

Minutes
CT Food Policy Council April 12, 2012
CT Dept. of Agriculture

Present:

Members: Linda Hubeny - DAS, Linda Drake – UCONN, Willard Seedman – DSS-SNAP, Jana Engle – DSS, Teri Dandeneau- CSDE, David Yandow, Gloria McAdam,

Guests: Helena Hoover-Litty – CDA, Jean King - consultant, Martha Page - Hartford Food System, Linda Kranmas – DCP, Steven Reviczky, Commissioner of Agriculture, Gregory Weidemann, Dean, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, UCONN, Henry Talmage, Executive Director, CT Farm Bureau

Minutes of the February 9, 2012 were approved; minutes of March 8 were approved as amended, as follows:

“Willard Seedman reported that DSS has a new emphasis on SNAP enrollment and has hired 60 new workers dedicated to the SNAP program and promoted 4 others to consultant positions.

They have hired a dedicated SNAP Director.”

“Expected date for the new Community Food Security Report materials to be on the website by June 2012.”

Old Business and Updates:

Gregory Weidemann, Henry Talmadge and Steve Reviczky, discussed the work of the Governor’s Council for Agricultural Development and the ways this work can coordinate with CFPC work. Their charge is to increase the percentage of consumer dollars spent on CT Grown Food from 1% (current estimate) to 5% by 2020. The work of the Council addresses the issues from both the demand side and supply side. They plan to do a series of interviews with various stakeholders and later to hold “listening sessions” across the state. CFPC members discussed a number of issues with the Council leaders, including: Where is the potential for growth in supplying locally grown produce? Do we know enough about the potential for increased demand for local food? Is locally grown food more expensive?

New Business: Linda Drake shared information about the upcoming HBO programs on obesity and food.

Agency Program Sharing:

Willard Seedman reported that there are currently 202,000 families enrolled in the SNAP program as compared to 125,000 three years ago.

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The School Breakfast statewide summit conference is May 4 at Rentschler Field.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 10, 2012