

Connecticut Food Policy Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 10th, 2014

A quorum was not present so no action was taken during this meeting

Attendees

Members: John Frassinelli, (SDE /Chair); Lucy Nolan, (EHC! / Vice Chair); Gloria McAdam (Foodshare); Bill Seedman (DSS); Marcia Maillard (DPH), Linda Drake (UCONN)

Guests: Mary Parizo (EHC!), Jessica Mahon (EHC!), Ashley Arthur (EHC!), Ellen Sloan (DCP), Peggy Zamore (DFMCC), Martha Page (HFS), Helana Hoover-Litty (CAND), Jessica Dean (CAND)

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM

The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting could not be approved due to lack of a quorum. Nevertheless John Frassinelli noted some revisions, which were as follows: Linda Piotrowicz abstained from voting on approval of prior minutes because she was not present; and a spelling correction to Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Reviczky's last name.

Additions to the agenda:

Community Food Security Report: John Frassinelli reported that it has been two years since the report was updated. As the Food Policy Council was a significant supporter last time around, UCONN is currently working to provide CFPC with a proposal. Martha Page suggested making the report more robust. John added to bring in Jiff Martin and Adam Rabinowicz from UCONN to discuss a proposal and cost of report. Lucy suggested inviting them to the next meeting, so an unofficial request to invite Jiff and Adam was made.

Letters of Appointment: John asked for the state agencies' representatives to forward appointment letters to Jessica Mahon (new staff person).

New England Food Policy Council: Conference will be held on July 29th in Leominster, MA. Representatives that will be attending the event will be Lucy Nolan, Marcia Maillard, and Jessica Mahon.

Grant Award:

Lucy reported that CFPC received a grant from the John Merck Foundation to fund a 6 month, quarter time staff person, which will be held by Jessica Mahon, Program Liaison from End Hunger CT!. She will be doing administrative tasks and engage local food policy councils and other state agencies. John Frassinelli added that he would like to make improving communication between local food policy councils and the CT Food Policy Council a priority.

Agency/Guest Updates:

CFSA:

- Through a grant provided through the Kendall Foundation and the Merck Family Fund, a ½ time coordinator has been hired and will start on July 21st.

EHC!:

- For the first time ever, all 34 towns that are eligible to have Open Summer Meal sites in CT, have signed on to have open sites this summer. Open sites allow for anyone under the age of 18 eligible to receive meals.

DSS:

- DSS newsletter will be giving a full page to Summer Meals and featured on the DSS network.

- NPR did a report on the Employment and Training program, in which 40 more students are participating in the short term program.
- Funding to the CFSP program will change to a senior-only program.
- DSS created a YouTube video on the benefits of farmer's markets, featuring local markets in CT
- Over 231,000 households are participating in the SNAP program and 55 million is given monthly in benefits

Danbury Farmers Market Community Collaborative (DFMCC):

- Veteran vouchers to be used at farmer's markets have now been launched in Danbury.

Foodshare:

- The St. Augustine location usually provides for over 200 people who come to get food, but last Friday over 400 came, noting the difficulty families have in the summer.

DPH:

- A grant proposal concerning healthy food access is in the process of being completed and submitted and the awarding will be in September.
- Healthy Corner Store Initiative has been launched in Bridgeport. Three stores are on board and the Health Director is looking to expand the program throughout Bridgeport.

UCONN:

- SNAP-Ed proposals have all been submitted and has been sent to the Northeast Regional Office of the USDA for review and approval

DCP:

- Three new food inspectors have been hired for the year to keep up with new food technologies that are emerging.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, September 11, 2014 from 1PM to 3PM

John mentioned moving the meetings around, potentially having one of the local councils host a meeting and also opened to the attendees the option of hosting the meeting where it is ADA accessible.

Motion to adjourn was by Gloria McAdam and seconded by Bill Seedman.

Meeting was adjourned at 2: 20PM