



Food & Nutrition Coalition Committee Meeting December 14, 2016

Present: Tracie Coffman (ENTF Director), Tiffany Page (Catholic Charities West Michigan), Darcy Cunningham (Salvation Army), Emma Garcia (Access of West Michigan), Anna Johnson (Baxter Community Center), Belisa Melton (YMCA), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Community Services), Colene Johnson (Kent County DHHS), Emily Schiitel (HWMUW), Gordie Moeller, Heather Hughesian (UW 2-1-1), Jane McGookey (Feeding America), Jill Myer (Kent County Health Dept), Mark Logan (Kent County DHHS), Nicole Hansen (YMCA), Allison Rudi (Calvin College), Brianna Marshall (Calvin College), Mark Lubberts (Spectrum Health), Jill Mancewicz (Senior Neighbors)

1. Darcy Cunningham welcomed the group. Each agency representative introduced themselves. The minutes from the November 9th meeting were approved as submitted.

2. Presentation:

Stacey Matlen, CART Program

The CART program is a pilot program targeted at providing affordable, reliable transportation to quality supermarkets in Detroit, by utilizing the transportation provider, Lyft. The program was piloted to begin addressing reoccurring transportation barriers to individual's access to food retailers. The only eligibility was individuals living within a 5 mile radius of Meijer on 8 Mile Rd. Key Points of Pilot:

- Retailers (i.e. Meijer) partner on a ride-sharing program to increase access. Users would contact a call center that would coordinate a ride via Lyft. After first analyzation CART is now working to expand with Meijer to provide users with a mobile web app, to order a ride.
- Users order ride via smart phone and pay at the store (An average of \$8.76 per ride) within a 5 mile radius.
- Goal is to reach more people (500 trips in 3 months, 200 people) to increase customer access and spending.
- CART is still identifying what is a reasonable price point for Meijer and customers.
- Challenges are the difficulty in tracking SNAP/EBT user's data.
- First phase of pilot recognizes this only addresses access to retailers and does not changing buying behaviors. The Fair Food Network were active in first pilot and supporting of program.
- Trust is a concern and took a while to build with low-income users of program.
- Interest in expanding into the Grand Rapids area. Stakeholders needed are pantries, food retailers and community organizations, including Food & Nutrition Coalition.
- Phase 2 of the pilot focus will be to address change in behavior and potentially partner with health providers to assist with access and health education. Overall goal is that CART will provide some health education as a part of programming to ensure an effective intervention and to help make the connection between social determinants of health to impact healthcare costs in the long-term. Currently, the pilot in Detroit is not measuring health education and is solely focused on making sure the model works.

The group discussed the potential of having health education at community center or ideally at point of purchase. Gordie Moeller shared the Meijer bus shuttle weekly service to low-income housing near the Heartside community.

Stacey shared that CART, along with a professor at University of Michigan, looked at public transportation system and potential of utilizing an on-demand shuttle system.

Group discussed the need for rural transportation in Kent County and what the cost potentially would be to address rural systems in Northern Kent County. Group acknowledges the greatest lack of access is the rural area. One of the potential concerns is cost, as radius would need to be 15-20 mile potentially in rural communities. Logistics can be more difficult for shopping vs work, due to time. Group discussed the price point could be prohibitive unless cost was subsidized by grocers or other community health provider. The group agreed continuing the conversation is consistent with two goals of Food & Nutrition Coalition and

would like to engage some community users in the process related to perceived access to ensure both the coalition and users are speaking the same language. Next steps are to have the consultant continue conversation with CART in January. Copies of CART presentation will be included with minutes.

3. *Essential Needs Task Force Update, Tracie Coffman*

- Tracie will be leaving the ENTF to take a new position as a program officer with the Kellogg Foundation; last day is 1/13/17. ENTF Board will be finalizing job description with posting available by the holidays.
- Spectrum Health, Healthier Communities grant was approved and interviews are scheduled for the consultant position on Friday, 12/16. There are four strong candidates for the position, with start date in January.
- The Kent County food policy council was granted \$5000 to solidify the food policy governance, as a working piece of the Food & Nutrition Coalition.
- The Food & Nutrition Coalition will have a GVSU student to provide some technical assistance with mapping and food systems. Student will be assisting with data and meet with Calvin's social research team. Student will be able to use data to assess data in a standardized way. Concerns with all the data collected is that disparities have to be address using a standardized tool. Calvin's team will be back on contract in January and working directly with consultant.
- Locally Invest Health is a collaborative grant to address social determinants health. Food & Nutrition Coalition work will help with Invest Health's planning work. Mark Lubberts shared the others areas of Invest Health are education, employment and infant mortality. Currently, these areas are beginning conversations on a system level, only.

4. *Kent County Health Department, Jill Myer*

- KCHD are in final negotiations of having VoicesGR data and CHNA data combined to help Food & Nutrition Coalition analyze the five food security questions.

5. Agency Updates:

- *Emma Garcia, Access of West Michigan*: Reminder that the holidays are focused on providing long-term solutions and encouraging people to participate in poverty education. Sample Messaging is available, if agencies are interested. In addition, healthy food drive lists are available. All holiday support is done; individuals are being referred to 2-1-1 now for assistance. Emma attended the First Annual National Summit on the Social Determinants of Health in Chicago, hosted by the Root Cause Coalition. Please visit website for conference handouts and information.
- *Belisa Melton, YMCA*: LINC UP is hosting a Winter Readiness Resource Fair on Thursday, 12/15 from 5:30-8PM at the gallery. Winter emergency kits are available for the first 100 people. Information about utility assistance along with other additional free services will be provided (see handout).
- *Nicole Hansen, YMCA*: New focus in development beginning in Spring. One of the areas of focus is food access for families with lead exposure. This may be great for food policy council work.
- *Gordie Moeller, Food Security Advocate*: Reminder that the Heartside bus shuttle to Meijer is available each Saturday, at no cost or restrictions to riders. Shuttle transports residents to Meijer on Alpine Ave.
- *Allison Rudi, Calvin College Social Research Team*: Calvin is returning to work with Food & Nutrition Coalition in January.
- *Jane McGookey, Feeding America West Michigan*: Feeding America is looking for part-time and full-time drivers, must have CDL. On 12/22 @ 2:30 PM, Feeding America will offer produce to avoid waste over Holiday's.
- *Mark Lubberts, Spectrum Health Healthier Communities*: Reminder that Jessica Corwin is available as a dietetic resource to agencies of the Food & Nutrition Coalition.
- *Mark Logan, Kent County Department of Health & Human Services*: Effective January 1st, recipients must provide work eligibility to maintain SNAP benefits. SNAP rules require all recipients meet work requirements unless they are exempt because of age or disability or another specific reason. Children, seniors, and those with disabilities comprise almost two-thirds of all SNAP participants. Also, Director of Kent County DHHS, Nancy Marshall is retiring.

- *Heather Hughesian, Heart of West Michigan United Way 2-1-1*: Beginning to receive calls regarding work eligibility requirement for SNAP benefits. Additional monies are available for utility assistance and individuals are being encouraged to go to LINC UP Resource fair on 12/17 to sign-up.

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

**Wednesday, January 11, 2017, 8:30 am-10:00 am
Kent County Health Department
700 Fuller Ave NE**