



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Members in attendance: Dan Giacomi, Lynn Peccerillo, Mailyn Lonczak, Martha Page, Kafi Rouse, Tida Infahsaeng

Members absent: Bryan Hurlburt, Shawn Joseph, Molley Devaney, Monica Pacheco, Patrick Doyle

1. Call to Order

- a. Meeting called meeting to order at 1:06pm

2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from September 11, 2025

- a. Accepted without changes

3. Old Business

- a. Brief recap of CT Grown for CT Kids Week

4. New Business

- a. Presentation by Dan Giacomi, CT DSS SNAP Director on HR1 impacts and recent updates
- b. Presentation by Christian Duborg, CT Food & Nutrition Policy Analyst on the 2025 Food Security Annual Report
- c. Discussion on 2026-2029 Food Policy Council strategic plan
- d. 2025 Food Policy Council Annual Report Update

5. Board Member Updates

Martha: Working on the local food count, have good work going on with the Hartford Food Policy Council

Kafi: Focusing on more public safety features and lighting, workforce outreach and expansion programs such as the apprenticeship program and asphalt program

Marilyn: In 2025, 29 childcare sites participated in the DPH led CT Farm to ECE Mini-grant Program, reaching approximately 3,000 children (168 infants, 625 toddlers, and 2,183 preschoolers).

- Using the Go NAPSACC framework and with technical assistance support from the University of Connecticut Extension Program, sites integrated farm to ECE activities such as planting gardens, tasting local foods, and incorporating nutrition education into daily routines.
- Educators reported that children were excited to grow and taste new foods,

families became more engaged in healthy eating, and staff felt more connected to hands-on learning opportunities. Challenges such as short growing seasons and space limitations were overcome through creative solutions, such as container gardens, shared watering schedules, and collaboration with local partners.

- These efforts are helping build a culture of health in early childhood settings by promoting local foods, nutrition education, and lifelong healthy habits starting in the earliest years.
- Unfortunately, funding to support this initiative has been eliminated, and the Department is currently exploring strategies to sustain both the Go NAPSACC and Farm to ECE efforts.

Tida: Launched an emergency response fund in response to the shutdown, running a direct cash assistance program,

Lynn: no updates to share

Monica (not in attendance): Throughout the federal budget shutdown, we worked diligently to ensure that the funding for the payments to schools for the Child Nutrition Programs would continue uninterrupted. School food service directors also messaged and reassured school families that even with the SNAP funding cut off, school meal eligibility was not affected, and children would continue to receive their full school meal benefit regardless. On a more positive note, CTG4CTK week 2025 was a tremendous success, with at least 76 events reported during the week of Oct 6-10 occurring (with many more happening that were not reported) in celebration of the week. The kickoff event at Goodwin Elementary School was attended by Lt Governor Bysiewicz, Comms Russell-Tucker and Hurlburt. The announcement of the new CSDE branding CT Fresh Ed was made and a new F2S assessment tool, the CT Fresh Ed Compass will soon be launched to help schools further their F2S efforts.

6. Public Comments

7. 2026 Meeting Dates

- a. January 15, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, November 12

8. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR 2 on 11/18/2025.