



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2020, 8:30am – 10:00am

Facilitator:	Kam Sudberry		
Meeting Attendees:	Abigail LaLonde, Alyssa Stickney, Beverly Bouma, Bree Bode, Brianne Robach, Carola Carassa, Colene Johnson, Deanna Howland, Deja Van Oeveren-Goss, Eleanor Moreno, Emily Madsen, Emily Schichtel, Erin Skidmore, Janelle Vandergrift, Jayme Vosovic, Jennifer Smith, Kamara Sudberry, Karrie Brown, Liz Washington, Mandy Joslyn, Melissa Rizer, Michelle Helner, Nicole Hansen, Phillip Greene, Rachel Bessire, Taylor Hartson, Wafa Haddad, Wende Randall, Tammy, Brittany Mastenbrook, Jeff Hoyh <i>(List may not be complete- please contact Brianne if you were on the call but are not listed here.)</i>		
Time Convened:	8:35	Time Adjourned:	10:01

Welcome and Reflection	
Tying the Work Together	
Discussion	
<p>Kam overviewed the topics that the group has been discussing over the past few months. As we look to FNC’s near and guiding star, want to ensure that conversations over the past 6 months tie into the group’s work moving forward.</p> <p>Over the past few months, conversations have focused on where we are now and began looking towards the future. Through conversations, have begun to challenge the status quo and discussed a common language, ultimately to shifting into uncomfortable conversations.</p>	
Shifting the Discourse	
Discussion	
<p>This framework comes from Eubanks Parish, and Smith’s work around shifting the discourse in schools. This work focuses on how we engage in conversations and how we set mindsets in difficult conversations. National Equity Project has been using this framework when discussing equity across the country. This is an opportunity to discuss shared language and messaging framework and to listen to each other and the community on where to go next.</p> <p>Discourse I: In this discourse, external standards are imposed into communities. Language in schools may reflect dominant set of values of privileged minority (or majority) which maintains existing values. As we think about the food system, what are some deficit-based terms that we hear regularly? Terms such as “food insecure” “minority” “historically underserved” impose power and values on others by helping or correcting – feeling that people were serving need help/structures/etc. to meet external structure placed on them</p> <p>Discourse I Attributes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on process, not results, - emphasis on symptoms and competency, - emphasis on authority (decision-makers, funders) - focus on answers and solutions 	



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Discourse II Attributes:

- look at stories and desired circumstances that the individual is seeking
- important to understand the causes and relevance of the work
- face realities of privilege and oppression
- focus on the experience of those we work with on a regular basis
- questions whether artificial standards are hinderances
- explores the uncomfortable

When shifting to the discourse II mindset, vulnerability is important. When thinking about organizational vulnerability, we often think about visibility and financial risk. In shifting discourse, want to focus on emotional vulnerability as individuals, and as leaders.

Organizational vulnerability requires:

- curiosity and listening
- care and connection instead of focusing on the process
- clarity and truth (not half-truths) instead of delivering the message through our own lens
- living into values
- coordinating to each other strengths and assets, not impose

Reflections:

- We often use abstract language. If we instead make it about a person, do we still talk the same way?
- Important to look at the program design and whether it is created to produce desired outcomes. What circumstances does the program create that sets client up for success or for failure?
- It is common nonprofits to take whatever resources are available, even if they do not along with core values. Orgs can make long-term change by building from values and leaning into difficult conversations with those who do not hold similar values. May lose something in the short-term, but this could lead to long term change. What if funders/supporters had to apply networks and organizations?
- Funding in service to those who are providing the service and not vice versa.
- Staffing and allocation of time – this work is deep and is slower than the fast-pace of today
- Think about collective power of collaborative in framing data and stories.

Poll Question and Discussion

Discussion

Poll question based on step 4 in Closing the Hunger Gap’s checklist: “How much of your organization’s official, public facing language reflects an understanding of poverty and food insecurity as a systemic and structural issue caused by racial and economic inequities and injustice?” Results: over half of organizations have a moderate to large amount of language around structural issues.

Ask organizations to think about the language they use each day – who is it for? How can you shift towards language that is person-centered and asset-based? Are you using the same language with funders and with clients? Also consider that when we change our language, we have to back it up with our actions and our values.



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Community Partner Updates	
Discussion	
<p><u>Access</u> - releasing Walk for Good Food Application next week</p> <p><u>ENTF</u> – Emily forming an action team around the data story conversations. Those interested should connect with her (emadsen@hwmuw.org)</p> <p><u>Revive and Thrive</u>: they are looking to compile document of resources for good food in community, email Michelle (michelle.a.helner@gmail.com) if you are interested in being added to this list.</p> <p><u>MLPP</u> - sign-on letter available to continue funds for eviction prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- COVID Food Access Update: Public Policy Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak in Michigan: FOOD ACCESS - MLPP	
Adjourn	