

Minutes
CT Food Policy Council February 9, 2012
CT Dept. of Agriculture

Present:

Members: Linda Hubeny - DAS, Mary Parizo - End Hunger CT, Rick Macsuga - DOAG, Linda Drake – UCONN, Teri Dandeneau – SDE, Stan Sorkin – CFA, Michael Keilty - UCONN

Guests: Ellen Sloan – DCP, Helena Hoover-Litty – CDA, Jean King - consultant, Martha Page - Hartford Food System

Minutes of the January 12, 2012 were approved as amended.

Old Business and Updates:

1. Lucy Nolan – EHCT, by telephone, presented the recommendations of the Obesity Policy Workgroup that included leadership from the American Heart Association and Save the Children. The group has focused on recommendations that are about schools and education that link to the Governor’s goal that this is the year of education at the Legislature. A poll of 400 voters taken by Obesity Policy Group in CT found that people believe that the #1 health risk to children in CT is obesity and 98% of people polled believe that student health is connected to school success and academic achievement. Lucy presented five main recommendations that the group is bringing to the Legislature and asked for the Council’s endorsement of them.
 1. Expand use of school athletic facilities by communities.
 2. Implement a coordinated approach to school health in every school district.
 3. Schedule 20 consecutive minutes of physical activity in grades K-5 of public schools daily.
 4. Add food and wellness indicators to the Strategic School Profiles (published by the State Dept of Education) giving parents and community more information about school activities related to health.
 5. Establish a state council on childhood and adult obesity.

After considerable discussion a motion was made by Stan Sorkin and seconded by Rick Macsuga for the Council to support this proposal. The motion carried with 5 ayes and 2 abstentions.

2. Governor’s Council for Agricultural Development – Linda Drake and Michael Keilty reported on the Feb 2 meeting at the Legislature where the Vermont model Farm to Plate plan was discussed. CFPC members discussed the importance of bringing a wide range of inputs from cities and towns to the work of the Governor’s Council.

Agency Program Sharing:

Linda Hubeny reported that the Dept of Defense funds in CT purchased \$148,000 of locally grown fruit and vegetables from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2011. This is more than double the amount spent on locally grown in the previous year.