

Connecticut Food Policy Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2013

Members Present: Marcia Maillard (DPH), Linda Hubeny (DAS), Lucy Nolan (EHC!), Rick Macsuga (DOAG), Bill Seedman (DSS)

Guests Present: Jean King (consultant), Mary Parizo (EHC!), Teri Dandeneau (SDE), Meg Hourigan (EHC!), Ellen Sloan (DCP),

Meeting was chaired by Rick Macsuga as Chairman John Frassinelli was unable to be present.

Additions to the agenda:

Announcements from Agencies:

Mary Parizo announced that End Hunger CT! will be holding a symposium on hunger On Dec. 5 at Middlesex Community College – invitations will be sent out.

Bill Seedman discussed the upcoming reductions in SNAP benefits that result from expiration of increases that were made from the federal Stimulus program. Those benefit increases were sunsetted this month and 220,000 households in CT will see a decrease in dollar benefits. SNAP has about a \$4million dollar decrease in benefits this month.

Rick Macsuga reported that he has been asked to put together next year's program budget for state funded farmers' market coupons with a 10% reduction for WIC beneficiaries and a 20% reduction for seniors. Next year DOAG will have funds for a pilot program (probably in Bridgeport) of farmers' market coupons for veterans. They expect funding available to serve 1400 at-risk veterans.

Agenda Items:

October 17 CFPC Forum with Local Councils

Strengthening Connecticut's Food System with Local Food Policy Groups – The group discussed the goals for the day for this Workshop and reached consensus on the following:

Objective of Oct 17th Gathering: Strengthening Food Policy Work at the Local Level:

The CT Food Policy Council wants to use this event primarily to help local food policy groups understand their potential to address policy issues at the local level. Networking and information sharing at the local level and among local groups is important to this work.

Food System Work:

Understanding how the food system works --that it covers many topics. Broadening the scope of how people think about food work.

Policy and Programs:

Clarifying how both programs and policies make change; how to distinguish between them; and how to use them both effectively to achieve the end goals.

Working Together:

Discussion about how each of us works on policy at our own level and also have the potential to join together for action.

Strategic Planning

The Council discussed alternatives for action for 2013-2014 including:

Strengthening and expanding participation in CFPC

Work of the State Nutrition Access Committee

Considering a specific state response to the Food Security Report

Minutes

The Minutes of the July 11, 2013 and September 12, 2013 meetings were approved as corrected and amended.

NEXT MEETING NOVEMBER 14, 2013 AT LOB ROOM 2600

