

**Connecticut Food Policy Council**  
**September 13, 2012**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** John Frassinelli, DPH/WIC; Mary Parizo, EHC!; Jiff Martin, UCONN; Jean King, consultant, Ellen Sloan; DCP; Teri Dandeneau, CD Education; and Linda Drake, UCONN

**Minute taker:** Joan Robinson, Foodshare

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The meeting was Call to Order at 1:20 pm by Linda Drake. There was not a quorum present; therefore, approving the minutes will be tabled to the October meeting.

**Old Business**

- Governor's Agriculture Development Council met on August 25<sup>th</sup>. In the coming months, there will be four listening sessions in Norwich, New Haven, Litchfield and Torrington. Linda asked who would be attending these sessions. Jiff said farmers, some members of the Council, and the Commissioner.
- This morning, Linda attended the Fair Food Network presentation, "A Fair Food System" by Dr. Oran Hesterman, President/CEO of the Fair Food Network. Everyone who attended received his book *Fair Food: Growing a Healthy, Sustainable Food System for All*.

Dr. Hesterman is working with Wholesome Wave and the Double Up Food Bucks for Farmer Market purchases. These are demonstration projects for incentives for people using SNAP to buy local fruit and vegetables. He also spoke about the need for funding small entrepreneurs for value added enterprises, which could be minimal processing, marketing and food hubs as a food distribution system. He is currently applying for funding to do this kind of work.

**New Business**

- Strategic planning – Linda, Mary, Jean & John met in August to plan a meeting with a regional group, New London Food Policy Council on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 – 4:00 pm. The gathering will be held at the Office of the New London County Extension Center in Norwich. CFPC members should plan to attend if possible.
- Council members were asked to email Jean any updated brief descriptions or overviews of each organization's programs related to food policy.

The goal is to strengthen our relationships with individuals and groups working on food policy issues. Not just with the local food policy councils but other groups working around food issues, such as a group working on public policy or farmer markets.

During the meeting, we will discuss how to improve communications and share experiences. The Council wants to understand priority areas for action on food issues, so that the Council can offer technical assistance, link them to others who may be working on a similar issue and to identify issues that should be addressed on a state-wide level.

An invitation via email will go out in the near future.

## **Agency Sharing**

- Mary Parizo, EHC! – October SNAP standard changes are coming. Everything is increasing except for the SUA (Standard Utility Allowance). Mary distributed the CT School Breakfast Report Card that was done by EHC!. Followed with a brief review of the report. Terri offered to invite Jackie Schipke from Connecticut State Department of Education, School Breakfast Chairperson to present a 30 minute presentation on school breakfasts and updates at one of our Council meetings. Terri will look into inviting her to a future meeting.

Mary encouraged Council members to write a letter to our federal representatives regarding the 2012 Farm Bill. She believed that the Bill will not come up again until after the 2012 Elections. It would be good to have our representatives champion the cause and keep the attention on the Bill.

- Teri Dandeneau, CSD Education – The school districts are now required to implement the new meal patterns. Children will have to take a half cup of fruit or vegetable on their tray when they get their meal. The concern is that students are throwing food away because they don't want it. It reinforces the need for additional nutrition education.

A school nutrition conference was held yesterday with the school nutrition directors and some USDA representatives. We learned that it is more middle school and high school students that are having this issue. It is a new menu, which will take some time. Some school districts have said it is working very well for them. The Red Cross presented on disaster planning and disaster management.

CSD Education Directors' did receive a grant for the implementation of the Direct Certification, working with DSS and upgrading the whole system, to make direct certification process more seamless.

- Jean King gave an update on the local meat project at UCONN that a website was created and should go live next week.
- John Frassinelli, DPH/WIC – shared that an implementation plan for a new computer system and conversation was approved but not funded as of yet. Connecticut is on the top of the priority list for funding. If all goes well, by the end of 2014 we'll be on a debit card system for WIC.

## **New Chairperson for the Council**

Linda shared that she has been the chairperson for this Council for several years and John Frassinelli has agreed to become the new Chairperson. A motion to elect John Frassinelli as the new chairperson of the CT Food Policy Council was made and seconded at this meeting. Linda will send an email to all voting members with this motion and hold an e-mail election for the new chairperson.

The next Food Policy Council meeting will be on October 11, 2012 at Foodshare in Bloomfield from 1– 3 pm.

The Council adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Submitted by Joan Robinson, Foodshare