

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Emergency Response to COVID-19**  
**April 3 @ 3pm**

**(1) Identify Needs and Gaps**

**Liz W:**

- What remains is an issue getting access to fresh produce (& bread, milk)
  - o But shelf stable goods are still stocked and seem to be coming in from GBFB consistently so far
- Need for PPE (masks, gloves and hand sanitizer)
- Need Safety guidelines
- Delivery is still an issue (home delivery needs time and attention)
  - o Distribution center
    - What if something happened to GBFB
- Pop up food pantries
  - o Are not registered with GBFB, so they need a partner. PACE will support in the Greater NB region. How to handle this outside of GNB?
- Been working with the Wareham YMCA on a hot meals delivery program. They may be able to take food from Damien's Pantry
- Damien's board has decided to shut down their operation. Carol will look into seeing if they can still buy product and distribute to other pantries in need.

**Carl:**

- Need is increasing (lines are getting longer)
  - o People new to food pantries (how can we have education to improve experience)
  - o Scaffolding to expand capacity for food banks

**Pam (PACE):**

- Increasing capacity for this month
- Send Pam an email to see if she can help out sourcing from GBFB

**Carol (Damien's Pantry):**

- Food Pantry is closing
  - o Issue was not having protective equipment
- What will the message be to clients?
  - o Vets group in Fall River picking up food (trying to put out 1000 meals per week)
  - o Marion COA will pick up remaining supply
- Pam: Will Damien's still be able to receive delivery?



- o Goal to be a pick up center, but it's uncertain
- Carl: is there a way to use other volunteers to run the pantry?
  - o Carol will look into it, but general feeling of board was to close

#### Liz Berube (Fall River):

- Open 3 days per week (days?)
  - o Many food pantries have been closed
    - Hard to follow regulations (BOH have given warnings)
  - o Supplying food to St. Anne's food pantry
  - o Police Department drop emergency drop offs
  - o First step Inn (shelter) and Stepping Stones
  - o A lot of new customers
    - Weather has been an issue (decreased numbers)

#### Connie Rocha-Mimoso:

- Lisa from Medical Reserve Corps has volunteers that we could use

#### Deirdre Healey:

- Food Finder App
  - o Trying to work on effectiveness
  - o In 3-4 weeks, they may need Alpha testing (from food pantries program)

#### Victoria (UW):

- List of Food Banks w/ information
  - o Should be out by Monday

## **(2) Demand**

#### Carl and Josh Amaral:

- How can we maximize level of food?
  - o Storage and distribution
- Inventory and flow to pantries
  - o If anyone has relationships to commercial food vendors, we need to have conversations for sourcing (potential funding for purchase as well)
    - Preparing for resilience that this will continue

#### Liz:

- United Way has a resource for restaurants to make donations of extra food

**Ken Raposa:**

- Chartwells still feeding students (100 students) on campus, and will send to Salvation Army
  - o Will reach out with extra food
- Carl: are there supply chains to tap into to fill needs if supply chain is challenged?

**Anne (UW):**

- Where does the supply from grocery stores go, when food pantries go?
  - o Carol: pick up donations from grocery stores, where could this be redirected
    - Could go to United Way
    - Jackie is taking care of this – connect with United Way

**Rob Shaheen:**

- Has distributors that will have expiring products
  - o Food Service can take them in and people can pick them up
    - NE Ice Cream, Thurston Foods,
      - Will find out more information on this potential
- Can we connect to area schools districts to get
  - o Rob part of Southcoast collaboration (13 districts)

**Desa:**

- Talked with Shy Brothers
  - o Not currently producing, but can make cheese
    - Mozzarella cheese comes in 10lbs bags
      - How can this connect with sourcing?
      - What is a price point that could work for them?
  - o RTB Commercial kitchen is in action and quarantined
    - What can they produce?
- Eva's Garden is going under
  - o Room for growing food – is there a partnership/
- Brought in funds to do 3 acres of growing for community
- Carl: Working on funds to be readily accessible

**(3) Programs Connecting at home delivery and meal pickup:**

**Liz:**

- How do we use funds coming in efficiently to support local economy (Farmers, Fisher people, restaurant)- scaling up the restaurant-to-at risk populations

**Kim:**

- Food Delivery service funded by Harvard Pilgrim Health Care
  - o Food from Destination Soups and Tia Marias
    - Delivered by Yes We Van
  - o Up to 200 clients (capped program)
    - Harvard Pilgrim was able to identify clients form their database(?)

**Liz:**

- Are there other funding partners to scale this program – we are doing it in Wareham with a homeless and elderly populations
  - o Homeless, immune compromised
    - Expand out of New Bedford?
- With everyone getting shelf stable items, how can we supplement with fresh and healthy foods

**Carl Alves:**

- Is there a 1 pager for this program?
  - o Is there a way to expand prior to finding full funding?
- **Kim: has a one-pager and will update it.**
  - o For organization who is identifying clients, important to have one key person in charge,
    - And screening for referral system (coming from trusted partners)

**Liz W:**

- Wareham
  - o YMCA and WACA
    - Pickup at the YMCA (no delivery)

**Scott Stubbs:**

- Doing a food drive delivery grocery bag?
  - o Did over 100 bags last Friday
- Doing work in Dartmouth and some in New Bedford
  - o Focused on elderly shut-in's
  - o And for front-line hospital workers at St. Luke's
    - Mobile pantry to help on shopping after working long hours
      - Grab and go at a soon to find location

**Liz W:**

- City of Cambridge using restaurants to those in need?



- Many issues associated with bringing food to front line workers.
- Have started to pursue larger restaurants that could make family style dinners for front line workers that they could pick up after their shift.

**Karen SEMAP:**

- Smaller farmers are looking to different markets

**Rhonda F:**

- is teaching cooking skills and preservation

**Chris Hendricks (State Rep):**

- Distribution center, what type of facility is needed?
  - o Most important is logistics it can support
    - Warehouse distribution dry space (refrigeration a plus)
      - Staff to organize and distribute

**Maura (Groundwork SC):**

- Teach remote based food growing
  - o Giving away seed kits to low income individuals
  - o 20 people signed up so far, capacity for 100-200
    - Room to scale

**Kim:**

- Will not be continuing indoor winter farmers market
  - o Using What's Good app for delivery
    - Typical vendors will be on it, for online order and delivery
  - o Curbside pickup for SNAP (HIP) payments curbside pickup on Thursday afternoon.

**Bill (SREPPD):**

- Could banks fund distribution under (CRA) their regulation
- Bill to send information

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## **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)

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly:  
[https://zoom.us/meeting/vJUtdumppj4i5ivcY73HPfx0faHUZORxzA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiprjoqG9yQuF\\_9Z7ItA4H9bvG1iyRHvKBky0zNMyZLMqX3Htd4HYBnCvmB](https://zoom.us/meeting/vJUtdumppj4i5ivcY73HPfx0faHUZORxzA/ics?icsToken=98tyKuiprjoqG9yQuF_9Z7ItA4H9bvG1iyRHvKBky0zNMyZLMqX3Htd4HYBnCvmB)

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**MARION INSTITUTE**  
**SOUTHCOAST FOOD POLICY COUNCIL**

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