



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2021, 8:30am – 10:00am

Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Abigail LaLonde, Alva Favela, Anneliese Orr, Bree Bode, Brianne Robach, Brittany Mastenbrook, Brookelyn Guynn, Carola Carassa, Colene Johnson, Danielle Simmons, Emily Madsen, Erynn Adle, Jennifer Smith, Jillian Greene, Julie Brunson, Kamara Sudberry, Karrie Brown, Kelly Glas, Melissa Ivy, Miah Gonzales, Nancy Cromley, Nancy Tumbarell, Nicole Driesenga, Paula Kerr, Phillip Greene, Rachel Bessire, Rebeca Arredondo, Wafa Haddad, Wende Randall <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	8:35	Time Adjourned:	10:01

Welcome & Introductions

Reflection

Discussion

Kam shared that over the past year, this group has been thinking about and reimagining the words we use on a daily basis. Consider how the boarder community and the rest of the world see these words collectively. She asked attendees to think about what comes to mind in the local context when thinking of charity and food security. She also shared common images that come up from an online search. Consider: who is featured? What symbols/images accompany this word? What comes to mind for you?

- Charity reflections:
- Folks may question where donations are going
 - Part of charity is intention
 - Does not make the person receiving charity feel honored – a ‘charity’ case is not seen as a positive thing
 - Seems transactional
 - looks like a person with privilege giving something to "others"

- Food security reflections:
- abundance, colorful, variety
 - in food security, end users are autonomous instead of just receiving what is given to them
 - Having access to fresh healthy food without having the financial struggle to attain it
 - Fresh foods and plant foods

As we continue this work, she asked members to continue to reflect on the terms and come back to the connections our community is visualizing around these terms.

Narrative Change Overview

Discussion

Wende gave an overview of FNC’s near and guiding star as they are the framework for this group and conversation. Last summer, FNC started the narrative change conversations by discussing what members are tired of hearing in the food system. From there, we learned about decolonizing data, and the conditions and stages of systems change. The group also began discussing the vocabulary we



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use in the food system – what are the implications of the terms we use? What are we actually trying to convey?

Working together to identify framework of terms we use, and where are we going with this language

Commented [BR1]: Edited before this point

In the shared vocabulary process, have documented the background, purpose, and process of this work. ... are getting to a point where we will be distributing the work and educating others. Also, will feed into narrative change campaign

All this is available in a document that will be shared.

Shared Vocabulary Breakout

Discussion

In breakout rooms, groups continued to add to the considerations, counternarrative, headlines, and talking points for terms.

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ItEpUIUr0jDn6bUemHCRQL5f2gqe47S3xAD3Vw-TDXQ/edit?usp=sharing>

Share-Out

Discussion

- Food sovereignty –
- Had good conversation around the academic language, specifically the term ‘counternarrative’ – are we looking for the opposite of food sovereignty? Or are we looking
 - [Counter-Narrative definition](#)
 - How do we engage with those who have been historically disenfranchised? Do those who want to grow their own food have the tools to do so?
 - Also, talked about how this plays into the role of gatekeepers [Ruling Class and Buffer Zone](#)

- Food security:
- Providing food that aligns with health and dietary needs.
 - Food choice is important
 - Can be hard for food organizations to say no to donations

- Charity:
- Reflected on conversation of larger group
 - Metrics used to measure charity versus the metrics that would measure systemic change (lbs. of food distributed versus number of food choices)
 - Community will inherently take advantage of services – when we are in a space of trauma
 - Pushing back on framework of ‘hand-outs’ – is not resident or strengthens driven
 - Giver is giving enough to satisfy participant but still holding on to enough to stay in power as the giver
 - Charity does not highlight the higher needs

Resident-Driven:



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- Discussed how consensus building gives residents the opportunity to be in control
- Huge counter narrative that community members cannot be trusted/don't have the background knowledge to make decisions
- Can lead to mistrust if organizations are not given the power to the residents

Hunger

- Revised the definition and split into a noun and verb. Had conversation around what hunger means.

As we seek to understand how these terms are used ...

What's Next

Discussion

Carola – have been doing this work for a few months now – harkens back to protests last summer and how we relate to the community and the services we provide to them.

We all have phrases that our parents consistently repeated and now we do as well – when you are given narratives over time, they become engrained. We are here to challenge ourselves to change this and to remedy the issues that we did not create and that residents did not create. Many policies were intentionally created – can be hard to come to terms with this

Recognize that folks attending these meeting are only one person in their organization. Here to help give vocabulary so can go back and say “the word you are using may not be the word we are trying to implement” to help have introduce these conversations

Carola shared that HealthNet has been working on vocabulary they use around a variety of topics. Have taken some of the work from FNC and laying groundwork for employees. Want folks to start thinking about how can start introducing this guide.

The words we use and how we identify people and the baggage on words can have a broader impact.

In the chat, folks were asked to identify one thing they can commit to in the next month to expand the narrative change effort and use of guide. Will have experience to share what our experience was with the pledge we made during the August meeting.

Pledges include:

- Thinking about when/how/why to say no to donors
- Sharing document with leadership and other coalitions
- Looking at marketing materials
- Considering how we use terms and how those around us with the terms – calling in

Julie invited members to visit their website with honest feedback around the language used -- hopegardensgr.org

Carola - Have no choice in how we received the information we have, now that have more information and have done these activities, have responsibility to our community and ourselves to challenge this



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Action Teams

In the past, had 4 action teams – health, nutritional education, community power, policy and advocacy. Want to re-introduce these teams later this summer/fall. Will be continuing to work on narrative change campaign and will redefine the outcomes of each team.

Past purpose statements for each team - http://entfkent.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Action-Teams_purpose-statements.pdf

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

Senior Neighbors - Sorry everyone but I need to leave. Just wanted to let you know that four of our five senior centers are back open, serving meals (from MOWWM), have programming, etc. So excited to see the seniors back at our centers. Two things we are finding. 1) The seniors aged quite a bit during their time home during COVID and 2) Quite a few seniors let their drivers license laps due to not being able to get into the SOS office and not knowing how to go on-line to get a next day appointment. Love the conversation this group is having each time we get together. Until next time!

Karrie Brown - I am leading an 8 week, in person, dinner conversation starting August 5, about how food and faith overlap in how we interact in the community. Focus on food that is local, affordable, good, healthy, uncomplicated, and seasonal. I would love to have some of you join! Email me at klynbrown@gmail.com, call or text me at 616-520-7022 if you are interested in participating. Limit 8 people.

Noors Heaven – will be having an job fair soon, will share once they have a date and time established. If organizations have entry level openings, that they would like to include, please let Wafa know.

There is also a Data-Story Action Team that is currently meeting. If you'd like to join, email Emily at emadsen@hwmuw.org

Adjourn

From Rebeca Arredondo to Everyone: 08:30 AM

Good Morning !!

From Kamara Sudberry (she/her) to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Kamara "Kam" Sudberry (she/her), Hope College, sudberry@hope.edu

Good Morning All!

From Rachel Bessire to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Rachel Bessire, Eastern Michigan University REACH, rbessire@emich.edu

From Dsimmons to Everyone: 08:36 AM



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Danielle Simmons, Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, dsimmons@mowwm.org

From Julie Brunson to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Julie Brunson-H.O.P.E. Gardens Julie@hopegardensgr.org

From Nicole Driesenga to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Nicole Driesenga - Senior Neighbors - ndriesenga@seniorneighbors.org - 616.340.0417

From Karrie Brown to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Good morning! Karrie Brown from West Michigan Works! kbrown@westmiworks.org or 616-265-0999. We have an upcoming job fair. Please share with your neighbors. <https://jobs.westmiworks.org/virtual-job-fair/>

From Paula Kerr to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Paula Kerr Registered Dietitian for Meals On Wheels Western Michigan pkerr@mowwm.org

From Melissa Ivy to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Melissa Ivy- Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, mivy@mowwm.org

From Jillian A Greene to Everyone: 08:36 AM

Jillian Greene, Hope Gardens, greeneji@mail.gvsu.edu

From Abby LaLonde, FAWM to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Abigail Lalonde, Feeding America West Michigan abigail@feedwm.org

From Nancy Tumbarell to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Hello! Nancy Tumbarell, FitKids360//Healthnet ntumbarell@healthnetwm.org

From Wafa Haddad to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Wafa Haddad. Noor's Heaven. wafa@noorheaven.org

From Aaron Estrada to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Aaron Estrada, Lead Community Health Worker, Mercy Health Saint Mary's- aaron.estrada@mercyhealth.com

From Colene Johnson (she/her) to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Colene Johnson -- Community Resource Coordinator - Kent Co DHHS. *I've got another meeting coming up, so I'll need to leave a bit early.

From Coach Carola (ella/she) to Everyone: 08:37 AM



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Buenos Dias! Carola Carassa, FitKids360 Program Supervisor, ccarassa@healthnetwm.org

From Brookelyn Guynn to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Brookelyn Guynn, Heartside Gleaning Initiative Intern, intern1@heartsidegleaning.org

From Miah Gonzales to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Good morning! Miah Gonzales, Fitkids360/Healthnet intern, mgonzales@healthnetwm.org

From Erynn Adle to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Erynn Adle, Heartside Gleaning Initiative, intern2@heartsidegleaning.org

From Jennifer Smith, Kent County Community Action to Everyone: 08:37 AM

Jennifer Smith - Community Resource Specialist - Kent County Community Action, Food Distribution Programs - jennifer.smith@kentcountymi.gov

From Wende Randall, she/her, ENTF to Everyone: 08:39 AM

Wende Randall, she/her, Essential Needs Task Force (ENTF) wrandall@hwmuw.org

From Rebeca Arredondo to Everyone: 08:40 AM

Rebeca Arredondo, she/her, Heart of West 211 - Database resource manager , rarredondo@hwmuw.org