



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

May 15, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Members Present: Monica Pacheco, Martha Page, Kafi Rouse, Patrick Doyle, Tida Infahsaeng, Molly Devanney, Lynn Peccerillo-Hills, Marilyn Lonczak

Members Absent: Bryan Hurlburt

Members of the Public: Jennie Hirsch, Heather Peracchio, Sherill Baldwin, Nicole Lawton, Kimberly Boulette, Candice Kersey, Peggy Zamore

1. Call to Order: Molly called meeting to order at 1:04pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from March 13, 2025
 - a. Approved at 1:04pm
3. Public Comment
4. Old Business
 - a. Review field trip
 - Potential replicability of Grocery on Broad
 - Potential for August (summer meal site) or October (CTG4CTK week) trip
 - Beneficial to visit several places within a specific area
5. New Business
 - a. Jennie Hirsch, Chief of Staff at CT Foodshare
 - Reviewed new Map the Meal Gap data
 - Impact of federal funding cuts
 - b. Review budget
 - c. Review and evaluate need for CT Food Policy website
6. Board Member Updates
 - a. Martha Page: started work in earnest to update the 2025 Local Food Count, will want to work with members of the council for help in connecting with specific groups.
 - b. Marilyn Lonczak: WIC budget was fully funded and nationally got additional funds, though still uncertainty about how funds are being released. Several modernization programs are happening, implementing food packaging rule update. Farm 2 ECE 2025 cohort will be 30 centers working with Go

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KNAPSACK curriculum and UConn Extension support. Kicking off color me healthy curriculum in Bridgeport and looking to expand. On breastfeeding cohort of 8 providers are wrapping up projects and applying for funding and looking to have programming launched a bit later.

- c. Monica Pacheco: Excited to have just held first farm to school conference at AuerFarm with a focus on food service directors. Regional coordinators are still out in the field connecting schools and producers including throughout the summer for school meals feeding sites. Received extension for LFSIP funds through April 2026. Working on approving summer meal sites and implementing farm to school assessment in the fall with the Rudd Center
- d. Patrick Doyle: Excited to get into the outdoor growing season and lots of activity and things going, a few weeks away from first our first farmers market
- e. Kafi Rouse: currently doing a winter weather survey and helps to prioritize where we clean first. This is the season for construction and there are public meetings that you can listen to and join- this is now an active dashboard
- f. Tida Infahsaeng: launching a second round of seedlings to sprouts, 140 centers in greater Danbury area and doing raised beds and trying to get local food on a by weekly basis when parents pick up kids. Launched debit cards on May 1st- this is a pilot year and looking to learn. \$600 debit card per family per year focused on ALICE families

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. July 10, 2025, 1-3pm

8. Adjourn

- a. Motion by Patrick to adjourn, Martha seconded. Adjourned at 2:17pm

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR 2 5/16/25.