



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes May 9, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

Attendees

AJ Fossel, Audrey Marihugh-Bouck, Brandy Arnold, Carola Carassa, Cherie Elahl, Colene Johnson, Colleen Kuehl, Connie Bellows, Dana Eardley, Danielle Simmons, Deanna Howland, DeDe Esque, Eleanor Moreno, Erin Skidmore, Erin Webley, Gordie Moeller, Heather Hughesian, Jane McGookey, Jeff Hoyh, Jill Meyer, Jim Holkeboer, Julie VanGessel, Ken Ford, Kristi Ayers, Shawn Keener, Stephanie Marino, Wende Randall, Stephanie McKendry, Chelsea Totten, Jane McGocky, Sarah Westoby, Leila Alattar, Crystal Tunstall, Allison Rudi

I. Introductions: Emily Schichtel

- Minutes, 11 April 2018

Motion to approve: Brandi

Seconded: Corolla

Motion Passed, Added Erin to minutes

II. WhyHunger & ENTF Connections: Wende and All

WhyHunger was brought into Kent County to reach individuals that are on the periphery of food justice conversation. The coalition wants to open new people and individuals that are not normally at the monthly meetings. Who is not in the food system conversation and how do we bring them in? Participants from the two-day workshop can bring what they learned to tackle this issue. The floor then opened for comments. The workshop received good reviews, but it was brought up how can we open the meeting. What are some actions to elevate stories and voices? The barriers to food security extends to capitalism, systemic racism and what are the points of leverage. Heather voiced that the conversation about hunger is overcomplicated. Why are the only people at these meeting from community organizations? It was voiced that the beneficiaries are not being included in order to listen to them. Another individual voiced that when community members are surveyed, community members are not delivering and or stepping up. Discussion of barriers and best practices to get the best results from community members (e.g. stipends, transportation, getting information to new residents, getting childcare). The coalition should be going to clients not the other way around. The issue of weaving together the client/provider dynamic (i.e. us v them) was also brought up as an ongoing issue. Heather also said we need to simplify questions to address food security. The work at organizations needs to reflect the issues that are called in to 211. Once in groups these questions can be reviewed.

III. Policy Update: Food Policy Council/ Brandi

An individual from Kids' Food Basket is working on getting the message out why a Food Policy Council is necessary. An Urban Ag Committee will be held this evening at six o'clock at Blandford. The legislation for work requirements for Medicaid is being discussed in the Michigan House of Representatives. Anyone who receives Medicaid to work 29 hours per week. Part-time workers are at risk of losing Medicaid because of lack of agency for hour negotiation. A lower number of hours are being discussed



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but there a lot of concerns. The administrative cost is estimated at 20-30 million dollars that could funnel funds away from existing programs. The governor is not in favor of the bill, but voices need to be heard. If county unemployment is 11% or higher they are exempt. The rates are not collected to reflect actual rates of unemployment.

IV. Table Work: Connie Bellows & DeDe Esque

DeDe presented the System Practice journey map was. What is the core issue we are trying to solve? Poverty, racism, culture. Trying to solve these issues by activism, advocacy, community organizing, education. Connections across all four action teams were the media, local/regional expertise, community organizing, looking at data, evaluation and research. A graphic was shown to show mission-focus groups-action steps- if,then- and current state. This is a top-down and bottom-up approach to visually show how issues can be addressed. The action groups (community engagement & advocacy, education, health, and policy) worked together to revise and add to their worksheets that were started last meeting. Reports of high-level information from the groups: Heather from Policy talked about livable wage. They will look to data for Kent county. Corolla from Education reported that the group will split into two groups: community recruitment team and policy engagers. They want to use the questions 211 asks and look to politicians and farmers to see where the holes are for education and information. Sarah from Health reported that they are new and narrowing the broad goals for actionable steps. Elenore from Community Engagement and Advocacy needs to fine tune their hope/vision statement. Go into the community to be facilitators or have staff to canvass and build relationships with the community to bridge people together. Action team rosters will be posted on Trello.

V. Nominations for Co-Chair

Emily reminded the room Co-Chair nominations are due by noon in Friday.

VI. Announcements: All

Corolla from Fit Kids 360 is ready to start their summer program. They need mentors. Interested parties can go directly to Corolla or an e-mail will be disseminated. The Grand Rapids Children's Museum wants food system participants for an event on the 30th. Midtown Green on May 19th is having a gardening workshop. Baxter's is having an affordable plant sale May 19th 10:00 at the warehouse. Calvin Bunker Center is having a native plant sale from 4-6 on May 9th.

VII. Next Meeting/ Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 13, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Kent County Health Department, Lake Superior Room 700 Fuller Ave NE