



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 15, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

Via Zoom

Board Members Present: Kafi Rouse, Patrick Doyle, Martha Page, Monica Pacheco, Tida Infahsaeng, Shawn Joseph

Board Members Absent: Bryan Hurlburt, Dan Giacomi,

Members of the Public: Jake Levin

DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:05pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from November 13, 2025
 - a. Minutes approved with no changes 1:06pm
3. Old Business
 - a. Review Annual Report
 - b. Strategic Plan Discussion
4. New Business
 - a. Requests for 2026 meeting topics or speakers
 - i. Waterbury- Brass City Harvest, maybe Urban Fresh Gardens
 - ii. Visit to CT FoodShare
 - iii. CitySeed
 - iv. Add Christian Duborg as a standing agenda item
 - v. Update on the dietary guideline, connect with Marilyn and Martha offline to find speaker
 - vi. Other state food policy council (NJ? MA? RI?)
5. Public Comments
 - a. Ella from NCTFA gave an update on the Farmer 2 Farmer conference and how to share info
6. Board Member Updates
 - a. Monica: New Dietary Guideline released, messaging is unclear and waiting for further guidance. Impacts the school lunch and breakfast meal patterns. Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act was released 2 days ago, still working through the guidance. CT Fresh Ed- Buy Local program was just released. Emails have gone out and posted to our website.

- b. Marilyn: Recently we implemented new food package which allowed more whole grains and non-dairy beverages and allowed for whole fruits and vegetables instead of just jarred baby food. Having some training for staff. 536 WIC locations that are approved, 328 are full-service grocers.
- c. Martha: Local Food Count went live on Jan 5, hoping for a robust data set this year.
- d. Tida: 2-1-1 information resource hotline did get some additional funding. Previously there was a 1.5 waiting time on average for a 7 min conversation. We want to be able to staff it up so that waiting time can go down.
- e. Kafi: Tis the season for inclement weather! CT Rides.com for local transportation needs and there's a relatively new app, CT Roads.com has all the alerts for road conditions and traffic cameras
- f. Patrick: Already working on the Spring! Recruiting for the apprenticeship program, kicking it off in mid-March. Getting ready to open the gardens, reaching out to existing gardeners to get returners and then it would be opened wider.

7. Next Steps

- a. Next Meeting March 12 1-3pm
 - i. In person meeting in Hartford (likely 450 with a hybrid option).
- b. Strategic Plan next steps

8. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau AMIR 11 on 1.16.26