



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Office of the Commissioner

Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity Employer



Connecticut Food Policy Council

MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2025

1:00 PM- 3:00 PM

In person at 450 Columbus

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

Board Members Absent: Bryan Hurlburt, Dan Giacomi, Shawn Joseph

DoAg Staff: Cyrena Thibodeau

1. Call to Order
 - a. Meeting called to order at 1:05pm
2. Review and approval of meeting minutes from January 15, 2025
 - a. Minutes approved with no changes
3. Old Business
 - a. Strategic Plan Discussion
4. New Business
 - a. Reviewed presentation and discussed new dietary guidelines
5. Public Comments
 - a. No public comments
6. Board Member Updates
 - a. Kafi: Had a wonderfully busy snow season, public survey coming out soon to get feedback on how people were able to move around to help guide prioritization of road clearing moving forward.
 - b. Lynn: Extend DSS's three food contracts extended for a year, busy doing issuing of solicitations
 - c. Matha: Continuing to work on the Local Food Count, FMNP and RFSP awards were announced by USDA- City Seed and Berkshire Ag Ventures awarded in CT. Keney Park Sustainability Project was awarded a \$250,000 CIF planning grant.
 - d. Marilyn: Nothing to report!
 - e. Patrick: Ramping up for our busy season, opening our greenhouses to community gardeners and farmers March 20. Anwar working with the public libraries is doing 3 seed starting workshops. For mother's day doing a seed swap and starts sale. Earth Day and Arbor Day coming up, brings significant volunteers for the season.
 - f. Tida: Short session, we're busy up in Hartford. Concerned about what's going

on in early childhood space- the endowment has not been funded appropriately this year. Operate a family childcare network, soon to be 160 providers serving 100,000 kids, not getting care 4 kids money and not positioned to access early start funds. Family providers can participate in CACFP but many cannot do it without help so UW tries to step in and support, but also does not have the necessary capacity. School meals continues to be a big issue for us, serving smoothies at upcoming capitol event to try to bring school breakfast for all back for free and reduced eligible kids. Attending the food as medicine event at the capitol.

- g. Monica: Lots of changes going on, getting a lot of legislative requests for data and analyzing potential impacts, working to help ensure that there are no unintended consequences. Feds are also keeping us busy.
- 7. Next Steps
 - a. Next Meeting May 14 1-3pm
 - 8. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by Cyrena Thibodeau AMIR 11 on 3.16.26