



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019, 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Emily Schichtel, Eleanor Moreno		
Meeting Attendees:	Anna Almanza, Austin Roelofs, Becci Kolenda, Cait Melamed, Catherine Landers, Deanna Howland, Eugene Sueing, Gordie Moeller, Jim Holkeboer, Julie VanGessel, Kamara Sudberry, Karrie Brown, Kelly Hagmeyer, Jayme Vosovic, Breanna Petrucciani, Tanya Henry, Katie Geith, Amie Kolenda, Brittany Mastenbrook, Emily Schichtel, Eleanor Moreno Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	8:30	Time Adjourned:	10:10

Introductions			
Carola facilitated a stand up, sit down activity focusing on how the different ways people were impacted by the polar vortex.			
Approval of Minutes		From January 9, 2019	
Motion by:	Gordie	Support from:	Jim
Discussion	None		
Amendments	None		
Conclusion	Motion Passed		
Policy Update			
Discussion			
<p>There is a comment period on the website until April 2 to stop the waiver for time limits on those who do not have dependents.</p> <p>Food assistance is at risk. After the renewal of SNAP through the farm bill, the Administration is now proposing to take away food assistance through harsh cuts and changes to SNAP. Federal law already limits SNAP eligibility to just three months out of every three years for unemployed and underemployed adults without dependent children unless they can document 20 hours of work a week. States can request waivers to exempt people from the time limit, such as those in areas with high unemployment or those who lack a high school diploma or face other high barriers to employment. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed making the existing time limit even harsher. USDA’s proposed rule would undercut states’ ability to waive these time limits in many areas where there are too few jobs. By USDA’s own estimates, its proposal would eliminate SNAP benefits for 755,000 adults and cut SNAP benefits by \$15 billion over 10 years. If we generate lots of comments opposing this proposed rule, we may be able to prevent some of the harmful consequences by delaying the final version of the rule or forcing it to be changed. The deadline to submit comments is April 2. Here are some digital comment platforms to make this process as easy as possible. Feel free to use any of the options below that work best for your organization, or you can leverage your own platform to tailor the page to your audience. Remember, to customize your comment (at least 30% of it needs to be original). Below are some templates you can use to get started:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feeding America comment platform: http://bit.ly/FASNAPComments ○ The Center for American Progress comment platform: handsoffsnap.org ○ Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) comment platform: http://www.frac.org/timelimitcomments 			



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Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Weather Activity	Emily Schichtel	
Discussion		
<p>Last week there were several meetings responding to the polar vortex and the impacts on the food system. In action teams, everyone discussed the successes and connections that had been made. Teams came up with ideas on how this could be done better in the future</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Table Discussion		
Discussion		
<p>Groups discussed how the community responded to the polar vortex and reported out general themes and ideas that were generated.</p> <p><u>Health</u>: weather crisis was similar to the shutdown. This provided an opportunity to look at how reliant the community has become on 'charity food'. This could lead to conversation about how to restructure the food system. Living wage and policy can be leverage points from this situation. The community needs to decide what the go-to resources are for messaging when these situations arise. This is also a good opportunity to look at what the closing policy is and how this impact employees.</p> <p><u>Education</u>: This was a great opportunity to see the community mobilization around sharing information, but there is a need to make sure the information is accessible to everyone, not just those in our networks. Perhaps policies and procedures need to be looked at in different organizations regarding when/how they decide to close/delay. If schools are quick to close, what is the community's main contact? Churches, community centers, restaurants, liquor stores could all be distribution sites. There is a need to build relationships between agencies and other community partners in the next few months.</p> <p><u>Community Power</u>: Perhaps there needs to be a policy around getting food to families on the front end, before the storm. Again, organizational policy around pay and snow days should be looked at. In Also, this group needs to develop shared language around what is considered an 'emergency'. Communication is important, specifically how is the communication is getting out to people who need food the most. GRPS/others district's robocalls are a possibility for getting communications out.</p> <p><u>Policy</u>: Make sure that organizations (211) who are sharing the information with community members have all the information. Look into Minnesota and the UP as this is 'normal weather' for them, see how they address situations like this. Moving forward, need to prepare for this to happen again.</p>		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Guiding and Near Star/Action Teams	Emily Schichtel	
Discussion		



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Action Teams reviewed the goals and activities for the year and discussed whether they fit within the near and guiding star.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
FitKids 360	Carola Carassa	
Discussion		
FitKids 360 is a stage 2 weight intervention program. They work with kids who are overweight or obese, specifically working with restructuring practices in the home. It is a 7-week program. They meet with families once a week for 2 hours, with a half hour of physical activity built into this time. The goal is exposure to different activities. They also provide a healthy snack. Their curriculum is evidence-based and focuses on habits around sleep time, screen time, physical activity. The goal is not for kids to lose weight, but to have kids level off the weight gain. They monitor and focus on goal setting. The focus is: reduction of screen time, increase in physical activity. Email or call Carola to if you're interested in becoming a mentor for these families.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Walk for Good Food	Erin Skidmore	
Discussion		
Access of West Michigan hosts Walk for Good Food every year. It starts at Park Church and is a 3 mile walk through the city. 13 agencies will receive funding from what is raised for the walk. Agencies being supported are those that work towards good food principles. This is an opportunity to mobilize community members around good food. There are lots of fun activities, snacks, music, etc. If you want to form a walk team to come out and support on that day, you are welcome to join!		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Announcements		
Discussion		
SNAP – Michigan is working on a March plan, this will vary drastically from state to state. SNAP benefits will likely come earlier in March than normal. Until information comes directly from DHHS, nothing is set in stone. Reachout to Youth – is this Saturday. It focuses on youth getting more exposure to the health field. The event is free from 8:00 – 2:00 for ages 7-11. Sign up! Breakfast and lunch are included. Moviemento Coescha – a for-profit correctional facility is being planned in Ionia, the organization is very much on the front lines. They want to make sure that there is no allowance for any for-profit correctional facility in the area/state.		
Adjourn		
Next Meeting: March 15th, The Other Way Ministries		