



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 14, 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Eleanor Moreno and Emily Schichtel		
Meeting Attendees:	Eleanor Moreno, Emily Schichtel, Julie VanGessel, Mark Lubberts, Austin Roelofs, Linda Jones, Erin Skidmore, Shay Krick, Sherrie Gillespie, Cait Melamed, Gordie Moeller, Kelly Hagemeyer, Nicole Karl, Shawn Keener, Stephanie McKendry, Joseph Jones, Rebecca Kolenda, Karrie Brown, Janelle Vandergrift, Brian Smith, Eleanor Moreno, Staff: Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	8:30	Time Adjourned:	10:30

Introductions

What does it mean to ground your work in justice?

Approval of Minutes **From [Date]**

Motion by:	Mark	Support from:	Shay
------------	------	---------------	------

Discussion: None

Amendments: None

Conclusion: Motion Passed, no amendments

Policy Update

Discussion

Not much has changed since last month. Wende has a meeting on how to get everyone back on track. In addition, she talked about the change to the public Charge Rule. The link to comment will be on Trello, the comment period ends on December 10. There is concern that during the lame duck session of congress the Farm Bill will not be appropriated, so next year these pieces will have to go back to the drawing board. Please encourage your representatives to pass these final pieces. Contact your local representatives as they may end up retracting the minimum wage protections and raises in process. Urban Agriculture Subcommittee meets tonight (11/14) at 6pm at City Hall.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Midwest Gathering **Erin Skidmore**

Discussion

Tuesday Table Talk happened a few weeks ago. They brought together people from different backgrounds, faith, religions, around food. Kaufmann Interfaith foodies group meets once a month, they would be a great group to connect with if you are interested.

Closing the Hunger Gap is a national conference that meets bi-yearly. It looks at how the ‘charity food’ model can change in the future. Why Hunger has put together regional gatherings in the off years. Some of the goals are to explore moving from charity to solidarity, addressing root causes, and racial and economic equity. The Midwest Gathering challenged participants to consider ancestral and historical aspects of food and how does this impact their work. Erin learned a lot about facilitation and how to be in spaces with people of different backgrounds while still seeing each other as human. They also talked about the theory of change, particularly what it looks like to change the framework within organizations. With systems level work is important to change or create something new on a systems level instead of making changes with individuals and reactionary organizations. Participants



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 14, 8:30am – 10:00am

also discussed how power can be used for good, who has power that needs to be added to the conversation, and how individually people have power. The gathering was hosted at Victory Gardens Initiative it is community-owned and community-run. For Erin, it was really great to see what others are doing around the US and in the Midwest region. Very intentional about supporting minority owned restaurants. She encouraged everyone to remember that we all vote with our dollars and with our fork. She suggests everyone check out Closing the Hunger Gap. The next conference will be next September in North Carolina.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Good Food Summit	All
-------------------------	------------

Discussion

Emily shared that she took a lot away from the presentations and panelists. The keynote speaker focused on restaurants and justice. She compared restaurants and minimum wage to feudalism. Need to think of the workers – 10 of the lowest jobs in the US are related to food, 7 of those are in restaurants. Presentations also focused on how stories are power. Stories come from a place of healing. There is a need to think about what stories we all have and how to make room for other voices. Erin thinks there is a lot of potential in West Michigan to tell stories around food. Emily really appreciated Melvin’s line, ‘if you’re not at the table, you’re on the menu.’

The concept of labor really stuck with Wende. The average wage for people who do receive tips ends up below the living wage. 80% of food workers are women. Wende suggested this group think about shaping programming to share recipes and stories in a way that heals and brings together people across backgrounds and neighborhoods. The summit also discussed the fact that organizing works best when the people who are most impacted are in leadership roles.

Linda shared that with the Food Co-op they are finally getting the word out to the African American community. Residents are excited that the community owns the project together and everyone gets a voice and vote.

Workers’ Rights: the Fair Food Project was started in Florida with workers picking tomatoes. Systems have been put in place to help keep companies accountable, look for produce with the Fair Food Project stickers.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Action Team Table Work	All
-------------------------------	------------

Discussion

Guiding Principles Recap:
OUR CHALLENGE: Elevate justice and equity in the local food system through good food practices (fair, affordable, healthy, green) to ensure equal access to good food for all residents of Kent County.
GUIDING STAR = a vision of the desired future state: *All Kent County residents are food secure with access to fair, green, affordable, and healthy food (Good Food Charter) and participate in a culturally welcoming local food system that promotes justice, equity, affordability, and health. With a resident*



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
November 14, 8:30am – 10:00am

driven food system, the local economy is thriving and vibrant, interconnected to multiple sectors, and supported by smart and equitable policies.

NEAR STAR = a 5-10 year outcome that is a foreseeable step to goal (aka Guiding Star): *Kent County residents understand and advocate for the tenets of the Good Food Charter: fair, green, affordable, and healthy food for all. Residents participate in the local food economy through investment, involvement, and increasing economic development as consumers, donors, educators, policy-makers, practitioners, entrepreneurs, decision makers, and advocates.*

FRAMING QUESTION = the Q that will help focus efforts to understand the system we are going to engage: *How does the Kent County food system address the challenges of Kent County residents who lack access to fair, green, affordable, and healthy food (the Michigan Good Food Charter).*

Today's work is to finalize strategies: identify time frames, list resources needed, and assign tasks.

Community Power committed to reaching to move meeting locations to service organizations. The long-range goal is to continue to keep people from different organizations attending.

Health committed to assuring that each organization that is represented provides support individuals who attend the programs. A challenge is the health care system is focused on prevention.

Education is committed to making a google sheet of organizations that offer free cooking classes. A challenge is that the group only meets once a month, Trello and additional meetings may help.

Policy split up tasks for the next month. The long-term goal is to get voices to attend the event who are not usually represented.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Trello Training	Wende Randall
------------------------	----------------------

Discussion

Click this link to join the board: <https://trello.com/b/xS92RLDk>

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Announcements

Discussion

- Shay shared that the mobile food pantries for Feeding American West Michigan is now moving towards a family size model instead of a weight model. This was a family leaves with 3-4 days of meals instead of 50 pounds of food.
- KCCA has gotten notification that they will be getting different products starting in January, a lot of the product will be fresh produce and milk. Contact Sherrie directly for food distribution. They will begin interviewing soon for their Food Specialist position.
- The Collaborative Community Food Survey hopes to be wrapped up by Thanksgiving. Take the survey, share the survey with your participants. The link is on Trello.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 8:30am – 10:30am.
Mercy Health Wege Building, Wege Room 123
300 Lafayette, Ave. SE