



Food & Nutrition Coalition Committee Meeting January 11, 2017

Present: Tracie Coffman (ENTF Director), Tiffany Page (Catholic Charities West Michigan), Darcy Cunningham (Salvation Army), Emma Garcia (Access of West MI), Anna Johnson (Baxter Community Center), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Community Services), Colene Johnson (Kent County DHHS), Eleanor Moreno (SECOM), Emily Schichtel (HWMUW), Angie Bradford (Salvation Army), Heather Hughesian (UW 2-1-1), Jane McGookey (FAWM), Jill Myer (Kent County Health Dept), Jim Holkeboer (Eastern Ave Food Pantry), Jill Mancewicz (Senior Neighbors), Kristi Ayers (ACSET), Mark Logan (Kent County DHHS), Brianna Marshall (Calvin College), Erin Skidmore (Access of West Michigan), Michelle Meulendyk (Amway). Via teleconference: Belisa Melton (YMCA) and Alison Sutter (Spartan Nash)

1. Darcy Cunningham welcomed the group. Each agency representative introduced themselves. The minutes from the December meeting were approved as submitted.
2. Tracie Coffman introduced DeDe Esque & Connie Bellows, consultants on contract for one year via the Spectrum Health Healthier Communities grant.

Connie and Dede provided some information about their professional background and shared the intent of their work will be to honor the work of the FN&C and build upon that foundation, integrate other voices such as retailers, recipients, executive directors and rural communities. They have a meeting scheduled with Neil Carlson and his team to collaborate on the work done by CRS of Calvin College and currently have access to the FN&C board on Trello. In addition, they have reached out to MSU- Extension to gain a better understanding of other regional work that is being done in the food system. As a part of this work, they will be applying an equity lens through the process. They are hoping all attendees will share what is and isn't going well and will be soliciting feedback.

Connie and Dede asked that each attendee share their name, organization represented and to share what is going well with FN&C?

- Michelle (Amway Corp): Attending to understand what is happening locally in food system and to support sustainable solutions and impact changes in behaviors.
- Jim (Eastern Ave Food Pantry): FN&C provides an opportunity for collaboration
- Jill (KCHD): Excited about systems change, mapping of healthy food access and gaining community voices in process.
- Emma (Access): Great buy-in for proactive systems work and organizations working towards long-term solutions.
- Heather (2-1-1): In last year, has been impressed with direction and work being done towards the food system. (i.e. FA mobile food trucks providing fresh, healthy food where and when people need it most)
- Jane (Feeding America): Enjoys collaboration and asked for additional training on Trello. FA is currently working to analyze where need is greatest to focus on access. All mobile truck activity is available on FA website, currently.
- Kristi (ASCET): Connections to other similar agencies and to improve efficiency.
- Jill (Senior Neighbors): Utilizes FN&C as a resource to share with her seniors what is available in community.
- Tiffany (CCWM): Opportunity for best-practices in food system work, thru experts in room and to be a better community partner in the work.
- Alison (Spartan Nash): Currently is manager of corporate responsibility and is looking to better understand work of FN&C to allow Spartan Nash to fulfill that corporate responsibility.
- Anna (Baxter Community Center): Ability to plug-in to systems work beyond their neighborhood level.
- Mark (KCDHHS): Information sharing has been good. Looking forward to next steps with mapping and data tools to effect change.
- Colene (KCDHHS): FN&C allows for staff to share resources with clients and to allow clients to better understand how food impacts overall health.
- Eleanor (UCOM): Group is focused on equitable food system and empowering community.

- Cherie (NKCS): FN&C provides rural, northern Kent County to have a voice at table. Also, allows for system alignment and has appreciated the farm to pantry collaboration.
 - Emily (HWMUW): FN&C provides information about system from grower to consumption and work aligns with funding direction from emergency response to food security solutions.
 - Angie (SA): Current Master in Public Health intern at Salvation Army to learn more about work being done on FN&C.
 - Darcy (SA): Excited about new voices at the table, VoicesGR data and what the data shows as far as direction to move in.
 - Tracie (ENTF): FN&C is drawing a parallel to work that was done with homelessness in years past. The shift from emergency response to long-term solutions is occurring within food system towards food security vs emergency hunger relief services.
 - Brianna (Calvin): Actively participates to support work of FN&C and has a mutual goal of food security.
 - Erin (Access): Interested in participating in conversations and work between growers and consumers.
3. Tracie shared with group that the food policy council, under the FN&C work with ENTF was awarded a \$5,000 grant from MSU to develop governance and formerly organize the council. A \$1,000 match was made by ENTF for a total award of \$6,000. Emma added that this will allow the food policy council to begin large system work and begin community engagement in work.
 4. Darcy informed FN&C that her position as co-chair will be available in March. Nominees for co-chair are requested to be sent via email to Darcy & Tiffany and a two-year commitment is requested. Goal is to have a co-chair named for February meeting and begin as co-chair in March.
 5. Agency Updates:

Tracie Coffman (ENTF): GVSU student, Erin Kelly will be working to analyze maps beyond physical access to healthy food to perceived access by creating a standardized tool, with some support from epidemiologist from Kent County Health Department.

Emma Garcia (Access of West Michigan): 40th year of the Hunger Walk in Kent County is on May 7th, 2017. Applications from recipient agencies were due this week. Agencies actively participating in FN&C may still submit an application by Friday, 1/13 to be considered. Agencies applications are based on the good food principles as outline by Michigan Good Food Charter. Participating agencies will receive award based on level of commitment and participation of event. Each year an average of 600 walkers participate in event.

Mark Logan (Kent County DHHS): Update on ABAWD time-limits that will impact SNAP users, that most recipients will not be affected until April. There have been some systems functionality issues. However, those looking to meet requirements of work, volunteer or community service time (minimum of 20 hours per week) are encouraged to coordinate through MI Works as this makes reporting to KCDHHS more efficient. (note: ABAWD stands for Able Bodied Adults Without Dependents)

Kristy Ayers(ASCET): Some changes to be determined occurring with Community Action and ASCET.

Jane McGooney (FA): FA is looking ideas for education topics and asked for agencies to email her with ideas. Some examples they are considering are: volunteer recruitment/retention, transporting food safely and grant reporting. Please email Jane with other ideas related to possible topics.

6. Adjournment

Next Meeting:

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