



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom, [Recording](#)

Members in attendance: Monica Pacheco, Lynn Peccerillo, Karen Kitsis, Shawn Joseph, Marilyn Lonczak, Patrick Doyle, Martha Page, Dan Giacomi, Tida Infahseng
Members absent: Bryan Hurlburt, Molly Devanney
DoAg staff present: Cyrena Thibodeau

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:02 by Monica P.
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from November 14, 2024
 - a. Motion to approve minutes approved
3. Public Comment
 - a. General interest in supporting local food aggregators in the state and thinking through how the council can engage.
4. Old Business
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Sherill Baldwin, DEEP's Sustainable Materials Management Policy and Planning Manager, on CT's food waste reduction plans.
 - b. Debrief by Christian Duborg, Food and Nutrition Policy Analyst, on the November Food and Nutrition Security event.
6. Board Member Updates
 - a. Dan Giacomi: Submitted request and plan for summer 2025 EBT, end of Dec congress passed continuation of appropriation which did not contain language to continue the SNAP benefit replacement program for last fiscal year were able to replace \$4.1 million in benefits through this which is around 9,250 claims approved. Working to communicate ways that people can proactively work to protect themselves.
 - b. Martha Page: Mayor of Hartford has expressed interest in learning more about food access/security and have asked for overview of what we know and where are the gaps. Aim is to have it in a presentable format by the end of the month to share.
 - c. Monica Pacheco: Recently with UConn Extension hired 6 farm to school

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coordinators to help facilitate relationship and purchases through the local food for schools incentive program (federal and state), collaboration with the Rudd Center to make a FTS assessment so they can establish a plan of action, Local food for schools and child care cooperative agreements received additional funding.

- d. Patrick Doyle: Trying to take advantage of winter season for learning for staff and farming participants- went to the NE Fruit and Veg.
- e. Marilyn Lonczak: WIC is still in the process of updating the new food packages which adds a cash value benefit at 6 months, SNAP-ED applying for FTS farm to continue farm to ece mini grants and go napsac program has been re-instated and have a new ECE curriculum
- f. Shawn Joseph: Liberated Land Cooperative got \$250K to get coolers, vans, producer education
- g. Karen Kitsis: Complete streets policy
- h. Lynn Peccerillo: No updates to share

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. March 13, 2025, 1-3pm

8. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned 2:45 pm