

## **Connecticut Food Policy Council Minutes**

May 10, 2018

Members in attendance: Steve Anderson (DoAg), Flavia Pereira (DOT - phone), Monica Pacheco (SDE), Bill Seedman (DSS), Shannon Yearwood (EHC), Michael Keilty

Guests in attendance: Lucy Potter (Hartford Legal Aid), Martha Page (Hartford Food System), Miranda (Food Share), Ellen Sloan (DCP)

**The meeting was called to order** at approximately 1:05 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, and legislative appointments still are a work in progress.

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

Martha Page mentioned that Hartford Food System recently moved to a new building, they are now located at 190 Wethersfield Ave. Martha also discussed implementation work around their 10/17 recommendations, including populating new working groups around the areas of retail, food waste, sustainability, nutrition, healthy food access and markets/gardens.

### **Member Updates**

DOT – Flavia reported there were no cuts to DOT budget, no fare increases for transit buses.

DoAg – Steve Anderson reported that the legislative session wrapped up yesterday and the budget included a statewide hiring freeze, and a reduction in DoAg's operating expense line, among other changes.

SDE – Monica Pacheco reported that the farm bill would increase funds in USDA foods program, possible by \$0.06 per breakfast (\$1 million extra for CT). Monica also reported that children's Medicaid data has been added to the direct certification process for free school meals.

In the state budget, Healthy Food Initiative and school breakfast programs were held harmless, and the Child Nutrition State Match were the Governor's original proposal. Monica also reported that CT Grown for Kids will be run between 10/1 and 10/5 this year.

DSS – Bill Seedman reported that the Husky A and Medicare Savings program were fully funded in the budget approved by the legislature. He also distributed an article pertaining to the developing Farm Bill

and FPCs. DSS still hiring, call center times have been reported to be increasing – hiring freeze will undoubtedly have an impact.

EHC – Shannon reported that WIC programs & senior vouchers were held stable in budget. Also, EHC! will be doing “Summer Meal Blitzes” – these will be conducted between 6/16 and 6/22, volunteers will distribute materials to households concerning the summer meals programs.

Foodshare – Miranda reported they are tracking potential changes from Farm Bill.

Michael Keilty – asked where he could find the charge to the CT Food Policy Council to which Steve Anderson reported it was on the DoAg web site – it is located here:

<http://www.ct.gov/doag/cwp/view.asp?a=3595&q=423834>

NEXT STEPS:

Next meeting; June 14, 2018