



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes January 10, 2018 8:30am – 10:30am

Attendees

Aj Fossel (Community Food Club), Amy Klinkoski (No Kid Hungry), Austin Roelofs (Kids Food Basket), Brandy Arnold (Kids Food Basket), Chelsea Totten (SECOM), Cherie Elahl (North Kent Connect), Colleen Kuehl (Coupons for Hunger), Deanna Howland (The Salvation Army), Erin Webley (GRPS), Heather Hughesian (211), Jessica Corwin (Spectrum Health), Jill Myer (Kent County), Jim Holkeboer (Eastern Ave Christian Reformed Church), Julie VanGessel (Kids Food Basket), Kristi Ayers (Kent County), Linda Jones (GR Food Co-Op Initiative), Kate Vanderwal (UCOM), Mark Lubberts (Spectrum Health), Michelle Meulendyk (Amway), Shay Krick (Feeding America West MI), Julio Cano (Spectrum Health), Jenna Weiler (Tater Tots), Nicole Karl (CSR), Carola Carassa (Health Net West MI), Wende Randall (ENTF), Bree Butler (ENTF), Dede Esque (IPS), Connie Bellows (IPS), Eleanor Moreno (NKC), Dana Eardley (Local First of West MI), Erin Skidmore (Access), Audrey Marihugh-Bouck (Family Network of Wyoming), Emma Garcia (Access), Kelly Hagmeyer (GR YMCA)

I. Introductions: Wende Randall

- Minutes December 13th

Motion to approve: Jim Holkeboer

Seconded: Shay Krick

Motion Passed, No Amendments

II. Toronto Site Visit Summary: Attendees

A group of twelve people from the Food & Nutrition Subcommittee traveled to Toronto, Canada in early December. They did 3 site visits while there; Regent Park Christian Resource Center (CRC), Community Food Centers Canada, and Food Share Toronto.

The Regent Park Community Food Center is a partnership between CRC and Community Food Centers Canada (CFCC), a national organization that's driving the development of Community Food Centers across the country. CRC Provides access to high quality food in a dignified setting. CRC offers the following services:

Community Meal where everyone one can connect over a healthy breakfast or lunch. Fresh, nutritious meals are served, which are offered free of charge on a drop-in basis.

Community Advocacy where people find their voice and support each other through Community Action Training, the Community Advocacy Office, and participating together in social justice activities.

Food Skills where people can engage with each other and have the opportunity to learn and to share food knowledge at community kitchens.

Community Gardens where community members can come together to grow their own vegetables and learn new skills in both communal and allotment style gardens.

Park Coordination where facilitated opportunities are available for the larger community to connect around the greenhouse, bake oven, and community gardens in the new Regent Park.

Taste of Regent Park, our weekly summertime festival, brings the community an affordable market, meal cooked by a local caterer, and movie in the park hosted by Regent Park Film Festival.

There is also housing on site. The visiting FNC members noted a sense of community with music playing



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encouraged. There is also a head chef in employment. A wide variety of food is grown there. They have an intentionality of being multi-cultural with 90 diverse cultures being represented. They are facing gentrification issues, but they are aware of it and actively trying to find solutions and have conversations around gentrification. Community ownership is also emphasized, they have strong referral partnerships. Originally, CRC had a faith based focus, but were able to move towards a more secular view and currently make every community member feel welcome. They also sell food nearby further adding to income.

Community Food Centers Canada (CFCC) works to build health, belonging and social justice in low-income communities across Canada through the power of food. They work primarily in Canada but also work internationally. They are a knowledge and best practice hub providing programming, infrastructure, support, and coordination. They also work on Fundraising, messaging, policy advocacy and best practices. They emphasize intentional partnerships, not partner just to partner, and decentralized community level work. They believe that taking a multidimensional approach to programs can create individual and community change. By locating a critical mass of diverse programs under one roof, they create multiple points of entry and encourage synergy, collaboration and cross-pollination. Unlike Kent County, their focus is not partnerships or collaboration.

Food Share Toronto, this site aims to increase access to, knowledge of and consumption of vegetables and fruit through community led projects. They are very diversified, provide programming and educational opportunities, and create partnerships without mission creep. They sell products to schools to help with healthy kid programming within the school system. They have a very nice commercial kitchen with a small staff, they also do catering, canning, and other programs. The space is affordable to rent for the community and staff receives lunch every day. Due to food ship programs, they are redesigning their food box program. Very intentional organization around a business model and they were very lean within their systemic picture.

All three sites had great transparency. And some main lessons learned to bring to ENTF include; policy work being important in the ability to change how effectively the system operates. Organizational policies (among non-profit partners) are important in this approach. We should strive for clarity of vision, goals, strategies, and relationships at an organizational and systems level. Values should be stated and acted upon.

III. Community Food System Conference: Dana Eardley

Dana traveled to Boston last month to attend the 2017 Community Food Systems Food Systems Conference. She took extensive notes regarding the workshops that she attended which will be posted on Trello. One workshop she attended was held by Groundwork Lawrence, they presented the idea that every individual is an expert in the food system. They emphasized that everyone should see themselves as community members first and representatives of an organization second. When Groundwork Lawrence engages other organizations, they try to find mutually beneficial partnerships. They focus on assets and possibilities and emphasized working with churches and bodegas (or any small retail outlet with food).

She also attended the Micro to Macro Food Systems workshop. This workshop focused on discussion around closing the hunger gap. Emphasized fostering community and seizing opportunities and organic



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connections. They discussed a project that had been started to aid the VA, but they had been turned down by the local VA. At a dead end they didn't know what to do until they were contacted by another group doing the same work with the same experience and both groups worked together and approached the national VA chapter. The national chapter implemented it a week later. The lesson here is the importance of national opportunities, and that sometimes it's better to approach local problems on a national level.

Another session she attended was creating new economics. Economics needs to be defined as the way people use resources. They emphasized that there is no perfect work going on anywhere. They urged thinking about how capitalism has formed things in the United States.

Another workshop was Food Planning and Community in Massachusetts. They had pulled together a group with intentionality that was able to engage community voices. They had 4 facilitators, 18 professionals, and 8 community members facing food insecurity. To have open discussion, it is critical to have informal spaces that encourage useful discussion, this included a discussion amongst just the 8 community members after which feedback was then brought back to the whole group. Compensating residents with food, money, or childcare for volunteers is important. Facilitators were very cognizant of the feelings of those facing food insecurity.

IV. Invest Health Update: Emma Garcia

Emma went to New Orleans to attend the Invest Health national convention. Invest Health is a national network, they gave funding to 50 different cities around the USA to aid and research health outcomes. Attending the convention was helpful because it enabled Emma to see how other cities are doing with their funding and plans. Teams from each city did a showcase of work being completed in their respective city with the funding. Grand Rapids is on par, one common theme amongst cities was healthy food retail and neighborhood specific initiatives. New Orleans itself is a community that has made changes. After Hurricane Katrina during rebuilding, they learned a collective food model with no previous experience. Whole foods became an anchor store and 5 non-profit grocery stores followed. Whole foods also holds a farmer's market on site. Schools also use federal funding to pay for the healthy food initiatives from Invest Health programs.

V. Presentation of Systems Diagram & Narrative: SPC Members

Went over a brief overview of the LOOPS work completed over the last 9 months. The root cause is access to fair, good, and affordable food. Team members confirmed the deep structure of challenge (core, crux), poverty, racism, and culture. Due to additional feedback from members also included is advocacy, policy, and education.

The result:

Core Issue = Access to healthy food

Root Cause = Poverty, racism, and culture.

Priority Areas include health, education, advocacy, and policy. The picture depiction of these findings was reworked to show a model that puts the resident at the center of the model. The finished model resembles a 3D sphere with a core and layers. The core is the essential needs of the resident and from



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there the layers are stacked respectively as health, food & nutrition education, advocacy, and policy. All three models provide a valuable way of looking at the loops work. Each model keeps the resident at that center. An animated version of the model will be posted on Trello.

Today's Workshop is as follows:

Process Step 1: For each image, place post it notes in the following categories:

Rose - what you like about it

Thorn - what you don't like about it

Bud - what suggestions you have

Process Step 2: Take a flag that represents your organization and place your flag where your organization is respectively on the model to show where it's current mission and activities lay.

The point of this work is to gain clarity on the Grand Rapids food system. Today provided a visual of the work that is being done. There was some comment that placing an organization's flag on one spot was difficult.

Afterwards, each table had a crux issue listed on it and groups gathered to describe the effort going into the issue from our community. This conversation will be continued in February.

VI. Policy Council Updates: Food Policy Council Member

United Way is hosting an opportunity to connect with the MI League for Public Policy. The event will take place on January 31, 2018 from 1:00 to 2:30 pm at Heart of West Michigan United Way, 118 Commerce Ave SW.

Whether you are familiar with the League, this meeting will provide an overview of their organization and work.

Presenters:

Gilda Jacobs, President/CEO

Jenny Kinne, Community Engagement Specialist

Please reserve your spot at: <https://mlppoverview.eventbrite.com>

VII. Success Measures/Indicator Discussion: Wende Randall

Over the last couple of years this group identified success measures and indicators. This group needs to choose which indicator to include in the KConnect Index. The goal is to have an indicator from each ENTF group. Every member is encouraged to review the Food & Nutrition success measures and indicators and choose one that most represents the FNC effort. Comments included the importance in having a metric to follow but it may be helpful to hear the history behind each measure and receive more information to choose the best one. There was concern conveyed over the narrow definition of one success measure. Furthermore, it was noted that there is danger using F-2 because people are generally very reluctant to self-identify as food insecure. It should be noted that selecting one measure to be a part of the KConnect index in no way excludes the other measurements. Everyone is encouraged to review the success measures and indicators and formulate some questions and recommendations for the next meeting.



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VIII. Next Meeting/Adjourn: Wende Randall

Next meeting: February 14th

Detroit Food Summit

Thursday, March 8-Friday, March 9

Benson and Edith Ford Conference Center

Alfred A. Taubman Center for Design Education, College for Creative Studies

460 W. Baltimore Ave, Detroit, MI 48202

Detroit Food 2018 will be the 8th annual Detroit Food Summit held by DFPC. DFPC hosts this annual conference to increase awareness about our food system, and develop strategies for building a healthier food system in Detroit. Detroit Food brings together community members, food industry workers, advocates, researchers and policy makers.

Big Hunger Book Club is going to be meeting this month for the first time on Wed, Jan 24, 8am at Lightfast Coffee.