



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

Facilitator:	Kamara Sudberry, Eleanor Moreno		
Meeting Attendees:	Julie VanGessel, Afton DeVos, Austin Roelofs, Deanna Howland, Milagro Minch, Steve Wittington, Hal Phillips, Leslie Yardhouse, Alyssa Stickney, Taylor Hartson, Crystal Tunstall, Ayanfe Free, Kelly Hagmeyer, Jim Holkeboer, Chelsea Totten, Carissa Patrone, Nancy Cromley, Kamara Sudberry, Eleanor Moreno, Cait Melamed, Mark Lubberts, Carola Carassa, Erin Skidmore, Bethany Joseph, Erin Skidmore, Emily Schichtel, Amber Hubble, Sara Gropp, Amy, Julie Melia, Kristen R., Yesenia Velasco, Steve Wittington, Julie Brunson, Abigail LaLonde, Ally Rickman, Becci Kolenda, Catherine Landers, Jill Myer, Liz Washington, Meridell Gracias, Stephanie Mellstead, Hal Phillips, Doug Booth, Amber Hubbell, Aaron Yore-VanOosterhout, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	8:35	Time Adjourned:	10:00

Introductions

Kids Food Basket Presentation

Discussion

Afton shared that Kids Food Basket works to ensure that no kid in West Michigan goes hungry. Their largest program is providing sack suppers to schools throughout the West Michigan area. All sack suppers contain nutritious, healthy food that supports brain development. Recently, they moved to a new location which is situated on a 10-acre farm, food is grown on 8 acres of the farm. All food is sustainably grown. The goal is to move from a food charity into a food solidarity space to move the needle on food security and food access in the community. They are working to bring kids to the farm where they can learn about growing practices and how to make healthy food choices throughout their life. They are hoping to break down the cycle in which lower income children do not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables.

They have 4 commitments: nourish, grow, learn, engage

They are willing to host for other community partners at their space so families can receive affordable food education. Connect with Julie if interested.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities that are available throughout the fall.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline

Action Team Table Time

Discussion

Action Teams had the opportunity to discuss outcomes and action items for the end of this year and moving forward to 2020.

Policy – the action team is looking into engaging around the 10 Cents a Meal funding that was cut from the state budget. Brianne will be sending out a template and ways to comment. Please encourage those within your network to comment. 10 Cents a Meal provides a 10-cent reimbursement for school districts per meal that is made with locally purchased food. They may be hosting another letter writing event around this topic soon.



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Education – the action team has been working on plotting free nutritional education opportunities in the Grand Rapids area that are accessible from the bus line. They will be reaching out to pantries to see what is working, what is not working to identify potential best practices.

Community Power – They will be having afternoon meal together where they will share out their organization’s successes and struggles with community engagement and community power. The meal will be October 23 at 4:30pm at New City Urban Farm.

Health – the action team discussed best practices in surveying clients. They also talked about social determinants of health and how these are embedded in the ways that organizations ask about food security. They are working to look at how to survey better throughout the community.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Kids Food Basket Tour		
Discussion		
Adjourn		
Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 13th at Rockford Construction		