



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

450 Columbus Blvd, Suite 701 | Hartford, Connecticut 06103 | 860.713.2500

www.CTGrown.gov

Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Present: Bryan Hurlburt, Martha Page, Patrick Doyle, Tida Infahsaeng, Kafi Rouse, Marilyn Lonczak

Absent: Monica Pacecho, Dan Giacomi, Shawn Joseph, Molly Devanney, Lynn P

Public in Attendance: Peggy Zamore, Ali Ghiorse, Dawn Garcia, Kim Boulette, Lorrice Grant, Reggy St. FortColin, Sherill Baldwin, Sherry Gray

1. Call to Order
 - a. Called to order at 1:02 pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from July 10, 2025
 - a. Add in additional DPH updates
 - b. Change martha from Hartford food system to consultant
 - c. Minutes accepted with revisions at 1:04pm
3. Public Comment
 - a. Reggy St. Fortcolin: Asked about a more accessible public facing website for the Food Policy Council and asked about the status of \$10 million in food infrastructure funds that were to go to the bonding commission after a legislative workgroup created a final report with guidance.
4. Old Business
 - a. Food Policy Council Field Trip: Options will be made available during CT Grown for CT Kids Week to visit sites (first week of October) and sent out to council members.
5. New Business
 - a. Presentation by Steve Werlin, Executive Director of Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen (DESK), member of New Haven Coordinated Food Assistance Network (CFAN) and CT Food Policy Capacity Building grantee
 - b. Martha Page brief update on New England Feeding New England Local Food Count
 - c. Review strategic plan, items remaining for 2025, evaluation
 - i. Cyrena will send out strategic plan in an editable format for council

members to start going through. Will discuss in more detail over the next two meetings.

- ii. Council expressed interest in hearing about the impacts of the HR1 bill to the state and how the food council could help to support the impacts.
- d. Review budget and proposal for 2026 spending
- e. Review website updates and new public listserv signup

6. Board Member Updates

- a. Tida Infahsaeng: Released the 2025 Alice Report, 40% of the state is considered ALICE, \$400 increase for families with babies, marketplace plans are going to significantly increase, 211 is anticipating that they will see a huge surge in demand and so are looking for more assistance. 2025 ALICE Report: <https://www.ctunitedway.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/state-of-alice-report-connecticut-2025.pdf>
ALICE Tools you can use: <https://unitedforalice.org/introducing-ALICE/Connecticut>
More on 211 and CT Child Tax Credit: <https://www.ctunitedway.org/advocacy/action/>
- b. Patrick Doyle: Seeing increasing challenges of homelessness and its impacting community gardens. Only have one federal grant. Focusing on providing workforce development, spaces for people to grow and have community. Have seen a good response this year to our farmers market- every Monday from 3:30-6:30
- c. Martha Page: City of Hartford has a CDC reach grant and just starting year 3 of this grant and the City is having trouble understanding what the CDC expects of them. Just finished as a reviewer on the USDA LFPP grant and saw a lot of interest in accessing these funds, awards should be made shortly. People are still trying to be optimistic about making progress on this work.
- d. Kafi Rouse: EVI program (Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program), did some get new guidance to continue on building out EV charging stations. Work on connecting underserved areas and small businesses to apply to do this construction. Rethinking how we're approaching public transportation- getting you through your daily life instead of just from work . 750 new bus stop shelters, 61 battery electric buses, micro transit pilot program have new routes for people to close that first and last mile gap.
- e. Marilyn L:
SNAP-Ed was not funded for FY2026. DPH/USJ SNAP-Ed programming will end September 30, 2025
Programs ending include:
 - Farm to ECE Mini-Grant Program

- Go NAPSACC
 - Color Me Healthy Curriculum Training for Child Care
 - Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care and Worksite Recognitions efforts
 - Community Nutrition Education Workshops
 - Telephonic Health Coaching services provided by USJ
 - DPH will share more details on program closeout in the coming month.
- f. Bryan Hurlburt: no significant impacts from HR:1 to DoAg. Had a press conference with DSS and the Governor at Foodshare to discuss food insecurity. They received 3 million this last session to purchase direct food. Farmers market nutrition program on pace to come very close if not exceed last years redemption. At \$517,000 currently and still have Sept-Nov. Did a lot of messaging with DPH to WIC participants.

7. Next Meeting Date

- a. November 2026

8. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 2:43pm

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau, AMIR on 9/18/25.