



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
January 9, 2019, 8:30am – 10:00am

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| Facilitators: | Eleanor Moreno, Emily Schichtel | | |
| Meeting Attendees: | Emily Schichtel, Eleanor Moreno, Stephanie McKendry, Kelly Hagemeyer, Carola Carassa, Garrett Ziegler, Gordie Moeller, Erin Skidmore, Heather Hughesian, Maria Curit, Jeff Hoyh, Jill Myers, Kamara Sudberry, Amy VanFossen, Bethany Joseph, Catherine Landers, Colene Johnson, Ed Harris, Jill Myer, Jim Holkeboer, Karrie Brown, Kathryn Vanderwal, Maria Curit, Nicole Hansen, Becci Kolenda, Stephanie McKendry, Pat Murray, Maaike Baker, Michelle Holmes, Chelsea Totten, Stephanie Mellstead, Katie Geith, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio | | |
| Time Convened: | 8:30 | Time Adjourned: | 10:00 |

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| Introductions | | | |
| What does the perfect food system look like? How should it operate? | | | |
| Approval of Minutes | | From December 12, 2018 | |
| Motion by: | Carola | Support from: | Jeff |
| Discussion | None | | |
| Amendments | None | | |
| Conclusion | Motion Passed | | |
| Policy Update | | Anna Almanza | |
| Discussion | | | |
| <p><u>Public Charge Proposed Rule Change</u>: public comment ended on Dec 10. There was a great turnout with the comments, the administration is going through the comments. If and when a rule is published, it would take at least 60 days into place. It is NOT retroactive, if people have received benefits before it went into effect they would not be affected. Because of the shutdown, it may take longer for staff to respond to all the comments, which is a good thing.</p> <p><u>Farm Bill</u>: For SNAP, this bill protects eligibility and benefits. It keeps broad-based eligibility intact, as well as the connection between SNAP, LIHEAP, free school meals. The bill extends training programs. SNAP ED maintained its structure. The Farm Bill increased funding for TFAP. CSFP (commodity programs) changes made it easier to recertify eligible individuals. Community Food Projects grant was re-authorized, but the funding was reduced slightly. The new farm to food bank program, FINIY, has now been made permanent, this program supports double up food bucks. The House wanted to add strict work requirements, but these were taken out of the final version of the bill.</p> <p><u>FDA proposed changes</u>: 75,000 people could be affected. The changes would affect states' ability to ask for a waiver in the future. Public comment period will be opened in the near future. When the comment period is open, information will be shared.</p> <p><u>Government Shutdown</u>: there has been a lot of rumors that SNAP benefits were not being loaded onto cards. This is not true, benefits are being loaded, stores are able to accept SNAP/EBT, and applications are being accepted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - USDA's February plan: They are piggybacking on the continued resolution that expired Dec 20. The February benefits will need to be applied for by Jan 20 and should be secured. Benefits will be guaranteed through February, but after they are unsure. - TFAP and Commodity programs – January, February, and March deliveries are still scheduled. - WIC has been working to get Feb benefits in place, they should be available | | | |



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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Nutrition Programs have funding to operate through the end of March. - Participants who have questions can reach out to Food Bank Council of Michigan’s SNAP hotline at 1-888-544-8773. | | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| | | |
| Data Terms/Activity | Wende Randall | |
| Discussion | | |
| <p>The data collection activity from last month gathered demographic data that organizations collect. In the future, this will be used to help tell a county-wide story using the same shared terms/stories to create a vision of a local food system.</p> <p>10 cents a meal has not had a lot of utilization in Kent County. Denise will be coming in sometime in the next few months, to talk about how we can engage with the schools. If you have connections with school districts or are interested, keep an eye on the agenda, or connect with Wende. If you have relationships with food or procurement departments, start having the conversations now if able. 10 cents a meal provides 10 cents reimbursements for every meal that they serve that has locally sourced ingredients. It is not a huge chunk of money for the schools but helps them set up systems so they are able to source locally. There is money in the funding to help track the data across prosperity regions (basically how the state is divided into economic development regions).</p> | | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| | | |
| Round Robin Activity | Emily Schichtel | |
| Discussion | | |
| <p>Last month there was suggestions about community engagement, increasing resident voice, collaboration, sharing success, having more public events, networking opportunities, articulating direction and goals. Other discussion from the action team leads were around action teams and how to improve process. They suggested the group rotate activities through each action team per quarter, so that the full group can support each of the action teams.</p> | | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
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| Action Teams Table Time | | |
| Discussion | | |
| <p>In your teams, discuss feedback from the round robin, reflect on the idea of rotating through different actions each quarter, and provide an update.</p> <p><u>Community Power</u> – talked about how to engage and follow up with community members, and stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Health</u> – what seems to be working well is talking organically about what each group is doing and then looking to connect resources</p> <p><u>Education</u> – They are mapping out programs and organizations that offer nutritional/cooking classes. They have split the map up and will look at which areas on the bus line have limited/no access.</p> | | |



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| <p><u>Policy</u> – They are partnering with LINC UP for a legislative event. They suggested FNC could do quarterly happy hours, as a celebratory end to completing a project.</p> | | |
| Action Items | Person Responsible | Deadline |
| | | |
| Announcements | | |
| Discussion | | |
| <p>The Pantry is working on Veggie Con! They are raising money to purchase extra CSA shares. There will be a lot of fun things – couch potato races, corn hole. The event will be April 27 at Encounter Church. If you are interested in having a booth, let Karrie know.</p> <p>Culinary Conversations will be at Downtown Market on the 15th. The event will be a panel discussion with people from Founders, Green Collar Foods, Amore with networking time. In February, the author of Generation Yum will present. At the April event, a chef from New Orleans will be doing a dinner that is focused on infant mortality</p> <p>West Michigan Growers Group – March 9th will be the Growers Fair and CSA open house event. CSA farmers will set up tables so public can learn more and meet the farmers.</p> <p>Access will be closing their applications for the Walk for Good Food on January 15.</p> <p>The Food Bank Council of Michigan’s SNAP helpline now has access to interpreters, please encourage participants to call. 1-888-544-8773.</p> | | |
| Adjourn | | |
| Next Meeting: February 13, 2019 at Health Net | | |