

CT Food Policy Council

Minutes

June 12, 2014

Attendees:

Members: Linda Drake, UConn; John Frassinelli, SDE (Chair); Linda Hubeny, DAS; Gloria McAdam, Foodshare; Mary Parizo for Lucy Nolan, EHC!; Linda Piotrowicz, DoAg; Bill Seedman, DSS

Participants: Helena Hoover-Litty, CT Association of Dietetics and Nutrition; Meg Hourigan, EHC!; Jenna Nicol, DCP; Peggy Zamore, DFMCC

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 AM

The minutes of the January meeting were amended to add Linda Hubeny as an attendee and to state that all states can implement Community Eligibility as of July 1. A motion to accept the minutes of the January meeting as amended was made by Gloria McAdam and seconded by Helena Hoover-Litty. The minutes were approved.

A motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting was made by Gloria McAdam and seconded by Helena Hoover-Litty.

There was no meeting in December or February.

Additions to the agenda:

SNAC Update

Future Collaboration between the CFPC and SNAP-Ed

Agency/Guest Updates:

DSS is:

- Plugging along with modernization. Their #1 priority is processing applications timely. After a soft rollout of the new online application in Nov, DSS has received 22,000 online applications to date.
- Supporting the USDA Summer Meals program again
- Moving ahead with a new integrated eligibility management system called *ImpaCT*.
- Farmers' markets interested in becoming certified to accept SNAP at their markets should contact Bill Seedman for information, data, etc.

DSS is having a problem with clients not reporting when their income exceeds the limit for their household, which results in quality control errors. They are addressing the issue internally but are also asking their community partners to help educate SNAP recipients about this requirement as well.

EHC!:

- Summer Meals Blitz Week starts June 14 with a big event in New Haven. There will be blitzes in several towns the following week and a couple of days toward the end of June.
- EHC! is recruiting and coordinating volunteers for the Color in Motion 5K scheduled for June 14. EHC! was selected as the charitable cause by Color in Motion (CIM) and will receive a donation based on the number of volunteers recruited and the number of runners.
- Meg Hourigan has completed her year of service as an Anti-Hunger VISTA.
- EHC! has hired 2 Summer Youth Ambassadors who will work on Summer Meals.

Danbury Farmers' Market Community Collaborative:

Peggy distributed an update on the Collaborative's activities.

Foodshare:

Gloria reported that CT will finally receive funding for the Commodities Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), a program for which CT has had approval to implement for many years but for which there were no federal funds. Sen. Chris Murphy had been working very hard to get the funding and his office recently notified Foodshare that funding had finally been approved and that CT would receive enough to help 3,000 seniors.

Foodshare met their goal for their annual Walk Against Hunger and raised \$670,000.

Dept of Agriculture:

Linda Piotrowicz has been appointed by Commissioner Steven Revitsky to represent DoAg on the Food Policy Council.

Linda also serves on the Governor's Council for Agriculture Development. She provided the following information about the Council:

The Council is now in its third year and is in the process of developing its recommendations.

The Council started with 12 working groups. It was found that there was substantial overlap so the Council consolidated those 12 groups into the following 4 work groups:

- Food Safety Modernization
- Wholesale Markets and Infrastructure
- Producer Education and Innovation
- Marketing

The proposal to enhance and improve the Hartford Regional Market is well underway. It will be done in phases.

State Nutrition Access Committee (SNAC) Update:

Meg Hourigan has completed her year of service as an Anti-Hunger VISTA. Her assignment was to convene the agencies and organizations involved with the federal food assistance programs to form a State Nutrition Access Committee (SNAC) with the purpose of building a state plan to maximize access to and participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Women, Infants and Children's Supplemental Nutrition Program (WIC), Child Nutrition Programs. Meg presented copies of the final SNAC plan to the Council.

Meg also provided highlights of the SNAC's activities over the past year:

Two surveys of community organizations and WIC staff to ascertain the level of their knowledge of and providing information about all of the federal food assistance programs.

Recommendations about implementing the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in CT.

Creating a multi-program informational brochure to be distributed by WIC staff, community organizations, food pantries and the state agencies that administer the federal food assistance programs.

Collaboration between the CFPC and SNAP-Ed:

Helena Hoover-Litty informed the Council that the new guidance for SNAP-Ed, the nutrition education component of SNAP, included a new component that would allow nutrition educators to become more involved in the overall food environment, as compared to limiting their activities to direct education. An example would be educating food pantries so that they offer healthier foods in their packages.

Linda Drake informed the Council that some faculty from the Yale Rudd Center will be going to UConn as of Jan 1, 2015 and may be assisting UConn to evaluate its SNAP Ed activities.

Local Food Policy Councils:

Peggy Zamore reported that a follow-up meeting of local food policy councils, as recommended at the recent statewide meeting, was productive.

Next Meeting:

Thursday, July 10, 2014 from 1 to 2:30 PM

Locations: Room, 2600 at the Legislative Office Building.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM