



## Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes October 10, 2018 8:30am – 10:00am

**Attendees:** Amee Paparella, Austin Roelofs, Cait Melamed, Carola Carassa, Chelsea Totten, Connie Bellows, Deanna Howland, Brittany Mastenbrook, DeDe Esque, Erin Skidmore, Heather Hughesian, Jeff Hoyh, Jim Holkeboer, Julie VanGessel, Sara Lillie, Karrie Brown, Kelly Hagemeyer, Linda Jones, Mark Lubberts, Nicole Karl, Shay Krick, Wende Randall, Laura Bell, Kamara Sudberry, Emily Schichtel, Brianne Czyzio

### **I. Introductions: Eleanor Moreno**

Story of community developing around a power outage.

Question of the day: What's your personal story around food?

- Minutes Date: September 12, 2018

Motion to approve: Cait Melamed

Seconded: Mark Lubberts

Motion Passed, Amendments: Chelsea Trotten is misspelled; corrected to Chelsea Totten

Host Comments: Laura Bell: Mercy is working on identifying health culture in patients and understanding the impact on readmission rates. They are working to repackage food waste to give to patients who need healthy food. Learning and implementing best practices for healthy food. They understand that the surrounding area is a food desert. One of their solutions is working towards turning the cafeteria into little food market where residents can get staples. If you would like to connect with Laura, her email is [Laura.bell@trinity-health.org](mailto:Laura.bell@trinity-health.org)

### **II. Policy Update: Wende Randall**

Wende shared that the council is planning a series of focus groups in different locations throughout the community focusing on different issues. Information and invites will be sent out at the end of the month. The goal is to get people engaged so they can give recommendations for the food policy. The council also plans to have sessions dedicated to residents' input. Eleanor added that there is a lot of data being collected right now that will be shared in the next few months.

Public Policy:

Wende shared that on September 22, Department of Homeland Security said they will change the Public Charge Rule. There is Fact Sheet available for review. For those who are applying for some type of status with the government, there is an extension of the calculation to determine whether that individual or family will be receiving benefits from the government. These benefits include Medicaid, SNAP, Section 8, Medicaid Prescription drugs, and more. Requires the immigrant, and not just the sponsor, receives at least 125% of the federal poverty level. For a family of 4, they would need to earn \$63,000 annually. In addition, the calculation includes the length of time a household was receiving benefits, even if they received benefits before the rule goes into place.



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There is a 60-day comment period. The best thing we can each do is submit a comment. The goal of these comments is to inundate the federal government with as many comments as possible, to challenge them, to slow the process of implementation. Comments can be left by clicking on this link: <https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org/#take-action-form>. Please share this link with your family, friends, and coworkers!!

Carola shared that the Diocese of Grand Rapids is hosting an informational session, in Spanish, about this issue, on October 22 at 360 Division, from 6-7:30pm. She thinks this will be an overreaching presentation about what the policy could do and who it would affect, not an event where people can get individual legal help.

### **III. National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week: Emily Schichtel, Wende Randall**

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is November 10-18. In addition to agency events, ENTF wants to have some common messaging for the organizations that participate. Committees within CoC will be putting on the Veteran Homeless Connect Club. Several sites (some confirmed, some pending) throughout Kent County to host multiple organizations that connect veterans to long term resources and homelessness supports and food resources. Emily may be reaching out to some of you, or reach out to her if you are interested in being involved.

Eleanor is working on a story collection project that is going to merge with a media company. They plan to launch in November, so maybe pairing with NHHA week to put out 8 videos (1 min long) around homelessness. This project is a great opportunity to use storytelling to show that homelessness is about access as well as structural issues. If interested, please think of a one or two sentence message that can be the theme of this messaging, send to Eleanor.

### **IV. Finalizing Strategizing Table Work: All**

Each group worked on finalizing the steps that they need to take and assigned responsibility for tasks/projects.

Education developed a concise way to tackle some of the issues, looking at mapping free cooking classes in Kent County, primarily those located along the bus line. Look at agencies that are within 1/2 mile of bus stops. They will devise legend to see what agencies offer a drop-in option because. They plan to reach out to agencies that are missing. They will be happy to share findings!

Policy went over feedback from last meeting. They identified challenges and developed different ways to address these challenges.

Health is going through feedback and retailoring goals to identify what goals/actions may be better to reassign/refocus. They are also working to identify how culinary medicine and food education impacts



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physicians and nursing curriculum. The Amway initiative is on hold, they are waiting on their next meeting.

Community Power is working to make a flyer and put it around the community to let them know about meetings so the people using the services can come to the meetings and be heard. They are looking for locations within low income communities for meetings, as well as transportation or stipends to get people here. For the social media campaign, please send Eleanor language by October 24.

Wende encouraged Action Team Leaders to be aware of what things cross into different groups. What can they offer to take on if it fits within their goals? Deeper accomplishments are made through working together.

### **V. Thank You Recognition: Wende Randall**

'We've been on a journey...'

DeDe and Connie have helped us make so much progress, we will miss you! A LOT!

### **VII. Announcements:**

Linda: The Food Co-op is having an outreach to African American community on October 30 at Brown Hutcherson; they are hoping for a big turnout especially of connectors and influencers in the community. The co-op needs 1000 people to become owners before it can get off the ground.

Fit Kids 360 was nominated for the Health and Wellness and Community Spirit Awards for LINC UP. The Award Ceremony is October 11 5:30-6:30 at Wealthy Street Theatre. Come take a look!

Shay: A Beacon of Light Award (from Food Banks in Michigan) went to the Mitten Foundation (Mitten Brewing Co) because they raised \$15,000 that supports school programs. In addition, Mitten Brewing Co. does a fundraiser for utility assistance. Clients can go to restaurant and fill out a form to receive assistance. Shay will get a time frame when people can go to the brewery and get assistance.

Carola: Movimiento Cosecha recently walked from Grand Rapids to Lansing in support of Drivers Licenses for everyone. They are also working to take out the Immigration and Customs Enforcement contract with Kent County Sherriff Dept. Please consider supporting them!

<https://www.cosechamichigan.com/home-eng>

### **VI. Next Meeting/Adjourn:**

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 14, 8:30am – 10:30am.

Mercy Health Wege Building, Wege Room 123  
300 Lafayette, Ave. SE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503