

Connecticut Food Policy Council
July 12, 2012
Meeting Minutes

Present: Gloria McAdam, Foodshare; John Frassinelli, DPH; Mary Panizo, EHC!; Lucy Nolan, Stan Sorkin, CT Food Assoc.; Helana Hoover-Litty, CT Dietetic Assoc, Bill Seedman, DSS., and Jean King, consultant

Minute taker: Joan Robinson, Foodshare

The meeting was Call to Order at 1:15 pm by John Frassinelli. The minutes from June's meeting was reviewed with the following edit. Mary did not state that there was an automatic process for senior SNAP beneficiaries to join MSP SNAP. Seniors are eligible for MSP but are not automatically enrolled. A motion to accept with Mary's edit was seconded and accepted.

A brainstorming session began on ideas that this Council could focus on as a strategic direction. Some suggestions were:

- Identify area(s) that other groups are not focusing on and/or that needs to be done.
- Agriculture development
- Procurement (food, farms, jobs) – how to develop and implement goals for procuring local foods.
 - Information about regulations and ways to act locally
 - Sharing information about other local successful activities
 - Model local regulations
- Food Assistance – provide information to local groups on how food assistance programs work – use website to provide links to all kinds of information. Try to work on “changing the conversation” about food assistance programs.
- Helping local Councils on efforts: how to work with schools, etc.
- Being the conduit for sharing what local councils are doing between each other
- CT Grown Week / Buy Local Week
- Best practices – Why is it working “here” and not “there”?
- Restaurant use of locally grown vegetables and/or meat.
- Regional meetings on food policy issues and/or concerns.
 - Hold workshops regarding education/awareness topics, i.e. WIC, SNAP, Myths of Food Industry, etc.
- How do we identify new local food councils

It was decided that the Council will look into holding a regional meeting in October 2012. The Council believes it needs to hear from the local councils as to what their needs are and how do they see this Food Policy Council as a useful tool in their local areas. It is important to deflate the current myths about this Council. The Council also decided to look into holding a “lunch & learn” on food policy at the Capitol in the coming year.

Jean King offered to create an actual list of all CT local food councils. Jean will also email the Council members as to holding an ad hoc meeting in August at EHC! to discuss in greater detail regarding a regional meeting in October.

The next Food Policy Council meeting will be on September 13, 2012 at Foodshare in Bloomfield from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The Council adjourned at 3:00 pm.