

CT Food Policy Council

Minutes

January 9, 2014

**Attendees:**

Members: John Frassinelli, SDE (Chair); Lucy Nolan, EHC! (Vice Chair); Marcia Maillard, DPH; Rick Macsuga, DoAg; Gloria McAdam, Foodshare; Bill Seedman, DSS

Participants: Helena Hoover-Litty, CT Association of Dietetics and Nutrition; Meg Hourigan, EHC!; Jiff Martin, UConn; Jenna Nicol, DCP; Martha Page, Hartford Food Systems; Mary Parizo, EHC!; Peggy Zamore, DFMCC

The meeting was called to order at 1:16 PM

The minutes of the November meeting were approved.

There was no meeting in December.

**Additions to the agenda:**

SNAC Update

UConn research

**State Nutrition Access Committee (SNAC) Update:**

To get an idea of community involvement in the USDA food assistance programs, EHC! created a survey that will be distributed to community based organizations in February.

EHC! is also developing a survey for WIC program staff to gather information about their knowledge of SNAP and Child Nutrition Programs (CNP)

EHC! has been communicating with CNP Food Service Directors in other states to explore how they are implementing the Community Eligibility Option (CEO). This information can assist CT in our implementation of the CEO.

The major benefit of the CEO is that more schools will be reimbursed at the free lunch rate which means more money for the school district and less paperwork.

A drawback to implementing the CEO is that towns and communities currently use the actual free & reduced lunch data currently collected to determine eligibility for other programs. This type of data will not be available under the CEO.

Eleven states already use the CEO. All states can implement as of Jan. 1, 2014.

**UConn Research:**

UConn has started planning for its next Community Food Security Report, which they will start working on this summer. They are exploring some options for which they asked for input from the Council. A request was made that the Council provide some financial support, which would allow UConn to enhance its research processes.

**Alternative CFPC Memberships:**

Information about food policy councils in other states was distributed. The Council discussed adding members from other state agencies and non-government organizations that are involved in food issues as Council members to assist the Council in fulfilling its mandated purpose. Many agencies/organizations were identified as possible additions. Discussion took place as to whether the Council needed additional permanent members, members on an ad-hoc advisory basis or both. A proposal was made to look at all existing state agencies to determine their involvement in the food

system, if any and then contact their legislative liaisons to ask if the agency would be interested in participating on the Council.

**2013 Update RE: Governor's Council for Agricultural Development (GCAD) Report**

The update for 2013 is out and is available on the Grow Connecticut Farms website:

<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3595&Q=536934&PM=1>

**2014 Proposed Legislation:**

**Working Lands Alliance (WLA) Priorities:**

A list of WLA's 2014 policy priorities was distributed.

**End Hunger CT!**

Lucy Nolan, Executive Director, and Dawn Crayco, Deputy Director, are meeting this month to review suggestions from those who attended the 2013 Symposium on Hunger in CT to create the agency's legislative plan for 2014.

**Next Meetings:**

The Council will meet the second Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 PM.

Locations: SDE in Middletown for February and April meetings

Regional Market in Hartford for March and May meetings

All other meetings will be in Room 2600 at the Legislative Office Building.

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 PM