



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

Meeting Attendees:	Aaron Estrada, Alyssa Rickman, Alyssa Stickney, Amy Klinkoski, Beverly Bouma, Bree Bode, Brianne Robach, Brittany Mastenbrook, Carola Carassa, Chelsea Totten, Colene Johnson, Crystal Scott-Tunstall, Emily Madsen, Emily Schichtel, Erin Skidmore, Heather Milks, Janelle Vandergrift, Jayme Vosovic, Jennifer Smith, Julie Brunson, Julie Melia, Julie Stimmer, Kamara Sudberry, Katelyn Benvenuti, Katherine Carbajo, Kelly Glas, Linda Jones, Matt Channing, Phillip Greene, Rachel Bessire, Scott Bloem, Taylor Hartson, Wende Randall <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: The Ruling Class and The Buffer Zone	
Discussion	
<p>The leadership team recently discussed The Ruling Class and The Buffer Zone article and how as individuals and as a system we uphold the buffer zone. Attendees reflected on the article in breakout groups. Reflections include conversation around de-professionalizing nonprofit positions (staff and board) and increasing opportunities for teaching and training to increase the voices of those with lived experience.</p> <p><u>Call to Action:</u> Following this meeting, members are encouraged to bring this reflection to their organizations and networks and continue reflecting on ways unjust systems are upheld and how those in the buffer zone have the power to shift towards justice. Identify one thing you can do in the community to shift towards just systems.</p>	
Near Star and Guiding Star	
Discussion	
<p>In 2018, the group went through journey of understanding landscape of food system and considered how the system in Kent County could work towards the tenants of the Michigan Good Food charter. FNC's near and guiding stars which are stars are resident-driven and asset based came out of this process.</p> <p>Guiding star, or vision: All Kent County residents are food secure with access to fair, green, affordable, and healthy food (Good Food Charter) and participate in a culturally welcoming local food system that promotes justice, equity, affordability, and health. With a resident driven food system, the local economy is thriving and vibrant, interconnected to multiple sectors, and supported by smart and equitable policies.</p> <p>Near star, or intermediate goals: Kent County residents understand and advocate for the tenets of the Good Food Charter: fair, green, affordable, and healthy food for all. Residents participate in the local food economy through investment, involvement, and increasing economic development as</p>	



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consumers, donors, educators, policy-makers, practitioners, entrepreneurs, decision makers, and advocates.

In breakout groups, attendees discussed terms including “resident-driven” and “smart equitable policies” used in the stars and how these stars align with direct and indirect work of individual organizations. In addition, groups identified ways in which organizations are involved with and advocate for a resident-driven good food system.

Staff will take the notes from today’s breakout groups and use them to inform a shared vocabulary conversation during next month’s meeting.

Shared Vocabulary

Discussion

Kent County Food Policy Council Updates

Discussion

Janelle Vandergrift is the coordinator for the Kent County Food Policy Council which is currently forming. The Formation Team held listening sessions in 2018 around the policy priorities for Kent County. The top priorities identified were food equity, sovereignty, justice, and health. There will be 16 positions on the council. The application for interested members closes on March 15th. The group will be partnering with the Michigan Food Policy Council network and hopes to coordinate activities with FNC and other coalitions working for systems change in Kent County.

Member Application:

- In English: <https://forms.gle/VeTjdptWYhE6YoCX8>
- In Spanish: <https://forms.gle/yBMXrBRRpCZ7vngX6>

Sign up to receive newsletters: <https://forms.gle/7Z39wUW6nYmrUgaz5>

If you have questions or would like to connect, contact Janelle: jvandergrift@hwmuw.org

Food Policy Council Slides:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1efkuOIQcyYfc68aqRs_B42FqPzIYIks739BsDKpTLds/edit?usp=sharing

Community Partner Updates

Discussion

ENTF is offering a free, 3-part training on Survey Basics. Register at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcudOysqz0pGNacXJ6mPUwJjQRfI99I0ka> If you are unable to attend or would like support with a related topic, please reach out to Emily at emadsen@hwmuw.org who is available to support your data-story work!

MLPP Legislative Update: Governor signed supplemental bill which includes the governor’s budget supplemental for the current year. This includes \$2.1 billion in additional federal authorization for the food assistance program, including:



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- An extension of food assistance benefits to school-age children missing out on free- or reduced-price meals due to school closures, as well as children under age six who would have received free- or reduced-price meals at a school or in a child care setting.
- An increase in food assistance benefits of 15% through June 30, 2021.

Check out More in the First Look: <https://mlpp.org/a-first-look-at-gov-gretchen-whitmers-2022-state-budget/>

Data Story Action Team: this team convenes regularly and has conversation around how organizations interact with folks in a way that honors their experiences. Connect with Emily if you are interested (emadsen@hwmuw.org)

The Food Co-op is having monthly Co-op Community Conversations on the third Wednesdays at 7 pm. Check their Facebook page ([Grand Rapids Food Coop Initiative | Facebook](#)) for information.

The Walk for Good Food is happening again (in your neighborhoods) this year! Form a team and learn more at: www.accessofwestmichigan.org/walk

Meeting slides:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSjtU2DnfqrlGp1Akw_X2kiGodVmVCl/view?usp=sharing

Adjourn