

Connecticut Food Policy Council (CFPC)
Draft Minutes – September 8, 2016

Members in attendance: Lucy Nolan, Marcia Maillard, Steven Anderson, Bill Seedman

Guests in attendance: John Bovay, MaryAnn Martin, Maria Rodriguez, Shelley Ross, Meg Hourigan, Ellen Sloan, Bernie Beaudreau

The meeting was called to order at 1 pm by Vice Chair Lucy Nolan.

Welcome and Introductions: Lucy Nolan acting as Chair welcomed the members and guests. Introductions were made.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Postponed until the next meeting when a quorum is available.

Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

Membership Update/Administration

Steve, Lucy, and Marcia met to discuss future meetings and to discuss filling positions. Still looking for replacements for DOT, DOE, UCONN Extension, and a food wholesaler. The CT Food Association is still working on appointment. This will continue until all positions have been filled.

Future Meetings

The CFPC is looking to have different speakers come in at each meeting to discuss a chosen topic of interest. The group discussed potential topics:

- WIC/eWIC rollout by DPH WIC staff – Marcia to investigate;
- Kids backpack program/child nutrition – Marcia to discuss with DOE to find an appropriate staff person;
- Ag Econ Seminar – Food Safety Modernization Act presentation by John Bovay;
- Food waste/reclamation (various topics and speakers including CT DEEP – Steve Anderson to ask DEEP to send someone to future meeting).

The group also discussed the possibility of hosting a statewide conference related to food waste/reclamation. CT Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (CAND) would be interested in partnering on this and AHA also expressed interest in collaborating.

Conference ideas to be considered:

- Topics – school foodservice/regulatory changes; historical data on food waste estimates; determinants of food waste and incentives.
- Offer CEU's for RDs and other professionals.
- Investigate outcomes from food reclamation summit in New Haven.

Agency/Member/Guest/Local FPC Updates

- City of Hartford Advisory Commission on Food Policy –

- Wrapping up annual report to make recommendations to the City of Hartford. Are also including recommendations for community and state organizations/government to consider.
- Five recommendations are being included:
 - Increase fruit/vegetable consumption using federal/state food assistance programs
 - Start a mayor's task force on summer meals to increase usage
 - School gardens – work to ensure every school in Hartford has a school garden
 - Support mid-sized grocery stores in Hartford
 - Food waster – received a grant for backyard composters, will be collecting data, doing outreach and marketing
- DSS
 - Commodity Supplemental Food Program – program running for 15 months, are now able to request additional slots because 95% of current slots filled. There are 51,000 seniors in CT on SNAP and we only have 2400 slots now – so more slots are definitely needed.
 - North Hartford Promise Zone – a designation by USDA that looks at underserved areas and puts additional resources towards improving outcomes. USDA/HUD/DSS collaborating to increase participation in this area through outreach and other services.
 - Employment and Training Program (ENT) – ENT now has three new community college partners in CT (Quinebaug, Middlesex, and Naugatuck Valley). Manchester will also be participating but Capital will be doing the administration. Now up to 10 out of 12 CCs in the state. New posters/flyers will be available on October 1. ABODs (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents) can receive SNAP benefits while in the ENT program.
 - Farm bill requires DSS to measure outcomes; will give DSS a better idea of how things work. Also, through the farm bill – SNAP can support CSA purchases. There is a toolkit available for farmers to become authorized for SNAP for CSAs.
- Danbury – the market program is going very well, have a new push for seniors and veterans. Have increased the SNAP match to \$20.
- DCP – no new updates
- Foodshare – no new updates
- DoAg –
 - Regional Farmers' Market – increased promotion and media to increase attendance. Work is being done to make it easier to use (parking, access areas, etc.).
 - Southbury Training School – acquisition by DoAg in 2013-2014, have 800 acres of farm land and are trying to make it workable.
 - Drought issues are ongoing.
 - Fair season – it's fair season in CT.
- DPH
 - Bridgeport is in the process of starting a pop-up market to help provide access to healthy food options in the East End of the city. The market is a community-wide collaboration and DPH is supporting the effort.
- CT Food Bank

- Community meetings – have had 10 community meetings this year so far, with 5 left. The meetings include member agencies and are to identify needs/priorities in the service area.
- Future – looking for ways to share resources, aid in transportation, remove barriers to accessing food banks/pantries. Looking for ways to fund.
- CHCACT – no updates

Next meeting will be on October 13th at 1:00 pm, LOB Conf Room 1A

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm Motion made to adjourn by Marcia Maillard and seconded by Bill Seedman.

DRAFT