

Connecticut Food Policy Council (CFPC)
DRAFT Minutes – February 14, 2019

Members in attendance: Steve Anderson (DoAg), Marcia Pessolano (DPH), Don Casella (DAS), Bill Seedman (DSS), Flavia Pereira (DOT-phone), John Bovay (UConn Extension-phone)

Guests in attendance: Martha Page (Hartford Food System), Meg Hourigan (Hartford Food System), Shannon Yearwood (End Hunger CT), Peggy Zamore (Danbury Farmers Market Community Collaborative), Jenna Nichol (DCP), Olivia Reid (Intern-DPH), Mirando Muro (FoodShare)

The meeting was called to order at 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.

Additions to the agenda

-Proposed Federal Rule for SNAP: Shannon indicated that a proposed rule has been put forth which would “encourage broader application of the statutory able-bodied adult without dependents (ABAWD) work requirement, consistent with the Administration’s focus on fostering self-sufficiency.” CT DSS currently has exemptions for 114 towns in the state to the ABAWD requirements which limit ABAWD SNAP participation to up to 3 months in a 3 year period, which allow more CT residents access to food through SNAP. The rule, if passed, has the potential to significantly limit the exemptions, impacting up to 39,000 food insecure residents. End Hunger CT, DSS, and other hunger action organizations are opposed to the proposed rule and will submit written comments for consideration in the ruling. Written comments are being received on or before April 2, 2019 at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/02/01/2018-28059/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-requirements-for-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents>

Administration

-Three bills proposed that are of interest to the CT FPC:

- [HB 6647](#) Regenerative Agriculture Program – The Environmental Committee has voted to draft the bill, but only a concept bill is in place. Impact TBD, past language for a similar bill during 2018 session would change the CT FPC make-up to include experts on regenerative agriculture and task DoAg with creating a healthy soil program.
- [SB 252](#) Improve work of CT FPC – initial draft of language available (attached); a work group worked with Senator Moore (sponsor) to develop but no input from CT FPC was solicited yet. Meg/Martha from HFS will request more info regarding the draft language and the intent behind the changes. Senator Moore may include language that tasks the CT FPC with the development of the state food action plan, which is also a proposed bill described next. Bill moved to House Committee on Government Administration and Elections.

- [HB 6539](#) Food Action Plan – Rep. Miller is in discussions with Senator Moore re: SB 252 and HB 6539. Marcia noted that the concept bill currently tasks DPH with developing the state food action plan, which will likely not be supported by the agency because of internal capacity limitations. Meg/Martha indicated that this was not the intent. The food action plan is proposed as being a public-private partnership, with the CT Food System Alliance as the lead. The CFSA and Hartford Food System are working to solicit funding from private foundations for the effort, with some recent success from the Hartford Foundation.

Local Food Policy Council Updates –

- Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy: The Community Food Security Awards are on April 10, 2019 and nominations are being accepted through 2/19/19 at 9 am. Various nomination categories are available including youth, adult, business, government, etc. DoAg is being nominated by Martha for the SPHERE project.
- New Haven Food Policy Council: the Yale Food System Symposium is 2/15 and 2/16. The city of New Haven is also streamlining the permitting process for micro food businesses.
- Bridgeport Food Policy Council: no updates
- Danbury Farmers’ Market Community Collaborative: continue to move forward, the number of veterans using the programs have increased but there has recently been a decrease in usage of SNAP benefits at farmers’ markets.
- No other updates at this time.

Agency/Member/Guest Updates

- DPH –
 - The Bridgeport East End Neighborhood Revitalization Zone Committee and other key partners in the city of Bridgeport have been recently awarded funding from the Aetna Foundation’s Healthiest Cities and Counties to support the East End Pop-Up Market and Café. A launch event was held on February 13, 2019 at the store, which is expected to open in the coming weeks. This store is an extension of the previously mentioned healthy corner store initiative through the Bridgeport Department of Health and Human Services.
- DAS –
 - DAS has a new Commissioner appointed, Josh Geballe. Don noted that Commissioner Gabelle is a Yale graduate and professor, with experience from Microsoft.
- CSDE –
 - n/a
- EHC –
 - Child nutrition advocacy day is March 6 at the LOB and events will be held throughout the day, and it is free to register: <https://www.endhungerct.org/news-story/2019-child-nutrition-advocacy-action-day-march-6-2019/>
 - Shannon’s farewell celebration is also March 6, interested parties can register here: https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4081797?fbclid=IwAR1Y0CeZcXQTEfkLk9TVVga5V6lVi7jSdADMt98UaNOEAX9DIgSPu6uh_Kk
 - The CT FPC members and guests thank Shannon for her commitment to the Food Policy Council and her anti-hunger work.
- DSS –
 - Early benefits went out in a timely fashion during the shut down

- Commissioner Bremby will not be reappointed as commissioner of DSS and Bill thanked him for his support over the years.
- DoAg –
 - Steve indicated that Ag Day is March 20 from 10-1 pm and you can visit CAIC to get a booth.
- DCP –
 - Jenna noted that DCP also has a new commissioner.
 - The agency may be expanding as betting may be moved to DCP, and with the possibility of marijuana legalization passing this session, which would be regulated by DCP.
 - There is proposed legislation of interest to DCP – SB 233, Cottage Food – which would take out maple syrup and honey and move to DoAg.
- DOT –
 - Flavia provided some follow-up to the group on the discussion about bike/pedestrian work conducted by DOT. DOT is working on several initiatives throughout the state including bike paths, making the roads smaller to make room for sidewalks, and connectivity. The attached presentation outlines some of the initiatives being conducted.
- FoodShare –
 - FoodShare participated in the roundtable at UCONN about hunger among UCONN students with Chris Murphy. A student group at UCONN conducted research on food insecurity, surveying about 1400 respondents. Approximately 1/3 of students surveyed experience food insecurity and the roundtable discussion focused on how to address this issue, including the possibility of a food pantry on campus.
 - Miranda talked about a [GAO report](#) on college student access to SNAP. Shannon noted that student access to SNAP is challenging because of work requirements but Massachusetts has potentially found a way to achieve access for students with a Perkins Loan through the federal government because of the work requirements associated with the loan.

Next meeting will be on March 14, 2019 at EHC! on Hungerford St.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm Motion made to adjourn by Marcia and seconded by Steve.