

Meeting Minutes
Emergency Response to COVID-19
June 4 @ 9am

Chat Box notes in Italics

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Going forth, we will be putting more structure to our weekly meetings
- Weekly meetings will focus on emergency efforts, needs, and updates
- 1 call per month will go in depth on a priority topic focused on SFPC at large
- We are at over 200 participants in the Southcoast Food Policy Council currently
 - o Emails will continue to go out weekly for the reminders and to provide recaps from each meeting
- Jim Oliveira from MA HIRE put out an issuance for humanitarian food service relief project
 - o They could potentially get you subsidized worker help
 - o Looking for serv safe cooks, drivers, etc.

00:14:24 Liz Wiley: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/covid19-disaster-recovery-dwg>

00:14:43 Mary Wasylyk: *Greetings, this is Mary Wasylyk, Chief of Staff for Senator Marc Pacheco, didn't want to interrupt, but wanted to let you know I was in the meeting.*

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Milk Delivery that we have discussed has been complicated to work with
- We have an option to pick up milk from Farmers Feeding Families (Plainville, MA)
 - o But we don't know how much will be there
 - o Message me if you are interested

00:11:24 Kimberly Hoy: *I'm in Mansfield, but do not have a refrigerated truck.*

00:12:09 Karen Schwalbe: kschwalbe@semaponline.org

Maura Ramsey (Groundwork, SC):

- There is a bunch of money being set aside from that could include things for refrigerated trucks, etc.
- Rose Arruda from MDAR knows a lot about this

Holly Fowler:

- The is the 56 Million allocated from Baker Admin
 - o Additional MEFAP for purchasing MA grown foods
 - o \$36 million targeting capital
- First come, first serve basis
- Amy Kershaw, Jill Shah, and one other in the selection committee
- Capped at \$500,000 for each award

*There is also Healthy Food Financing Initiative funding due July – link below

00:20:14 *Holly Fowler-Northbound Ventures: Healthy Food Financing Initiative*
<https://www.investinginfood.com/financial-assistance/>

00:20:32 *Holly Fowler-Northbound Ventures: Grants will range from \$20,000 to \$200,000.*

Grants could assist projects with a variety of aspects of retail or enterprise development, renovation, and expansion. The grants will be one-time investments of capital into a food retail or food enterprise project in order to address higher costs and initial barriers to entry in underserved areas across the country.

00:16:58 *Wendy Garf-Lipp:*
5110105 - Emergency Food Assistance Program

Account Description FY2010

Spending FY2011 GAA

2511-0105 Emergency Food Assistance Program

For the purchase of supplemental foods for the emergency food assistance program within the feeding America nationally-certified food bank system of Massachusetts; provided, that the funds appropriated herein shall reflect the feeding America allocation formula, in order to benefit the 4 regional food banks in the commonwealth; and provided further, that the department may assess an administrative charge not to exceed 2 per cent of the total appropriation herein

Liz:

- Farmers to Families food boxes updates the 10,000 boxes/month has been extended from June to July and August for an additional 20,000 boxes through Sid Wainer
 - o With the farm boxes we tried to work with partner organizations from Wareham to Fall River, specifically trying to distribute to the same families each week
 - o MI is working with YMCA Southcoast for distribution, Good Shepard Church, YOU, Southcoast Health, Westport Food Pantry, and Chris Nielsen and the immigrant population in FR.

Victoria Grasela (United Way GB):

- We are trying to reach an underserved population different from typical pop-ups we serve
 - o Partnered with Immigrants assistance, CEDC, etc.
 - o UNGNB program partners
- Also doing a pop-up in NB, Freetown and Wareham
 - o Going to Dartmouth, Fairhaven and Acushnet
- Will also be reaching out to local churches

Christine Sullivan:

- Is there a way to incorporate the NB Council on Aging?
- Many of elders' kids and grandkids have moved in with them
 - o Financial strain has become worse

Liz:

- We wanted the distribution continuous each week
- Veggies are coming from smaller to mid-scale farms throughout the US
- As we expand into the next two months there may be additional boxes available
- These are 20lbs boxes full of fruit and veg – geared for families, not individuals
- Rob Shaheen has been setting up same program as a pop-up, but has had extra boxes
- May be helpful to set up an ‘overflow’ distribution list

Rob Shaheen:

- These boxes are available for anyone who shows up, not just students
- There are only two school sites where he can distribute the boxes
 - o 325 boxes until the end of June
- @ Roosevelt and Keith Middle School Tuesday’s, 11:30am-1pm
- It has been hit or miss over the past weeks
- He could possibly deliver extras within NB Limits or please come get them
- Would like to get them to a customer within 2 days of when they’re delivered

00:25:29 *Rob Shaheen: rshaheen@newbedfordschools.org Would be available on Tuesday after 1pm. Send me your contact information for receiving the extra boxes.*

Liz:

- Are we seeing increased needs at Food Pantries?

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- #'s of food pantry recipients has not come down; we have sent additional food to our pop-up today after turning away people last week
- Will promote Rob’s pop ups

Kimberly Hoy:

- GBFB agency food calls
- 9,200 new families in eastern MA over the last week

Carl Alves:

- It would be good to coordinate picking up the leftovers from the school department
 - o We received a ton and didn’t necessarily need all of it, and would like to spread it around
 - o I’m willing to rent a truck if needed
- We do a pop up on Wednesdays

Liz:

- Update on Food System Assessment
 - o We can still take in more surveys if we know people who have not filled it out
 - We’d like to hear from
 - MoLife
 - St. Patrick’s (Wareham – but not currently open)

- St. Vincent DaPaul
- Mercy Meals
- Good Neighbors Food Pantry
- Shane Gives Thanks
- Grace Episcopal (New Bedford)
- St. Anne's

- 00:44:23 Wendy Garf-Lipp: St Anne's is FR through ST Anne's Church
- 00:44:29 Carl Alves: Mercy Meals - Mercy Meals - Rev. Doug Cederberg - dgceder@comcast.net
- 00:46:05 Kimberly Hoy: Shane Gives Thanks Food Pantry, 128 Main Street, Building2 Unit G Carver, MA 02330 www.shanegivesthanks.com 508-866-7673
- 00:48:37 castc: St Patrick's, Wareham-contact Rosanne Langan-bgbuckeve@aol.com
- 00:49:29 castc: Correction: bgbuckeye@aol.com for St. Patrick's

Holly Fowler:

- We have 20 replies from the farmer survey, it will be extended
 - o We'd like to get to 45-50 responses from the farmer survey
 - o If you have farmer friends, please promote to them!
- I've created a consumer food preferences and patterns survey draft
 - o There is a Google form survey to share assessing consumer needs, use and preferences
- Happy to share this for review before circulating it out – would you like to review it?
- Are folks willing to distribute this?

Peter Muise:

- Who would ultimately fill out this survey?

Holly Fowler:

- General public, any end consumer
- What languages would this need to be translated into for access to community
 - o Portuguese, Spanish, Kiche (Mexican Indigenous Language – North end NB primarily)
 - Rob (Food Service), United way could help with translation survey's
 - Maybe CEDC can help with Kiche?

00:43:58 Joshua Amaral:

<https://gbfb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opstdashboard/index.html#/f30652540b3d434b85a343d28e4324e3>
Boston Food Bank distribution data

00:51:11 Maura Ramsey: I would be interested, but I don't know if I have the capacity

00:51:45 Rhonda Fazio: send it.

00:52:13 Kimberly Hoy: I'd love to review the form as well. Thanks

- 00:53:03 *Holly Fowler-Northbound Ventures: We will also be finalizing the buyer survey (demand side) for the food hub feasibility study.*
- 00:54:25 *Desa VanLaarhoven: I would be interested in reviewing it*
- 00:57:16 *Holly Fowler-Northbound Ventures: Thank you everyone. Normally we would do focus groups for consumers, but clearly that's not possible right now. I think it's really important we hear from consumers though.*
- 00:58:28 *Holly Fowler-Northbound Ventures: I think we could consider some kind of donation or compensation to those who help us translate.*

Liz Wiley:

- Plymouth stakeholder meeting for June 17th, we believe it will still be on
- Please let me know what else we need to be talking about in these meetings, want to make them useful
- How do we address Food Justice Issues as a member organization?
- Food Finder app discussion
 - o We need people to look at the app to see gaps and issues for it
 - o If you are interested please let me know
- We want to know what the farmer issues and needs are.