



Food & Nutrition Coalition Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2021, 8:30am – 10:00am

Meeting Attendees:	Abigail LaLonde, Alyssa Rickman, Alyssa Stickney, Bethany Oliver, Brianne Robach, Carola Carassa, Charles Walker, Cheyenne Beulterman, Colene Johnson, Crystal Scott-Tunstall, Deanna Howland, Eleanor Moreno, Emily Case, Emily Madsen, Emily Schichtel, Erin Skidmore, Gordie Moeller, Heidi Vanderlaan, Jayme Vosovic, Jennifer Smith, Julie Brunson, Kamara Sudberry, Karrie Brown, Katelyn Benvenuti, Katie Vanderwal, Kelly Glas, Lindsey DeShetler, Nancy Cromley, Nicole Hansen, Rachel Bessire, Raycheen Sims, Taylor Hartson, Teresa Hendricks, Tracy Booth, Wafa Haddad, Emily Case (FFN), Sara Flanders <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

Reflection

Discussion

Erin shared a reflection from *Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times* by Katherine May

"Once we stop wishing it were summer, winter can be a glorious season in which the world takes on a sparse beauty and even the pavements sparkle. It's a time for reflection and recuperation, for slow replenishment, for putting your house in order.

Doing those deeply unfashionable things - slowing down, letting your spare time expand, getting enough sleep, resting - is a radical act now, but it is essential. This is a crossroads we all know, a moment when you need to shed a skin. If you do, you'll expose all those painful nerve endings and feel so raw that you'll need to take care of yourself for a while. If you don't, then that skin will harden around you.

It's one of the most important choices you'll ever make."

Fair Food Network & EMU REACH Project Updates

Discussion

Emily Case is with the Fair Food Network and supports making Double Up Food Bucks (DUFb) available in locations across the state of Michigan. DUFb tokens often work well for farmers market type settings, but not for stores. Instead, many stores use the Double Up Card as it allows neighbors to accrue a balance and can be used at multiple locations.

Early in the pandemic, they saw an increase in program use, likely due to added sites, removal of the daily spending cap, and expanded hotline hours. They also launched a mobile app, My Fresh Wallet. With the app, individuals can view their balance, updates, and locations as well as access their DUFb card. They are working to add different features. In 2021, working to ensure that DUFb is accessible as possible by expanding tech, expanding use throughout the community.



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Rachel is with EMU and is the coordinator for the REACH project. She has been working with Fair Food Network to expand DUFB in specifically Asian America stores. Common barriers include connecting with the point-of-sale system and staff capacity. She shared that SNAP incentives are a triple win for families, farmers, and communities. A report from this month shows the estimated economic contribution of extending SNAP and DUFB would be \$50-128M. The team and local advocates are continuing to work in moving towards greater effectiveness by reducing barriers for stores and markets.

Community organizations can help by sharing information about DUFB with neighbors. A toolkit and more information is available: <https://doubleupfoodbucks.org/get-involved/get-double-up-materials/>

In breakout groups, attendees discuss what they learned, what they want to know more about, and their call to action.

Systems Change

Discussion

Wende summarized the different conversations over the past few months and years. Have first established guiding star and near star a few years ago. Recently, looked at the conditions of systems change, the stages of change, and managing complex change.

In managing complex change, vision, skills, incentives, resources, and an action plan are all necessary for change to occur. Without one of these pieces, we may feel frustrated or anxious and may experience resistance, confusion, or false starts. Wende identified current skills, incentives, and resources that the group has discussed over the past few months and introduced the idea of creating a theory of change (TOC) as an action plan. A TOC would help the group articulate how change will occur, roles in working towards this change, and illustrate how we will get to the overall goal.

The ENTF Economic and Workforce Development subcommittee recently developed a TOC which shows activities of WFD agencies, the conditions necessary for those activities to be successful, and the activities of the WFD subcommittee in ensuring condition exist.

Take-aways & Next Steps

Discussion

- Further conversations around:
- Reaction versus action
 - How ENTF ties into broader community initiatives

A small group will begin to draft a Theory of Change. Through this process, the hope is also to review, affirm, and/or modify action teams.

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

Kent School Services Network (KSSN) at Stocking Elementary are trying to take advantage of events like food trucks to get resources out. We will host a Feeding America food truck on 3/9 and are looking to partner with others to get other food resources to our community members' hands.



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Salvation Army Social Services – they are piloting a Client choice pantry option this week and it seems to be going well so far! Clients in the community can receive food assistance in our emergency food pantry here at Salvation Army if needed up to 6 times in a year now, 30 days between each visit. Food pantry hours are M-F 9am-12noon and 1:00pm-4:00 pm.

Tracy Booth would like to be a resource for this group or any group as a community-based dietitian, feel free to contact her at 616-560-5696

Meeting slides:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cLte9XbKsvHKI2BBJq5noPa6lq4loWnl/view?usp=sharing>

Adjourn