

Meeting Minutes
July 9 @ 9am

Chat Box notes in Italics

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Last week reviewed the Infrastructure grant and LEAF program, please reach out to Jose if you have further questions

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- During the LEAF call, they said that the MDAR grant allowed staff time – but this is not true

Wendy Garf-Lipp(United Neighbors of Fall River):

- We have continued our program - United Way collaboration
 - o Week 10-11 of our program, will continue to the end of July with meals
 - o 1 per week delivery to approx. 275 families, 25 homeless families
 - 2 trays per food prepared by restaurants
 - And rotating produce boxes every other week (too much food in some cases!)
 - Have removed families that no longer need them, and added families that have gotten Covid
 - o Transitioned school pick up meals to Grab and Go lunches at park
 - There is not a requirement to eat at the park
 - Breakfast and lunch is given
 - There is no shelter for giveaway sites, so rain is an issue, especially if there are 3 days in a row of rain

Dave Perry:

- Had several days with numbers back into the 50's, but fell back into the 20's after that
- We will be keeping steady until the numbers return
- Would be great if people can send out information that we are open (we have flyers)

Wendy:

- Can send out electronically to about 5,000 people

Stephanie Mancini (YMCA Fall River):

- We anticipate to give out about 300 meals as we did last week
- Giving out Sid Wainer boxes every Friday

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Does anyone know what is happening at two markets Kennedy or Ruggles Park?
- Market at Health First behind the Auto Zone
 - o It has been quiet
 - o The location takes HIP
- Cardinal Medeiros location has had good turnout (near housing facility)

- 2-5pm on Fridays
- Karen is reaching out to another farmer to see about potential in a South end market

Marcia Picard:

- For Ruggles and Kennedy park, they have to get permits through the Health Department, so they might have information

Wendy:

- We have a letter going out to FEMA to fund Supplementary Food Programs.

00:07:13 *Kristi Marshall: My question regarding the grant is regarding a second SNAP/HIP equipment. Was there a deadline for applying for the SNAP equipment?*

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- You can apply for SNAP and HIP equipment – open through September 15th, once you get approved for the proposal

Krisiti Marshall:

- We don't need a new system, we just need a second piece of equipment

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- That would be a good thing to apply for through the Infrastructure grant

Carl Alves (PAACA):

- The USDA produce is going well, we are getting the transfer of boxes from NB Public Schools
 - Doing about 350 boxes, we are renting a refrigerated truck and moving boxes Tuesday and Wednesday
 - Several pop-up's including new one at Alma Del Mar, produce is moving quick
- Costa's has been a good partner – might be a good buyer for Costas

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Coastal Foodshed is buying a lot of product from farmers, that is being distributed to Food pantries through a SCCF grant

Pam Kuechler (Pace):

- We have seen an increase this week at our main office space
 - 100 at our main office which is huge
 - Getting a lot of produce from Elliot farm
 - Using USDA boxes for our Head Start folks
 - We added a pop-up at the Head Start location
 - Today's our first week
 - Hoping to grow numbers in the Park street neighborhood
 - YouthBuild kids are now on payroll and doing the warehouse work

Liz:

- The uptick could be from the running out of the P-EBT cards

Desa (Round the Bend Farm):

- We're hitting a point where our project is going well, and we have some excess vegetables of things that could be used in a kitchen (i.e. Radish, Cabbage – with holes, garlic-scapes)
 - o We give some to Daily Kitchen, who processes value added products and gives out
 - o Is there anyone in the area that may be able to do this more locally?
 - These have to be given away, not sold
 - And we have to track where it goes for our donors
- If there is a way to give these veggies to restaurants, where food is then given away

00:30:56 Rhonda Fazio: I will take some to process if you have excess.

00:30:57 Kristi Marshall: Desa, this is why I think a dehydration facility would be valuable for the region.

00:32:30 Kristi Marshall: Kristi.marshall@comcast.net

00:33:42 Rhonda Fazio: I can reach out to Steph to see how we can use it for the public

00:36:01 Rhonda Fazio: Can soup Kitchens use it?

Buddy Andrade (Old Bedford Village):

- We are developing a good network in the area
 - o Food Boxes went well, as well as food from PACE
- We are looking for a fridge/freezer for storage
- We are getting people from the West End as well through people coming through the basketball program
 - o How can other programs serve these families?

Sarah Cogswell (Livestock Institute):

- We have had to cut back on buying in bulk to serve more customers
- We are looking at our growing pains, and how to increase freezer space, etc.
 - o Applying for the infrastructure grant – we'll see how much equipment we can get from it
- Hoping that we can get more involved with the Food Security realm, with meats and proteins

Rob Shaheen (NB Food Service Department):

- Working with Parks department with the meal distribution and continuing the produce boxes
 - o Haven't been updated about whether the produce boxes have continued
- Still working out the scenario about how schools will return in the fall
- We are going to be looking at the old Shaw's building in New Bedford to see if this could be a temporary space for NB Food Service to move into, until we get into a culinary center

Buddy Andrade:

- What's happening around the Gomes School area?

Rob Shaheen:

- This is through the Parks Department, I am the vendor, the information should be on their website.
- Mon, Wed, Friday pickup for to go meals

Carol (Damien's Pantry):

- Our numbers continue to increase, and we will make another decision about opening up further in the near future

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- It is time for us to set up an official steering committee out of our current 250-person members-at-large email list
 - o Would love to have about 25 members that can participate in working group sub-committees focused on priority issues as highlighted from our Food System Assessment report that we should be wrapping up with by end of August
 - o Know we will need a Policy sub-committee and a Food Justice sub-committee
 - o Email me if you are interested in being on the steering committee

00:49:23 Adam Davenport: lwiley@marioninstitute.org

- The YWCA is putting together working groups on racial equity, one of which will be on Food Justice. There are several different categories of working groups that you could sign up for.
 - o You can sign up for the working groups up until Friday.

00:51:23 Liz Wiley: <https://ywcasema.org/what-we-do/racial-justice/>

Peter Muise (First Citizens):

- Everyone has a different definition of so many of these terms – have you gone through what this will mean for steering committees – i.e. how to define Food Security

Liz:

- Everyone may have a different definition; mine is making healthy food available to everyone, not limited access to zip code and socio-economic factors.
- There will be a process for determining who will be on the steering committee, want representation to reflect our region as a whole
- We will pull the steering committees together first, then with the Food System Assessment, we can see what the priority areas are to focus on for the first 2-3 years.

00:52:22 Wendy Garf-Lipp: *Food justice is a holistic and structural view of the food system that sees healthy food as a human right and addresses structural barriers to that right.*

00:53:46 Wendy Garf-Lipp: *A food justice lens examines questions of access to healthy, nutritious, culturally appropriate food, as well as: ownership and control of land, credit, knowledge, technology and other resources; the constituent labor of food production; what kind of*

food traditions are valued; how colonialism has affected the food system's development and more.

00:54:12 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: A related concept is that of food sovereignty, defined as people's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems.*

Desa (United Way GNB):

- Have you thought about the make-up of the groups, and balancing out representation?

Liz Wiley:

- We want to make sure that there is representation from all of the categories that are represented here, as well as youth, diversity, and range across the Southcoast.

Buddy Andrade (United Way GNB):

- The mayors commission on Police Violence had our first meeting yesterday afternoon
 - o If anyone has input into this, please reach out to me

00:48:41 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Whatever you need*

00:49:03 *Pam Kuechler: Happy to participate.*