

Meeting Minutes
Emergency Response to COVID-19
May 22 @ 3pm

Chat Box notes in Italics

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- After next week, would meeting on Thursday at 9am work?
 - o Would every other week meetings work?
- 10,000 boxes of vegetables will be sent out over the next 5 weeks
- Extending Cooks for Community for 2 further weeks

Josh Smith (My Brother's Keeper):

- Doing some emergency bed deliveries, but shifted furniture assistance to food
- Working in Brockton and Easton, and scaled up in Dartmouth
 - o Delivering 5 days per week
 - o Families in need can call the Brothers keeper helpline
 - #?
 - o Providing assistance in Westport, Dartmouth, Fall River, and New Bedford

Carol Cordeiro (Damien's Pantry):

- Just starting to get going
- Still supporting Marion COA, but this program will discontinue at the end of the month
 - o Clients can come to the pantry
- Still supporting Wareham COA

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- USDA Food from GBFB is not coming
- Doing a program for (McKenney Vento -any child deemed homeless) families that are deemed homeless to get families boxes of food
- Also doing bags for homeless in Morse Twist Drill areas (south end)

Meghan Rogers (United Way FR):

- Fifth weeks of Feed Fall River program
 - o 180 families
 - o Groceries, soup from Blount
- Hoping to increase to 200 families including USDA families

Rob Shaheen:

- Continuing the summer program through the parks (June 22) at nine sites
- USDA produce boxes will also be available (750/week) distributed on Fridays
- Other districts are trying to figure out summer programs with funding losses from COVID)

Liz W:

- About 50 of the Vegetable boxes are being distribute to Wareham

Sarah Cogswell:

- What is happening with the Boston Food Bank Issues?

Pam K:

- The USDA foods did not deploy to New England in quantities that were expected

Kimberly Hoy:

- They are not getting about 20% of the food they ordered
 - o With greatly increased demand

Laura (New Life) / Carol Cordeiro:

- There were issues with pick up from GB Food Bank as well
- It is difficult to get dock time (**one of the big problems**) at the food bank, they have changed their rules in the situation.
 - o Causes the distribution to be unstable.
 - o Members of the food bank have been trying to get dock time for months
- If needed, people should find Food Bank members in their city/area to get access to food bank resources

00:32:40 *Holly Fowler: When orgs go for a delivery to GBFB, is it always a full truck load and what size truck? This is not a question we anticipated when we did the survey, but is clearly part of a challenging situation now.*

00:35:15 *Joshua Amaral: Holly, I think it varies each time. I believe pantries can place an order and pick it up there and can get the quantity they need (full truck or less). At PACE we've been sending a 53' trailer to get loaded up on Saturdays but it's not always totally full based on our needs and their supply.*

00:36:27 *Josh Smith: No, you do not need to fill a full truck (and I don't think there is a minimum amount you have to order). The maximum order is 18,000 lbs. They want the truck floor height to be 48" to line up with their docks.*

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- The problem is that the system is overloaded
- What would happen if this food bank falls apart?
- Making a food bank here does not solve the problem
 - o It's taking the same issues

Liz W:

- From the survey done one question was: interest in aggregate / bulk purchasing?
 - o We had a meeting with interested pantries to talk about needs and how this would be done
 - o Quantities, ability to spend?

- Outcomes:
 - o Items most needed were dry goods, rice, beans, cereal, kid friendly snacks, etc.
 - o For United Way to start, how much do you need, how much are you willing to spend, how often?
 - o If they are dry goods, we may be able to hold items in PACE storage space

Desa:

- Thinking forward towards the winter, we are specifically growing dry beans
 - o Dry beans can be planted now if there are farms that are interested
 - o If there was a guarantee to buy them, would farmers be interested?

Liz:

- What we are aiming to do is identify what our region needs are and capacity that a regional food center could supply?
 - o So that in future events we would have more resilience when issues could happen?

Sarah Cogswell:

- Are there mechanisms in place for when farmers have extra food

Victoria Grasele:

- The hunger commission will pick up any extra food that farmers may have

Liz:

- Could we develop a gleaner network to collect the extra food?

00:57:29 *Holly Fowler: Here is farmer/producer survey link:*
<https://bit.ly/SoutheasternMA-FoodHubFarmerSurvey>

Holly Fowler:

- We never asked the question: How to people go to the food bank to pick up the food?
 - o Those organizations who do not use the GBFB, many used restaurants, which can be an issue.
 - o What does the alternative look like to the dock time issue at GBFB
 - o We are moving to the analysis parts of the Supplemental Food provider survey
- Coastal Foodshed has put out the farmer survey
- What stands out so far, 183 acres total in production, 129 additional acres available
 - o Mostly capacity would be needed to put this into production
 - o These acres could be put into production for things like the dry beans
- Overwhelmingly the need for delivery is the largest issue
 - o Meat processing also stands out
- There is interest for the need for a Food Hub
 - o A mixed interest from seasonal to year-round



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- 00:58:32 Holly Fowler: *Things mentioned by producers (n=10) to grow more: more capacity and time*
00:58:37 Holly Fowler: *land tenure*
00:58:41 Holly Fowler: *market*
00:58:49 Holly Fowler: *infrastructure and spending capital*
00:59:52 Holly Fowler: *Sarah: I think we would need to tease out some of it more (e.g. water systems, infrastructure).*

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- How do we make sure that farmers get and fill out the survey?
 - o 10% hit right now
 - o Can this be a social media campaign?
- SEMAP can offer an incentive to fill it out
- Karen needs info for who filled it out to reach out to individual farmers

Liz:

- We have all got to take the lead to reach out to our farmers and ask them to fill out the survey

Bill Napolitano:

- Is this something that we could send out to the Agriculture Commissions?

Holly Fowler:

- Looking at the first week of the month from supplemental food providers seem to be the heaviest
 - o This is also when clients have their benefit available to them

Liz W:

- This came up yesterday with the idea of best practices for food pantries and streamlining some of the practices and buying so there is a more coordinated effort throughout the month.

Pam/Victoria:

- Have been trying to organize the logistic between the food bank
 - o Part of the problem is the new places starting that we do not know of
 - o Part of the problem is having good data

Liz:

- The food finder app is web based, and at a Beta Testing phase (ready for people to trial)