

Connecticut Food Policy Council  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, June 18th, 2015

**Attendees**

Members: Marcia Maillard, (DPH); Lucy Nolan, (EHC!/Vice Chair); Linda Drake (UCONN); Don Casella (DAS); Stephen Anderson (DoAg); Linda Drake (UCONN); Bill Seedman (DSS); Stan Sorkin (CFA)

Guests: Fran Freer, (CHCACT); Jessica Mahon, (EHC!); Ellen Sloan (CT DCP); Adam Rabinowitz (UCONN); Josh Stoffel (CT College/NLFPC); Peggy Zamore (DFMCC); Helana Hoover-Litty (CAND); Julie Risinit (Nurse/Student)

The meeting was called to order at 1:00pm

Approval of the February, March, and April meeting minutes was moved by Marcia Maillard and Donald Casella seconded the motion – they were unanimously approved.

**Agreement for services with UCONN:**

Marcia Maillard motioned to approve the payment of \$5,000 to UCONN for their services in completing the Community Food Security Report. That motion was seconded by Donald Casella and there was a unanimous approval. Marcia Maillard brought forth a second motion to amend an additional \$10,000, if available, for the Community Food Security Report. The motion was also seconded by Donald Casella and was unanimously approved.

**Additions to the agenda:**

- Adam Rabinowitz from UCONN gave a brief report on the Community Food Security Report. He presented what rankings would be included in the report and emphasized that this report will highlight local food policy councils, organizations, and existent campaigns around the state that address food security. Adam also reported that they will be engaging in a new outreach plan that include accepting proposals from local food policy councils and other organizations who would like to host a presentation of the report in their community. When asked what food assistance programs were being presented in the report, Adam stated that WIC, SNAP, School Breakfast, and School Lunch were used and his data sources included American Community Survey, WIC, and DPH.

- Josh Stoffel from Connecticut College shared what has been happening with the New London Food Policy Council. CT College will be serving as the administrative backbone of the council where there will be 6 student positions. One will coordinate the activities of the council and five will focus on initiatives. They're also planning a county-wide food hub feasibility study, conducted through a grant provided by the USDA.

**Hospital-Community Collaboration follow-up/survey results:**

Lucy Nolan began by giving a brief summary of the Hospital-Community Collaboration event, from the various places that the USDA Under Secretary Kevin Concannon visited, to the state departments that were represented at the event. Jessica Mahon then reported on the survey

results from the evaluation that was sent out to all the attendees. There were 35 respondents total, and some of the results included positive reviews of speakers presentations, and the usefulness of the presented topics. There was an overall consensus that more time was needed in the end for table discussion. In light of these results, the subcommittee for the Hospital-Community Collaboration event agreed that the council had fulfilled its original goal in providing a platform to start the conversation in CT on Hospital-Community collaboration and that the CFPC can be an ongoing resource to the community.

### **Local Food Policy Council Updates:**

Jessica Mahon reported briefly on Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport Food Policy Council, as well as on her first meeting with the Danbury Farmers Market Community Collaborative. Below are a few highlights from each council

#### **Hartford**

- The council is finalizing their annual report, as well as their evaluation report. They explored ideas on how to disseminate the report to key audiences. Key people mentioned included the Mayor, mayoral candidates, city officials, and others.
- Dawn Crayco discussed the Summer Meals Blitz that will be happening in Hartford on June 25th. She mentioned that there was an overall 13% increase in participation in areas where blitzes are conducted. She asked for volunteer support.
- Hartford will have 3 neighborhoods that have been given the Promise Zone designation where a government liaison will work with the community to provide technical support, help find resources, and address several issues within that neighborhood.

#### **New Haven**

- The Food Assistance Working group reported that New Haven's Summer Meals blitz will be on Saturday 21st. This year they have 92 meal sites and major outreach efforts have been underway to spread the word.
- The Commodity Food Supplemental Program is has been actively sending food out in New Haven to older adults. They are looking to expand the program next year, there is already a long waiting list of those who would like to be on the program
- The council gave an update on the Food Systems Director position. They met with the city to review the process moving forward to get the position filled. A job description will be created as well as an exam to be taken by the applicant since it's a civil position. A small interview committee will be put together from the council as well. The council will also be updating their work plan to align with the job description of the Food Systems Director position

#### **Bridgeport**

- The council reported that enough money has been raised to double SNAP dollars this summer and farmers will be running their own SNAP machines as well, this will help shift the administrative burden. Also a full time staff person will be hired to manage all the farmers market sites in Bridgeport.
- In evaluating their working groups, the council sees an opportunity to create a new working group geared towards child nutrition. They already have interest from the Bridgeport's Schools Nutrition Director and others.

#### **Danbury Farmers Market Community Collaborative**

- Opening day for Danbury's farmers market is June 26th and the market will feature new programs for seniors. They will offer \$15 vouchers to all seniors as well as \$15 vouchers for veterans.
- The market will be doubling SNAP up to \$15 and a pre-market info session will take place to get more people to use their SNAP benefits at the market
- The collaborative will receive an intern from Westconn to do price comparisons between what is offered at the market and at grocery stores.

**Agency or Guest Updates:**

**DPH:** Marcia Maillard reported that WIC is continuing in establishing its MIS system, which will be similar to EBT, and it is scheduled to be up for 2016. She also reported that Waterbury is creating a city coalition to work on healthy corner stores. They will begin by hosting community conversations and they also intend on creating their own local food policy council.

**DoAg:** Stephen Anderson reported that CT hosted a visit from Commissioners of agriculture from across the US. They toured various sites around CT surrounding agriculture. He also reported that the national conference for Commissioners of Agriculture will be hosted in CT next year.

**Next Meeting: TBD**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm