



Food & Nutrition Coalition Committee Meeting September 14, 2016

Present: Tracie Coffman (ENTF Director), Tiffany Page (Catholic Charities West Michigan), Darcy Cunningham (Salvation Army), Emma Garcia (Access of West MI), Kristi Ayers (CAA), Amy Klinkoski (UCOM), Anna Johnson (Baxter Community Center), Colene Johnson (Kent County DHHS), Jill Myer (Kent County Health Dept), Jim Holkeboer (Eastern Ave Food Pantry), Meridell Gracias (Adams Park Food Pantry, YMCA Veggie Van), Allison Rudi (Calvin College), Neil Carlson (Calvin College), Charlotte Reynolds (Calvin College)

1. Darcie Cunningham welcomed the group. Each agency representative introduced themselves. The minutes from the April meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Presentation:
Neil Carlson, Calvin College: Review of Maps, Food Balance Score Card and Metric F1

Neil reviewed the Kent County Food Balance Score (*Created by Steve Borders*) and showed calculation of healthy food retailers on map. If balanced the area is shown in blue, out of balance is pink. Map will be available on ENTF website.

Neil shared that the metric f1 is up and running. There are several blocks, utilizing over 11,000 census blocks in Kent County. The map was designed using road network (*all modes of transportation*) what the shortest distance to produce retailers is. User can then sort master list of food retailers; pull out those not having produce with distance shown to lack of access to healthy food. Thus, providing a food balance ratio. If users think of the ratio as a risk factor, it shows what the odds are someone will find a healthy food retailer vs a traditional store without produce. F1 measure has been split to differentiate geography and mode of transportation (*walking vs drive time*) to include urban and rural aspects of Kent County. Neil shows food block map showing distance and ratios. Another view is the option to sort by mode of travel. This specific date can be used to help evaluate opportunities or focus efforts on change related to access. Neil solicited feedback from group related to tool. Jill Myer inquired if the access takes into account the environment (*access to trails or pedestrian paths*). Neil states this is reflective of roads only due to limited sidewalk or pedestrian paths in Kent County. This info has been shared with transportation group.

Tracie asked group to consider thinking about how each organization could use this data related to systems work that would feed into system level changes. Organizations were asked, what questions come to mind, is this applicable or not- applicable. Feedback from group included; potentially using data to help with school lunch/breakfast programs and need for kids to participate, using this data to start conversations with existing retailers not currently selling produce to explore opportunity to carry healthy or fresh items, a potential to add the next layer around affordability of food cost/price. Tracie recommends possibly using this information as a possible intervention for Spectrum Health Healthier Communities proposal.

Neil shared that the value of these maps is getting down into the retail detail and areas we know, to begin setting priorities. We want to focus on neighborhoods that have extreme disparity in walking level access to produce. The link to maps will be sent to group and available on website to aid in this process.

Potential Next Steps:

Recommendations include assembling a small group to focus on action plan, perhaps on a zone or neighborhood. A potential is to inquire of Meijer, as they have access to great information about buying patterns and cost. In addition, SpartanNash could also share data on the produce patterns, specific to double up food bucks usage. A request was made to attendees to be a part of small group with Jill and Emma volunteering to be included. Tracie will solicit additional folks for focus group via email.

Tracie introduced the Spectrum Healthier Communities request for proposal to evaluate the food system. The overall goal is to implement change within food system. Food and Nutrition Coalition co-chairs, Tracie and Emma will evaluate application and ask for feedback from this group for final application. The three areas to address: intervention, change and measurement of success. Proposal will include human capital to facilitate analyzation of current research and potential for future.

3. Agency Updates:

Emma Garcia (Access of West Michigan): Some upcoming events sponsored by Access of West Michigan include World Renew, Food Awareness Campaign vs Food Drive, Food & Faith Series and a reminder of the Good Food Summit in October. Access is coordinating a bus from Grand Rapids to summit, please contact Emma if interested. All events are available on Access of West Michigan, website.

4. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, October 12th, 8:30 am-10:00 am
Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Ave NE**