



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING AGENDA

May 9, 2024

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via WebEx

Join from the meeting link: [Cisco Webex](#)

+1-408-418-9388, Access code: 2633 584 8084

1. Call to Order,
 - a. Commissioner Hurlburt called to order at 1:04 PM
 - i. Food Policy Council Members present: Bryan Hurlburt, Monica Pacheco, Molly Devanney, Kim Boulette DPH (on behalf of Marilyn), Tida Infahsaeng, Martha Page, Patrick Doyle, Shawn Joseph, Dan Giacomi, April Chaplin DOT (on behalf of
 - ii. DoAg Members present: Jaime Smith, Cyrena Thibodeau, and Hannah Carty
 - iii. Presenter: Christian Duborg
 - iv. Public: Veronica, Peggy, Ali Ghiorse, MaryAnn, Dawn, Karen Saggese - Food Rescue US, Heather Peracchio, 6 call in users
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from March 28, 2024
 - a. Motion to approve, Monica
 - b. Second, Molly
 - i. All yay
3. Public Comment
 - a. None at beginning
 - i. Peggy invited to speak later in the presentation, happy for the council to visit the market and Danbury
 1. Working hard on the Farmers Market Association, looking for people to assist with the website and market managers to have assistance.
 - a. Discussion Ensued.
 - i. Jaime mentioned the USDA Farmers Market Grant due May 15, 2024
 - ii. Applying for Farmers Credit East program
4. Old Business
 - a. June Field Trip – grantee visit
 - i. Daily Bread or United Way of Coastal and Western Connecticut as proposed.
 1. Tida would love for us to go to Danbury under the collaborative.
 - ii. General discussion encouraging participation in the field trip

dovetailing (or potentially replacing a meeting).

1. Hurlburt said it is important to get out and see the work that is being done in the community.
2. No to first, second, or third week of June

5. New Business

a. Connecticut Food System Alliance and NE Feeding NE Project

i. General Updates

1. Cyrena gives an update, where at next meeting we can hear from UCONN Zwick Center about a food council project with a group of grad students who have been doing survey and research work gathering baseline data
2. NE Feeding NE is centered on can NE feed itself with a certain percentage. How much of the food produced here is eaten here?
3. Good summary and research data.
4. Discussion ensued.

a. Request for NASDA to receive presentation.

b. MaryAnn Martinez for the New London Food Justice Action Team

i. Progress, goals, and findings (FY 23 CT Food System Capacity Building grantee).

1. Awarded funding last year to expand current food justice action team and network, and have multiple streams of funding but could use some more!
2. Veronica works with the Ledgelight team and she works directly with the Food Justice Action Team to become more involved in policy at the state and federal level.
3. Pilot launched a SNAP match program.

a. Discussion ensued.

c. Christian Duborg, CT Office of the Food Advocate

i. Introduction, overview of the position and initial goals of the office with discussion.

ii. Presentation about goals, ideas, and dreams in directing and navigating the space as the new and first Food Policy Advocate for the state.

iii. Highlights:

1. Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity (CWCSEO) within the General Assembly is where the position lies
2. CWCSEO Mandates and Responsibilities
3. Food and Nutrition
4. Job Responsibilities
 - a. Advises the General Assembly on legislative matters
5. Initial Priority Areas

iv. Discussion ensued with questions from the Council and the Public

- v. Board requests Christian provide regular updates at all future FPC meetings.
- 6. Board Member Updates
 - a. Dan – DSS, standing up the summer EBT program
 - b. Monica – Education
 - i. Summer EBT program administrator position posted;
 - ii. Continuing to host federally funded local incentive program;
 - iii. CT incentive program launched with DOAG (which includes summer feeding programs).
 - iv. Not going to see free breakfast for schools all this year. Any student with reduced price will get free lunch this year.
 - c. Kim – WIC & DPH
 - i. Received new final rule on packaging in effect soon. Increase in bread, reduction in juice, etc. Can view online: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/fr-041824> Goes into effect June 17, 2024.
 - ii. Farm to ECE, contracted with 16 providers to build or expand on site gardens and other programs
 - 1. Survey results closed
 - iii. SNAPED, Online Go Knapsack is not accessible to the state, redesigning childcare friendly toolkit
 - d. Patrick – KNOX
 - i. New Urban farm manager, graduate of the program
 - ii. Farmers Market; 75 Laurel Street, Hartford, every Monday June – October; 11a-2p
 - iii. Fundraising Gala in August 23, 2024.
 - e. Molly – Grocery
 - i. Letter asking about profits in prices; profits and margins are down
 - ii. CNN was there last month, was about CT Foodshare talking inflation and the bottom line and how food prices have affected each family
 - iii. Food prices are high and margins are low; price increases still happening; and they will not be going down.
 - f. Shawn, Park City Harvest
 - i. Property sold and with the lease, they have had to move to Waterbury from Bridgeport
 - ii. Have Mothers Day plants
 - iii. Offering hybrid classes on how to grow, prepare, and cook product for consumption and storage.
 - g. April, DOT
 - i. No updates, except new person as the designee
 - h. Martha
 - i. Question: Molly, report to check prices, is that going to be an actual public report?
 - ii. Have been planning presentations about NE Feeding NE research data to get feedback on the report.
 - i. Tida, UWCWC

- i. Merger with Bridgeport, and contains about 27 districts
 - ii. Disappointed with results of food meals, towns have been funding greater parts of the program. CEP districts excluded.
 - iii. Child tax credit excluded.
 - iv. Food and medicine in Danbury has been doing well for the Food Pharmacy
 - v. ECE Network to help license providers and CTG4CTK grant to provide opportunities to attend markets and expand help for the ECEs.
 - j. Cyrena, DOAG
 - i. CT Food Incentive Program, reimbursement for eligible districts (who participate in the national school lunch program)
 - ii. Noncompetitive, and you only must opt in
 - iii. Chart forthcoming to navigate between the programs; more updates to come.
 - 1. <https://www.business.ct.gov/doag/adarc/programs/farm-to-school-overview/connecticut-local-food-for-schools-incentive-program#:~:text=If%20%242%2C000%20was%20spent%20on%20regionally%20sourced%20foods%2C%20the%20reimbursement,Connecting%20with%20Farms!>
 - iv. FMNP program benefits will hit a month sooner
 - k. General discussion ensued.
7. Next Meeting Date
- a. July 11, 1:00 PM
8. Final Business
- a. Martha – motion to hold a June meeting in the field with Christian as visitor
 - b. Monica Second
 - c. All yay
9. Adjourn: 2:42 PM