



## Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes July 12, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

### **Attendees**

Belisa Melton (GR YMCA), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Connect), Connie Bellows (Systems Change), DeDe Esque (Systems Change), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Erin Skidmore (Access), Eugene Sueing (GR YMCA), Heather Hughesian (211), Jane McGookey (Feed West MI), Jim Holkeboer, Kate Vanderwal (UCOM), Kevin Vos (Spectrum Health), Kristi Ayers (ACSET), Linda Jones (GR Food Coop Initiative), Mandy Dewilde (United Way), Meridell Gracias (GVSU), Nurya Parish (Plainsong Farm), Shawn Keener (UCOM), Tiffany Page (Catholic Charities of West MI), Wende Randall (ENTF), Nicole Hansen (YMCA), Joe Lesausky (Fulton Street Farmer's Market), Brenda Nichols (ACCESS), Ken Ford (Flat River Outreach), Teresa Hendricks (Migrant Legal Aid), Bob McKown (United Way), Austin Roelofs (Kids Food Basket), Julie VanGessel (Kids Food Basket), Ian Lang (CRI), Mark Lubberts (Spectrum Health), Jeff Smith (Gardens 4 GR), Joy Petroelje (SECOM), Wende Randall (ENTF), Bree Butler (ENTF)

### **I. Introductions: Tiffany Page**

Motion to approve Minutes: Emma  
Seconded by: Emily  
Motion passed, no amendments

### **II. 2016 Voice GR Results: Jodi Peterson**

Voice GR started a partnership with ENTF in 2016. The goal was to attain numbers to breakdown within the county and gain a clearer picture of disparities. VoiceGR goals include presenting accessible data to inform decision-making, disaggregate findings, stimulating conversation, and benchmark progress over time. There is a wide variety of topics available through the surveys they provide. Data collection focuses on the city but does include the greater Grand Rapids area. Lists used to be built by calling land lines, that is not realistic anymore to reach all demographics. Therefore, data collection has changed to reach demographics reflective of society. In 2016 survey answers were being collected June through November.

The VoiceGR website includes 3 useful tools. The first is the Data Viz tool, with this you can take any question on the survey and see the overall answer and then split by demographic. The second tool is an Interactive Map. The third tool is the Neighborhood Summary, with this you can now see every response for a chosen neighborhood. Results through 2014 are available on the website.

The 2016 survey showed that about 20% of respondents said they could not meet their needs well. Out of the full survey there were some ENTF related questions, the ENTF related questions were related to food security. Almost 30% of people reported that they have been concerned that they would run out food before being able to afford more. About 19% have skipped or cut meals at least once in the last month. As poverty level goes up, people have more food insecurity. There seems to be a trend that kids have less food insecurity than adults. One reason for this may be due to parents ensuring they go hungry, not their children.

The survey is expected to be going county wide in 2017. The Survey is currently available in Spanish and English with collaboration with different organizations for translating services.

One suggestion was to have a question that asks about the cultural relevance of available food.



## Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes July 12, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

### **III. Food System 101: Jeff Smith & Garrett Ziegler**

Food Systems: Garrett Ziegler

Good food is defined by four factors: 1) Healthy, it provides nourishment to people. 2) Green, this means how it was produced, moved from point a to point b. 3) Fair, this means how is the food transported and processed, and fair also means that no people or animals along this chain have been exploited. 4) Affordable, therefore all people have access to it across all incomes.

All the following categories go hand in hand; producing, processing, distributing, retailing, preparing, eating, and waste management. Benefits of local food systems to the community include small scale farming (Less than 500 acres), healthy individuals, environmentally conscious actions, increase in jobs, and economic development. Community based systems like to take a triple bottom line approach. With this approach, there are three bottom lines; economic prosperity, profit economy, and environmental and ecological integrity. Charitable food plays a key role in sustainable food systems work. Some examples include double up food bucks, and food pantries. There are growing concerns of diseases related to health and diet that are preventable, one example includes diabetes.

Food Justice: Jeff Smith

Every person is in some way dependent on a food system. Food is seen as a commodity and is therefore driven by profit. There are 7 pillars of food justice: 1) Eating healthy food is a right. 2) The current food system must be resisted and dismantled. 3) Food Justice recognizes that the causes of food disparity are the result of multiple systems of oppression 4) Food Justice advocates must focus on working with the most marginalized and vulnerable populations. 5) Food Justice requires us to work towards the eliminations of exploitation in our food system. 6) Food justice demands that we grow in a green fashion, by eliminating fossil fuels, pesticides, etc. 7) Provide resources and skill sharing.

The current food system reflects taking natural ingredients, taking out the nutrition, and adding in chemicals, then spending billions via advertising to resale the items back to the public.

### **IV. Systems Change Update: Connie Bellows & DeDe Esque**

Last month worked on framing questions. Currently working on gaining clarity and bringing the main question to the forefront, and working on a Food Nutrition 101.

There will be opportunities for coalition members to attend site visits in the near future. An application is being developed. More information to come.

### **V. Next Meeting/Adjourn: Tiffany Page**

Wednesday August 9<sup>th</sup>, 8:30-10:00