



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes August 9, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

Attendees

Angela Gillisse (Salvation Army), Amy Klinkoski (No Kid Hungry), Brandy Arnold (Kids Food Basket), Bree Butler (ENTF), Brian Smith (Grand Rapids Food Co-op Initiative), Carola Carassa (Fit Kids 360), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Connect), Danielle Simmons (Meals on Wheels of West MI), Emily Schichtel (United Way), Erin Skidmore (Access), Eugene Sueing (YMCA), Heather Hughesian (211), Jeff Hoyh (God's Kitchen), Jenna Weiler (Groundswell Farm & Tatertots), Jill Myer (KCHP), Jim Holkeboer (Eastern Ave Christian Ref. Church), Joanna Bascom (Calvin Center for Social Research), Kelly Hagemeyer (YMCA), Ken Ford (Flat River Outreach), Keyuana Rosemond (Fit Kids 360), Kristi Ayers (Community Action Agency), Laura Cunningham (CCWM), Linda Jones (GR Food Co-op Initiative), Liz Washington (Kid's Food Basket), Mark Lubberts (Spectrum Health), Sara Berry (Student), Sonya Archer (The Pantry), Tiffany Page (CCWM)

I. Introductions: Emily Schichtel

Motion to approve Minutes: Kelly Hagemeyer

Seconded by: Mark Lubberts

Motion passed, no amendments

II. Exploring Forces in the Food System (Workshop): Connie Bellows & DeDe Esque

Participated in a group exercise. Went over the ground rules as a group, and aimed to explore the forces at work in our system, the forces that aid and the forces that impede. Through this exercise the following questions were asked:

- a) What enables change within the Food System?
- b) What inhibits change within the food system?

What has been done so far: Considered the voices in the system who need to be heard.

Heard about benefits available from the state and county

Refreshed what we know about the benefits of community food systems and the Michigan Food Center.

Overview of work today:

This is the first step in mapping the food system.

The work completed together will assist in understanding the current state of our food system.

Process Step 1

What enables change within the food system? What inhibits change within the food system?

An enabler is a positive force that impacts how the system works.

Every attendee is to write one idea per post-it note to identify important forces that impact how the food system works. One post-it for what enables change and one post-it for what inhibits change. The next step is to post ideas on wall and cluster the ideas by similarity. Create a label for each of the clusters. After that is completed, the main themes were decided on and post-its and ideas were put on different boards around the room.

Common post-its included:

Enable Change: Themes included education, eating together, activism, science, collaborating and working together, access to decent food, decent income, incentives, farm to table, and culture.

Inhibits Change: Themes included lack of communication between organizations, culture, racism,



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes August 9, 2017 8:30am – 10:00am

corporate interest, lack of resources, time of preparation, cost, and transportation.

The six themes turned into project boards were as follows: 1) Silos/Collaboration, 2) Policy, 3) Access, 4) Poverty/Racism/Culture, 5) Activism/Advocacy, Education, and 6) Corporate Interests.

Process Step 2

After completing Process 1, the six different teams will complete Process 2. Which involves working on the following questions.

Upstream Cause:

What are the things that lead up to the theme of your group?

Downstream Effects:

What are the things that the theme causes to happen?

Note: Consider in your analysis, talking through the implications from these view/categories.

Structural: The physical and social environment in which people live; both the natural and built environment.

Attitudinal: Widely held beliefs, values, norms, and intergroup relations that affect how large groups of people think and behave.

Transactional: Processes used by and interactions among key people as they deal with important social, political, and economic issues.

III. Next Meeting/Adjourn: Emily Schichtel

Wednesday, September 13th, 8:30 – 10:00am

The “Exploring Forces in the Food System” workshop will be continued during the September meeting. Members are free to switch groups or continue with their original one. Step 3 will be discussing loops.