



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
 April 8, 2020, 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Eleanor Moreno and Kam Sudberry		
Meeting Attendees:	Erin Skidmore, Janelle Johnson, Colene Johnson, Kelly Hagemeyer, Emily Schichtel, Julie Brunson, Abby LaLonde, Laura St. Louis, Kam Sudberry, Julie VanGessel, Nancy Cromley, Rachel Bessire, Shawn Keener, Aly Rickman, Leslie Yarhouse, Carola Carassa, AJ Fossel, Heather Win, Katie Vanderwal, Rachel McKay, Keyuana Rosemond, Ayanfe Free, Jennifer Smith, Mark Lubberts, Catherine Landers, Geoff Bierbower, Belisa Melton, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:		Time Adjourned:	

Welcome and Reflection	
Wende asked group to think about families they are serving and what they may be feeling. Remember that normal doesn't have to look the same, how do we put our energy toward a normal where our guiding star is a reality.	
Policy and Process Changes	
Discussion	
Kam shared about the changes that are being implemented at Spectrum. She has been encouraged by the strengthening of community partnership between non-profits and for-profits. Several agencies are now collecting data and/or providing services differently. Many pantries have moved to decreasing documentation/eligibility requirements. Some pantries are seeing an increase in numbers and in households outside their typical service area.	
How do we focus on Good Food in times of crisis?	
Discussion	
What are new and continued opportunities to support local producers and to encourage and educate neighbors around gardening and food as medicine?	
<p>Several agencies have been producing educational videos on growing food and health eating. Hispanic Center has been ensuring that materials are translated and/or interpreted. Please connect with Holly Rea (hrea@hispanic-center.org) to translate documents and videos. Important to support local farmer during this time. Access of West Michigan will be doing outreach with local farms and pantries to encourage connections. Fulton Street Farmers Market is still open and ensuring safe practices. New City has had several conversations around expanding services to food pantries, please reach out to lancek@newcityneighbors.org if your pantry is interested. Kids Food Basket is moving forward with their farm.</p> <p>Access is still hosting the Walk for Good Food on May 3-13 in neighborhoods around the area. The walk is typically a 5k, they are encouraging participants to get out and walk with members of their household. All information is available on Access's website.</p> <p>One barrier is funding needed to get quality in addition to the quantity need. Opportunity to develop this as we continue through crisis.</p>	



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Values of ENTF	
Discussion	
<p>ENTF is embarking on a strategic planning process that will be focused on values, structure, and connectivity. Chairs and co-chairs will be working on recommendations for language, mission, vision, values, and other aspects which will then be brought back to subcommittees. Wende asked attendees to list values the group is striving for. Responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equity - Long-term sustainable change in the food system - Addressing root cause instead of providing a band-aid - Empowering people to be food sovereign - Honoring the diversity of food values, preferences, and cultural contexts - From charity to solidarity - Local - Daring - Healthy, green, fair, affordable - accessible for all not rooted in context of white supremacy/dominant culture & ideals - Cultural humility 	
Organizational Updates	
Discussion	
<p>The Grand Rapids Children’s Museum is providing online content for families and are open to collaborating with agencies.</p> <p>YMCA – food distribution sites are remaining steady for now. There are free exercise resources on the Y’s website as well.</p> <p>Food Access Check-In Call: Thursdays at 9am. Contact Brianne (brobach@hwmuw.org) for the meeting invitation.</p> <p>Starting today, community members can call KDL and ask to have heirloom seeds mailed to their home.</p> <p>Wende thanked everyone for all the work and collaboration that has been done over the past few months.</p>	
Adjourn	
Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 13.	