

## **Connecticut Food Policy Council Minutes**

November 8, 2018

Members in attendance: Steve Anderon (DoAg), Flavia Pereira (DOT - phone), Bill Seedman (DSS), Michael Pugliesi (UCONN)

Guests in attendance: Shannon Yearwood (EHC), Lucy Potter (Hartford Legal Aid), Jenna Nicol (DCP), Peggy Zamore (by phone)

**The meeting was called to order** at approximately 1:10 pm by Steve Anderson.

**Welcome and Introductions:** Steve Anderson welcomed the members and guests. Introductions were made.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Postponed until the next meeting (no quorum).

### **Additions to the agenda**

There were no additions to the agenda.

### **Administration**

Agency appointments are now completed, legislative appointments still are a work in progress, Shannon Yearwood meeting with DoAg Chief of Staff, Jason Bowsza on 11/9/18.

### **Local Food Policy Council Updates**

There were no local FPC updates.

### **Member Updates**

SDE – S. Yearwood reported for Monica Pacheco that 8 schools are adding school breakfast programs, located in the towns of Durham and Kent. There was brief discussion about the DC Central Kitchen and how they are advocating for expanding meal programs to include supper as well.

DoAg – S. Anderson reported that with the elections behind us there will be a transition to a new administration, and the legislature will go into session in early January. There was discussion amongst attendees on the need to contact legislators to make them aware of the FPC, and its authority and charge under section 22-456 of the C.G.S.

DSS – B. Seedman reported that DSS has had good news to share:

- Governor Malloy announced in a 10/9/18 press release that Connecticut is among the best in the nation for efficient enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance program (SNAP). In fact, DSS was awarded a total of 2.4 million in performance bonus funds related to processing timeliness and program access. He stated that the press release is available on the DSS webpage. Bill thanked EHC! and other partners for helping DSS reach so residents who are eligible for the program.
- DSS continues to expand its SNAP employment & training program and recently reached a milestone accomplishment. The President of the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) issued a press

release announcing that CT was first in New England to offer free vocational training programs, at all of the state's Community Colleges. Tunxis Community College was the most recent and final community college to partner with DSS in this endeavor.

- Overall SNAP participation is down from its peak, but still substantial. DSS currently serves over 217,000 SNAP households, comprised of appx 376,000 individuals and monthly benefits still surpass 50 million each month.
- Bill mentioned two other nutrition assistance programs administered by DSS. They are the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance program (TEFAP). Although small in comparison to SNAP, they help reduce food insecurity. Bill shared that the two, CSFP food bank partners, did a good job in 2018 and therefore CT is eligible to request additional slots to serve more seniors. DSS has requested and Additional 320 slots in 2019.

DCP – J. Nicol reported that DCP is implementing the new Cottage Food law which concerns low risk products that can be made in the home. They now have about 50 applications in the eLicensing system pipeline.

UConn – M. Pugliesi reported that they now have a Multi-Use Trail Workgroup which is looking at trails in underserved communities. There was discussion with F. Pereira (DOT) as to whether DOT has a map of multi-use trails, and Flavia reported that she will see what is available.

#### NEXT STEPS:

Next meeting, December 13, 2018