

Meeting Minutes
Emergency Response to COVID-19
April 17 @ 3pm

Wendy Garf-Lipp, Community Connections:

- UW and Community Connections COVID Community response group in Fall River
 - o Food and Basic Needs Access
 - Enough funding to do 4 rounds
 - o Creating a feeding program to start this Thursday
 - o 100 Families identified, w/ no access to existing food sites
 - Got student info from Student Resource Officers
 - Have a hit list of approx. 250 families
 - o Working with several restaurants (TA and Harrys)
 - Meals will come cold with instructions to heat
 - o Volunteers will help from Baycoast bank
 - Boys and Girls Club is the Fiscal Agent
 - o For curbside delivery to families
 - Leaving bags on Sidewalk
 - o Will also be providing 50 bagged dinners for homeless
 - Connecting through Hearts of Hope organization
 - o Would like to work with area local farmers in the future to provide vegetables

Liz:

- Data base to connect food producers with others to sell produce
 - o Farmstanding.com
- Is there a place for extra ground beef from Meatworks?

Karen:

- There are many platforms
 - o Concern of duplication of platforms
- Need to streamline information to avoid confusion

Pam:

- Able to ramp of efforts of increasing supply
 - o Purchasing items to supplement delivery
 - o Increasing demands from pop ups starting next week
 - o Able to go to the Greater Boston Food Bank and receive delivery
 - Secured tractor trailer truck for 40K pounds of food
 - Need to set up bagging process for this
 - o Set up for delivery every Saturday if needed
 - o Will talk with Tori about needs of food moving forward

Carol (Wareham):

- Still supporting Marion COA and New Life church
 - o PACE picked up an order today
 - Will they need it in the future, post pick up?
- Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday
 - o Exploring options for safely distributing food
 - Issue in documenting # of people needed
 - Creates a safety issue while documenting

Debbie:

- Can help with distribution but are limited without refrigeration

Distribution issues?...

- How has YMCA in Fall River worked their pickup?
 - o Boxed food served in parking lots with a drive up and a walk-up option
 - Completely outside, prep-loading and distribution
- Ran out of food in 45 minutes and have increased over the days
 - o They have lifted registration
 - Stephanie Mancini
 - o 350 households have come through on last Wednesday
 - Food coming from Greater Boston Food Pantry

Liz:

- Volunteer Database
 - o Happening with United Way

Victoria, United Way:

- Volunteer Southcoast database
 - o Any non-profit is eligible to use the site for free
 - o COVID response has a specific page
 - o Victoria can help set up
 - Up to 5K volunteers looking for opportunities

Rob Shaheen, Food Service:

- Served 52K meals over the past 4 weeks
 - o Tuesday, Thursday schedule (supplying enough meals for in-between days)
 - Concern of staff exposure, lessening contact with public
 - Not seeing an uptick in meals, 8,900 to 14,000
 - Expects more with better weather
 - Planning to continue through end of school
 - Planning for summer distribution if needed.

Victoria:

- Someone looking to donate books
 - o Could they be distributed during meal distribution

Rob:

- Not directly at Food Table
- - Could do during the day, but not directly at the table

Sam T / Rob:

- Serving fresh fruits and vegetables from NASAF
- First week, they served perishables that were in storage
 - o Moved to shelf stable products
 - o Now moving towards adding fresh fruits and vegetables
 - From FFVP about \$25K for purchase
 - o Supply can be tight, with many districts looking for perishable products

Liz:

- Is there a way to use funds to purchase from local restaurants?
 - o Restaurants are happy to do family style meals

Rob:

- Have procurement contracts with vendors
- But there could be potential to work together for purchasing from large distributors or purchase from restaurants
 - o Are Farmers markets going to be opening?

Liz:

- Could put in a page directing people to farmers markets and HIP program
 - o Coastal Foodshed is doing the mobile farmers market
 - o Currently there are issues with space and storage
 - o Also EBT cards for HIP are not allowed to be used over the phone?
 - o Looking for 3000sq ft of space
 - But would use less space at the moment?
- No current movement from Neil on the State Pier refrigeration fix

Carl:

- What are the space requirements for Farmers Markets?

Liz:

- Will reach out to Kim
- Office and refrigeration space is needed

Mike Mcarthy:

- Currently, In MA, it is not legal for SNAP customers to pay online. To continue providing an outlet for our SNAP/EBT customers to utilize their HIP benefits, we will open our 466 Brock Ave Offices on Thursday 12-5pm as a pick up location (Coastal Foodshed). Open for everyone, including the WhatsGood app.

Rob:

- There may be space in some of the schools determined on the size and need.

Pamela:

- Restaurant and walk-ins on Rivet Street
- Empty 90 seat restaurant, working kitchens, and walk-ins
- Traffic flow is not ideal

Bill Napolitano:

- Community Reinvestment Act: required bank funding
 - o Lending, mortgage services, etc. but also have provisions in time of disaster to do grants for areas that are challenged, socially, economically and environmentally
 - o Is there a bank that we could work with to untie these grants?
 - o Banks get evaluated on performance, could this support their review?

Liz can forward information – email her if interested.

Liz:

- There are issues for people who have not been on SNAP, but know need to be on SNAP

Karen:

- DTA is not currently taking up issues as they are onboarding new clients
 - o Currently it is a 6 month process to get through the paperwork
 - o Currently Amazon and Walmart can take online orders

Wendy:

- DTA technology is old and cumbersome
 - o Issues with onboarding new clients

Carl:

- Is there a way to determine excess supply that farmers are trying to move

Karen:

- Has not heard of excess supply
 - o But are in need of a good portal to do match making
 - Local farms are doing well currently with direct sales?

What is the income qualification for SNAP?

- 25% above the poverty level?

Wendy:

- Looking forward into the summer for needs from social and economic after effect
 - o What will the increase in service needs be?
 - o This is the stop gap assessment currently
 - But what will we need moving forward... this will be the new norm

Carl:

- Trying to capture some of the data of increased meals, can this be geo-mapped and organized?
- -What is the need, what are we working towards, who really needs the free food, and are we getting to them

Mike McCarthy:

- Public Policy Center, working with Southcoast Health to identify priority areas
 - o Re-evaluating needs for support
- Able to help aggregate and visualize data
 - o How can we better understand the gaps?
- 3-year process with Southcoast health
 - o Food insecurity is issue in Bristol County
 - Can position Southcoast health to allocate internal resources based off of data
 - o Public Policy Center is not on the street level, and does not know all of the players
 - They could do less of the gathering of the data, and more of the aggregating

Liz:

- Update of the 2014 Food System Assessment, is on pause
 - o How can we capture information from what is happening now?
 - This will help steer building sub-committees and local food economy.
 - Would love to be inclusive of all of the Southcoast communities
 - Liz will send the FPC email list to send to Mike to connect to resources for gathering data
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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)

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