suggested that voluntary discussions with grocers may be a better approach.

Next Meeting: June 14, 2012 – location to be announced.
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