

Meeting Minutes
Emergency Response to COVID-19
March 27 @ 3pm

OVERVIEW

Agenda: Liz Wiley

1. Identify Problems, Needs, Gaps
2. Assess Resources – who has supply
3. Identify Demand – Who needs resources and Prioritize this list.
 - a. Delivery Methods
 - i. Who is currently doing it?
 - ii. What are the barriers preventing it – CORI checks, how to vet and train helpers?
4. Implementation – how to assign tasks, support implementation?

Existing Conditions:

- Meals on Wheels Program is operating but needs additional staffing support for deliveries and food supply. Coastline is accepting new referrals.
- Food pantries Damien’s Pantry, PACE, Catholic Social Services are operating and are seeing increased demand
- New Bedford Public Schools have a robust network of Grab and Go sites (8) throughout the community.
- Hunger Commission is providing support for many pantries but is limited in staff and vehicles
- Food Bank will have produce market at Community Health Center on April 13
- St. Anthony’s Food Pantry has closed

New and Innovative Resources:

- United Way has a portal for area restaurants and food professionals to share their expertise and resources
- New meal delivery program for 100 people (expandable) sponsored by Harvard Pilgrim and operated by SC Food Shed, Immigrants Assistance, Yes We Van, Tia Marias and Destination Soups

Opportunities:

- Access to commercial kitchens for meal prep (Dartmouth Grange, Women’s Center, PAACA)
- Excess capacity on Boston Food Bank Deliveries if we can store supplies

Task List for 3/27-4/3 *open to folks who would like to help

Task	Responsible People*	Update/Outcome
Review current operations for existing Food programs in the region and create asset map, determine needs and capacity to expand	Carl, Josh	
Work with UW to support their commercial vendor portal	Anne	
Work with Food Bank partners to develop plans to expand orders, create warehousing and refrigeration expansion	Carl, Liz, who else?	

Convene all active pantries to solidify plan of action.	Carl, Josh, ??	
Develop a funding plan for the initiative	CFSEMA, United Way, Southcoast Health - others	

RECORD

(1) Identify Needs:

- **Carl Alves:**

We need to prepare for surge in numbers [of food needs], we need to work more collaborative to not replicate and meet needs; To prepare for the future situations.

How do we identify people in need, other than the folks that we know?

- **Kim, Steph, Coastal Foodshed (CFS):**

We may be missing elderly people through online resources.

Harvard Pilgrim wants to make sure that elderly, vulnerable pops and restaurants

- Getting a list of elders and vulnerable citizens will be getting meals from Tia Marias and Destination Soups
- Will happen by delivery starting this Monday (for those not on Meals on Wheels, or other distribution programs)
- Connect with Immigrants Assistance for new applicants.

(2) Supply:

- **CFS:**

Coastal Foodshed will be updating their services for order and delivery.

- Need to build capacity for this, including technology ordering/payment platform.

- **Christine Sullivan:**

All hot home delivered meals went out as scheduled (Meals on Wheels)

- Has 2 weeks of stock for clients
- In need of shelf stable meals

- **Rob Shaheen, NBPS Food Service:**

- 8 sites open for food distribution (closing one and opening at Normandin)
 - Shelf stable meals (not optimal on fresh, tasty, but meeting baseline nutrition needs)
 - Improving upon safety in terms of production (w/ one site compromised)
- Not set up for delivering meals... staff are at risk, need to limit interaction
- Food Service has extra food after ramping up (had up to 60k meals but did)
 - Was able to get 90% of unused products to United Way
 - Any district below 50% free and reduced could offer meals and get reimburse

- **Adele Sands, Bristol Aggie:**

- Brought perishable foods to New Bedford for Schools
 - Many more people will qualify for free and reduced, when they haven't in the past

- Can put information on MA Superintendents group page to get information out to them?
 - May have excessive amounts of hamburger and meats sitting at school (with spring events cancelled)
- **Liz W., Marion Institute (MI) :**
 - Is there a way to get the word out to restaurants to use food that could go to waste?
- **Anne Connolly Nichelson, United Way of GNB:**
 - Launched a form to restaurants, to see if there are food/materials to pass on to UW for food security reasons
- **Carl Alves:** How to get the word out (through NB Guide?)
 - Hunger Commission would pick up at the business location
 - Will also be doing non-perishable items out from YMCA (Ashley)
- **Ashley Brister (Dartmouth YMCA):**
 - Has access to walk in cool, that is being sanitized
 - If there was extra produce, they can store.
 - Limiting people in storage
- **CFS:**
 - Farmers are offering delivery services (CFS in Southcoast area)
 - Farmers markets may not be able to be open (depending on city BOH)
- **Liz W, MI:**
 - Livestock institute is a resource, will have excess ground beef.
- **Damian's and PACE**
 - Have capacity to increase orders from the Greater Boston Food Bank
 - GBFB is looking to fill a truck for delivery
- **United Way** picks up Sid Wainer donations, which has paused due to fires.
- **Desa Van Laarhoven, Round the Bend Farm (RTB):**
 - RTB is shifting gears to plant, looking longer term and looking to focus growing for community.
- (3) Demand:**
- **Adele Sands;**
 - Many more people will qualify for free and reduced, when they haven't in the past
 - Can put information on MA Superintendents group page to get information out to them?
- **Carl Alves:**
 - Are there commercial kitchens that people are using for grab and go meals?

- **CFS**
 - Could we use restaurants who are not in use?
- **Pamela Keucher, Women's Center:**
 - Has an empty restaurant (formerly trios – lots of space) that could be used, small but fully operational kitchen.
- **Emily, SEMAP:**
 - Dartmouth Grange is also open
 - Emily will share number to kitchen manager
- **Pamela:**
 - Currently running 3 shelters, thinking this will be a long-term thing
 - Shelters will be running out of food, and there are no delivery services working any longer
- **Carl Alves**
 - St. Anthony's food bank has closed (North End service)

(4) Delivery / Supply:

What we have in place:

- Meal delivery going on for 100 folks through CFS
- UW will be point for any restaurants and outside foods
- Yes We Van is doing some delivery (a lot of capacity / vans?)
- We have capacity to build enterprise
- YMCA has refrigerator space for storage of produce.
- **Coastline** is still taking new seniors into meal program
 - Access by calling Coastline
- Salvation Army can get people produce and meats
- **Damian's** food bank is available, getting orders from Greater Boston Food Bank
 - But agencies have to pick them up
 - They decide what they want -98% is free
- **Pam Kuechler, PACE** – is able to increase orders of getting more stock
 - Combination of specific orders, and what they have to give you.
- **UW** is picking up orders from Boston Food Bank for Citizens for Citizens and Salvation Army
- **Christine Sullivan**
 - Having trouble finding drivers for the Meals on Wheels program
 - What is the backup plan?
 - Can customers have backup stored/frozen?
 - Could customers get 5 shelf stable meals (Revolution Foods)
 - Not high quality in nutrition
- **Pamela, Woman's Center:**
 - Are we looking for paid or volunteer drivers?
 - has staff who would be interested (CORI'd)

- **Liz W:**
 - Do cafeteria workers have CORI's already in place
 - and would they want to be contracted to help
- **Rob, Food Service:**
 - Currently all cafeteria workers are being paid regular hours (so not available?)
- **Desa Van Laarhoven, Round the Bend Farm (RTB):**
 - Eva Green's has delivery trucks, and is open to helping food pantries, etc.

ADDENDUM: WEEKLY MEETING LOG-IN INFORMATION

Topic: Southcoast Food Policy Council Covid - Response Effort

Time: Apr 3, 2020 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Fri, until May 29, 2020, 9 occurrence(s)

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