

Connecticut Food Policy Council
Draft Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2014

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

Attendees

Members: Linda Hubeny, (DAS); Bill Seedman (DSS)

Guests: Ellen Sloan, (DCP); Jessica Mahon, (EHC!); Peggy Zamore, (DFMCC); Marcia Maillard (DPH); Shannon Yearwood (EHC!); Ellen Pendergast (NHFPC)

The meeting was called to order at 1:20pm

The minutes from the October 9th, 2014 meeting could not be approved due to lack of a quorum.

Additions to the agenda:

Food Insecurity Incentive Grant Program: Bill Seedman reported that the first 31 million dollars in grant opportunities was announced to increase consumption of fruits and vegetables among SNAP recipients at the point of sale. Applications can come from non-profit, for profit, government and non-government agencies, but they all must have the support of the state SNAP agency. Bill noted that DSS will support efforts to increase SNAP consumption and to be mindful of the upcoming application deadline, which is December 15th.

Anyone who wishes to apply would need to forward application to DSS for review and then DSS will issue a letter of support. Bill Seedman would be the point person to contact in regards to seeking support from DSS.

Report on local food policy councils / Webinar results:

Jessica gave a brief reporting from her visits to local food policy councils for the month of October. Meetings were of local councils from Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, and Middlesex. Meeting notes from her visits are attached.

Jessica also presented the results from the CT Food Policy Council Webinar survey. Summary of survey results will be made available on the CT Department of Agriculture website.

School Breakfast Report Card:

Shannon Yearwood from EHC! presented on the School Breakfast Report Card which was debuted at the CT School Breakfast Summit earlier this month. The report card gives a detailed look into where CT stands in providing breakfast and an even closer look at town and school district data on student participation in school breakfast. She reported that in CT, the number of children who are on a free or reduced priced meal plan has increased by 280% and since 2009, 270 schools have come on board in participating in the federal School Breakfast Program. In conjunction with the CT Breakfast Expansion Team and changing breakfast delivery models, breakfast has been made more accessible to children. The 2014 CT School Breakfast Report Card can be accessed at endhungerct.org

No Agency or Guest Updates

Next Meeting:

Thursday, December 11th, 2014

Location: Legislative Office Building, Hartford, Room 2600

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35pm

Local Food Policy Council Meeting Notes

Hartford Food Policy Council / October 8th, 2014

- The advisory commission has taken the opportunity to receive technical assistance from Mark Winne through the New England Food Policy Council. He will be meeting with the commission on November 12th
- The commission conducted a survey with Hartford residents, measuring their awareness of the commission's existence. Hopefully with Mark Winne, they can come up with a plan to become more visible.
- The commission has been working on a new urban ag ordinance and a new zoning regulation. They have submitted it to the planning and zoning commission and Hartford may have new zoning regulations before the end of the year. Definitions for community gardens and urban farms are included as well as under what circumstances you can develop them. For ex. home gardens are universally permitted, community gardens are conditional and urban farms requires a special permit through zoning.
- Their 4th farmers market, Hartford Harvest Market, will be opened in November
- On November 18th, they will launch their new mobile market. A picture of the reclaimed school bus can be found on the Hartford Food System facebook page. It will start with 2 stops, and it will be accepting SNAP and eventually senior vouchers.

New Haven Food Policy Council / October 15th, 2014

- A survey for the City Farm and Garden resource center has been distributed throughout the community gather what the current needs are in the community
- 37 people completed the Master's Cook training and City Seed is supporting them while they are providing cooking classes around the city.
- Rosa DeLauro has committed to co-signing a letter of intent that will be sent out to various entities to get additional funds to fund the Food Systems Director position for 2 years.
- Interviews have been completed with city departments. Gathering information on what each department is doing with food and things they would like to see done. They found key areas where the Food Systems Director can get involved in, such as hunger and economic development issues, coalition building, and network support. This is all to refine the job description and present it to the council for approval.
- The council is the food subcommittee of Get Healthy CT in New Haven. The website is a place you can go to get healthy resources, where every month there is a different

theme. Soon there will be a work wellness series to encourage more activity at the work site. The materials are important to get out into the community which introduces some limitations. Contacts need to be identified within the communities to become ambassadors in spreading the Get Healthy CT message.

Bridgeport Food Policy Council / October 15th, 2014

- The Bpt Health Department welcomed a CDC Public Health Associate who will be residing in Bpt for 2 years. He will be working on different initiatives such smoking cessation and food regulation.
- Food Corp member, Madison is working with the Food Service Director on a local food sourcing pilot program with 2 elementary schools. The nutrition center has to get produce from a distribution center because there has been some difficulty in finding a local source that can produce at the capacity needed for 2 schools.
- The nutrition center is in some financial constraints because the fruit serving has increased to a full cup and their funding has not increased. There is not enough labor to prepare the foods so they have to figure out a way to get produce pre-cut and pre-washed. For someone to be trained to prepare the foods would require a higher income and most of the elementary schools do not have the proper operating equipment. Only 5 elementary schools in the city have an operating stove. The central kitchen in Bridgeport does not have working equipment
- They would like to start an initiative where a chef can adopt a school, where the chef will prepare the foods and bring it to the school for tastings. Maybe possibly getting corporate sponsors as well.
- The Healthy Corner Store initiative is still underway. They may be able to secure an additional 20,000 to remodel the outside façade of all 3 stores. Everything should be all set within the next couple of months.
- Wholesome Wave has been working to figure out a way to increase SNAP participation at farmers markets. Creating a connection with pantries was one idea so the Council of Churches of Greater Bpt have applied to the FINI grant opportunity.
- They may contact Mark Winne in regards to building a food hub.

Middlesex Food Policy Council (1st meeting) / October 22nd, 2014

- Discussed past attempts at starting a food council and what will work in this present time.
- Realized that there are separate entities that are doing similar work, it may be possible to merge together in efforts. Crossing over in efforts may be the best way to coordinate.
- Also difficulty with Middleton varies vastly from the rest of the county. The county differs in the diversity of needs

- The biggest issue across the county is food access. They would like to see school districts more committed to the efforts of getting more participation in the child nutrition programs and connecting more families to SNAP.
- Next step is to develop a shared document for meetings that is happening county wide and to be on one accord when discussing issues of interest