



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes June 13, 2018 8:30am – 10:00am

Attendees:

AJ Fossel, Audrey Marihugh-Bouck, Brandy Arnold, Carola Carassa, Cherie Elahl, Colene Johnson, Colleen Luehl, Connie Bellows, Danielle Simmons, Deanna Howland, DeDe Esque, Eleanor Moreno, Erin Skidmore, Erin Webley, Gordie Moeller, Heather Hughesian, Jane McGookey, Jeff Hoyh, Jill Meyer, Julie VanGessel, Jen Ford, Kristi Ayers, Shawn Keener, Stephanie Marino, Wende Randall, Stephanie McKendry, Chelsea Totten, Sara Westoby, Leila Alattar, Crystal Tunstall, Allison Rudy

I. Introductions: Emily Schichtel

- Minutes, May 2018

Motion to approve: Jim

Seconded: Heather

Motion Passed, Amendment:

II. The Rapid: Michael Bulthuis

Michael presented this upcoming system. The Wave card is an account-based card, so the value lies in the account and not the physical card. Cards can be purchased online, at the station, and in the future many retail outlets. Businesses or organizations will be able to handle their own accounts they can manage. Instead of buying a ride, with the new card you are buying time. A client will have 105 minutes to use as many transfers within that period. To be more equitable, once the daily, weekly, monthly caps are met the client is riding at no extra cost. The card-based system will eventually phase out, depending on how popular the Wave is.

III. Policy Update: Michigan League for Public Policy

Farm Bill- This iteration of the Farm bill failed because of the loss of benefits and the ties with immigration. Now there is a bipartisan bill that is essentially the same as past bills, with some increased funding. Seniors and disabilities will not have to re-apply every year but every two or three. There is also increased funding for Native American reservations. Currently, this bill is being marked up in the Senate. The House is also drafting a revised bill. Two concurrent bills being worked on in both the House and Senate could be very problematic. Interested parties should reach out to their House representatives and voice their support of the bipartisan bill.

IV. Invest Health Update: Emma Garcia

Grand Rapids is one of 50 mid-sized cities in the Invest Health network. The group is looking at how wealth and health are related (ie when one is wealthier, usually one is healthier). A delegation was sent to Minnesota to learn about food co-op and other best practices. Last week a delegation from



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Minnesota came here for a similar learning opportunity to the goings on in Grand Rapids.

V. Table Work

Groups will continue table work in the framework that has been operating here for the last year. Groups should continue with their “if-then” statements, the steps to accomplish these statements, and refine “hope” statements.

Highlights:

Community/Advocacy- Use a StoryCorps type interview to turn into a podcast. Go to pantries to engage with the clients.

Health- Narrowed hope statement.

Policy- Living wage discussion. In between meetings to connect with other organizations that do this work. Look into paid sick time with Mother Justice.

Education- Frame the education program within some of the questions raised last meeting. Making sure beneficiaries know the whole system when asking questions. They are also looking into where they intersect and hold events/ programs.

VI. Announcements

Join the Food Co-op (get link to put out). June 28th 7:00 at the Dominican Center there will be an environment issue event with legislatures. Carola asks if anyone is interested in FitKids 360 they are still looking for mentors. Wende asks the group to send flyers and information to the ENTF.

VII. Next Meeting/ Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 11 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Kent County Health Department, Lake Superior Room 700 Fuller Ave NE