



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

Facilitator:	Eleanor Moreno, Emily Schichtel		
Meeting Attendees:	Allison Rudi, Austin Roelofs, Ayanfe Free, Becci Kolenda, Brittany Mastenbrook, Carissa Patrone, Carola Carassa, Catherine Landers, Chelsea Totten, Danielle Simmons, Eleanor Moreno, Emily Schichtel, Erin Skidmore, Eugene Sueing, Heather Hughesian, Jill Myer, Jim Holkeboer, Julie VanGessel, Kamara Sudberry, Karrie Brown, Kelly Hagemeyer, Kendra Valkema, Linda Jones, Michelle Meulendyk, Nicole Karl, Shawn Keener, Tanya Henry, Trish Alabo, AJ Fossel, Laura Luchies, Alyssa Stickney, Lisa Silvaggio, Rachel Borashko, Neil Carlson, Tania Bermejo, Megan Grattan, Liz Washington, Mandy Joslyn, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio		
Time Convened:	8:40	Time Adjourned:	10:01

Introductions			
Review of Minutes		From April 10, 2019	
Motion by:	Jim	Support from:	Jill
Discussion	None		
Conclusion	Motion Passed		
Kent County Community Food Survey Results			
Discussion			
<p>The collaborative food survey was a partnership with Calvin’s Center for Social Research, Access of West Michigan, Kids Food Basket, pantries, ENTF, and others with support from Amway, Michigan Health Endowment, and United Way. The survey looked at the overall health of neighborhoods. The survey recognized that there is not just one need that individuals have when they come into services. Many needs are directly affected by their neighborhood.</p> <p>The purpose of this survey was to get input from Kent County community members around access, consumption, existing resources, and more. The team used existing measures when applicable, including USDA’s food security measure. Surveys were available in print and online. They distributed the survey in 3 ways – mailings to randomly selected addresses, community site partnerships, emails and online listservs. There was a pretty good breakdown of respondents across age groups and income categories. There was a slightly higher representation of non-white respondents compared to Kent County population. People with higher education were more likely to respond. There was a high number of respondents from the greater Grand Rapids area. This area was oversampled because most community agencies are located there.</p> <p><u>Overall Findings</u></p> <p>Neighborhood Health - participants graded their neighborhoods based on the availability of fresh foods. Lower scores were given to zip codes in the City of Grand Rapids, and some to the north.</p> <p>Food access - they used 6 items from USDA's food security measure and coded responses based on how USDA metrics for food security. There were huge differences in responses based on how</p>			



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participants were recruited. In the random address selection, there was a low number of respondents with food insecurity. This is likely the most representative of the entire county. Through online promotions, the amount of food insecurity doubled. Recruitment through community sites showed the highest level of food insecurity amongst respondents. This shows that agencies are serving the right people. In addition, they asked about potential barriers including expense, time, availability, and transportation.

Food acquisition – half of respondents say that they are getting their food from supermarkets/grocery stores. A breakdown of the results by grades that people gave to neighborhood showed differences in access. Those who give their neighborhoods high grades are most likely to always use supermarkets. On the other hand, people who gave their neighborhood the lowest grade are more likely to always get food from drug stores.

Consumption – the survey asked if participants ate vegetables and fruits yesterday. Across all income levels, the more money a household has, the more likely they are to consume vegetables and fruits. Next, researchers asked participants if they would enjoy a free buffet of only fresh vegetables or fresh fruits. When broken down by income, there was no pattern of relationship between income and desire to eat fresh foods.

Existing food resources – The survey asked which resources participants were aware of. Most respondents were aware of free food pantries. If respondents were aware of a resource, the survey asked how often a resource was used. Of those who are aware of resources, more did not have to use them. Free food pantries were the most used resource. For those who used resources, the survey asked how important each resource was in helping their family have enough food.

Possible New Food Resources –How likely would participants be to use other resources brought into Kent County in the future? The most strongly endorsed was additional, local, and affordable farm food options. “U-pick” options on an urban farm, a food co-op, and food delivery were also high.

Neighborhood Health – Asked participants how important changes would be to make neighborhood healthier? The most strongly endorsed items were about food - healthier school lunches, and more locally grown food. Other responses included income, childcare, transportation, housing, safer streets.

Challenges and Opportunities

Cost: participants are showing expense as the biggest barrier; this is underlined by income breakdown of how much fresh foods people are eating

Accessibility: resources tend to be concentrated in certain areas

Transportation: this issue does not impact all respondents, but it is an insurmountable barrier for those who experience it.

Time: to shop, plan, and prepare fresh foods, busy lives came up often

Awareness: especially around existing food resources in the community.



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Next Steps

Collaborating partners are reviewing results over the summer to identify quick wins and next steps moving forward. The full report and data visualizations will be made available in fall of 2019.

If you have questions, contact Laura (Laura.luchies@calvin.edu) or Allison (agr23@calvin.edu)

Once the data visualization is available online, community members will have the opportunity to cross-tabulate and explore each question based on responses to other questions.

Looking at advocacy issues, the consumption versus desire for consumption is important. This can be brought into conversations around which businesses are getting tax credits/opportunities to develop in certain neighborhoods so that fresh foods are being brought those neighborhoods. Thinking about master planning, these can be used to advocate that these should be priorities in all neighborhoods.

Thank you to all the partners in this project!

Action Team Table Time

Discussion

Action Teams met to discuss their goals and next steps for the next few months.

Policy – is hosting a letter writing event on May 20 at LINC UP.

Health – is revisiting their goals to see if changes should be made.

Education – will be meeting later this to work on their map of free classes along bus routes

Community Power – is figuring out meeting locations for the rest of the year. After this is completed, they are planning on spreading the lens of community power and engagement to other action teams.

Co-chair Update

Discussion

If you are interested and want to learn more about the co-chair position, please connect with Emily, Eleanor, Wende, or Brianne. A survey monkey will be sent out to vote on the co-chair position.

Agency Updates

Discussion

- FitKids 360 is a stage 2 weight intervention program that works with entire families. They are getting ready to run their 5k! They are recruiting volunteers to serve as mentors and train with the families. Training is on Tuesday or Thursday nights at the Kroc Center. There are two race dates in August. If you are interested, contact Carola at (ccarassa@healthnetwm.org)
- Baxter Community Center has two upcoming events. The Annual Plant Sale will be June 1 9-noon at Baxter Community Center. Their Strawberry Jamboree will be June 13 at Joe Taylor Park from 3-7pm.
- Meet Up, Eat Up information will be hopefully shared next month.
- USDA has grant opportunities, please share any additional information you have with Wende and Brianne.

Adjourn

Next Meeting: June 12