



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

September 12, 2024

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via TEAMS

Board Members in Attendance: Monica Pacheco, Martha Page, Molly Devanney, Daniel Giacomi, Patrick Doyle, Marilyn Lonczak, Bryan Hurlburt, Lynn Peccerillo, Tida Infahsaeng

Board Members not present: Karen Kitsis, Shawn Joseph

DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau

Public Attendance: Christian Duborg, Ariana Uresti, Laura Baum, Karen Saggese, Ella Kennen, Kimberly Boulette, Ali Ghiorse, Cristina Connolly, William Gates, Joanna Iovino, Jiff Martin

1. Call to Order at 1:03pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from July 11, 2024
 - a. Council approved with no revisions 1:04pm
3. Public Comment
 - a. No Public Comment
4. Old Business
 - a. Martha Page, Connecticut Food System Alliance and NE Feeding NE Project Updates
 - NE Feeding NE Annual Meeting Oct 7 & 8- report back to come about discussion and outcomes
5. New Business
 - a. Christian Duborg, CT Food and Nutrition Policy Analysis, Food Security Event, November 2024
 - Planning on first Food Insecurity event for this fall at the Capital. Friday Nov 15 from 10-2:30pm. Intended audience
 - Goals: provide insights on state of food insecurity and highlight work being done, facilitate connections
 - Working on crafting agenda and gathering feedback

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- Launching registration in the next week or so
 - Molly: November is a tough time for food banks and emergency feeding
 - Panel- Witnesses to Hunger (new haven), CT Foodshare Neighborhood Ambassadors, Forge City Works, UConn Rudd center, Nuvance Health and United Way of Southeastern CT
 - Christian will send the draft agenda and Cyrena will share with council
- b. Cristina Connolly, University of Connecticut Zwick Center, Presentation on the NE Feeding NE Local Food Counts Project
- Cristina gave an overview of the goal of the project, methodology of food count, challenges and limitations and led a discussion on how to improve and prepare for 2025 food count.
6. Board Member Updates
- a. Monica Pacheco: school has started, completed summer meals program, finished summer EBT lots of lessons learned, STAR fund- reduced priced meals for this school year so legislature is paying the parent share of reduced-price meal, gearing up for CTG4CTK week first week of October and October is national farm to school month
 - b. Patrick Doyle: [KNOX Farmers Market](#) and [Harvest Market](#)
 - c. Martha Page: Hartford Advisory Commission hosting a community summit to hear from those impacted by food insecurity
 - d. Mairlyn: connected with NPO team, ECE programs on going, breast and chest feeding campaigns on going and had several events with legislatures. WIC program- new revised food packages and celebrating 50th anniversary
 - e. Jaime Smith: FMNP program redemption, as of this second at 592,619 redeemed in benefits. In 2023 first year of electronic benefits 611,915. Programs runs through end of November, started program in June. [Redemption locations](#)
 - f. Molly- gave an update on the Boar's Head recall and food prices will likely continue to rise in CT with the increase in minimum wage.
7. Next Meeting Date: November 14, 2024, 1-3pm. Updated meeting link to come.
8. Adjourn
- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR II on 9/12/14