

Meeting Minutes
July 2 @ 9am

Chat Box notes in Italics

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Today will be updates and then Jose Luis from MFTP/LEAF will speak.

Dave Perry:

- Our program was average this week
- Several places have gone down in traction of clients
- There is a lot of duplication in what food pantries are giving out

Pam (PACE):

- We are not much different, we have seen a leveling off, but not a reduction
- We added another pop-up last week to add a location
 - o We will see if this makes an impact
- 12 of our YouthBuild interns will become employees for the food bank.

Carol (Damien's Pantry):

- Damien's is seeing a slight increase in per day customers (60-65/day)
 - o We are open Thursdays and Saturdays (still not ready to resume Tuesday)
 - o We do give out meat as well (at least 2-3 portions of meat)
- We are seeing a lot of people from New Bedford and maybe less from Wareham

Adele Sands (Bristol Agricultural High School):

- We have canceled our fall show at Bristol Aggie this year
- I am interested in people would like meat
 - o I have to go to the board, and am looking to donating 100lbs of ground beef to an organization who could give it out
- Please contact me if you are interested
- This would be distributed in 1lbs packages

Carol (Damien's Pantry):

- Damien's is interested

Dave Perry:

- We would take some as well

00:19:35 *Wendy Garf-Lipp:* *Paul Schmidt had ground beef a few weeks ago*

Kim Hoy (Mansfield):

- Mansfield is going well
- We have partnered with a local nonprofit for distribution

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- We participated in the USDA meat protein boxes and distributed 1400lbs of frozen meat, and am submitting the July order (increasing 30-40%)
 - o Eastern Fisheries has allowed us to use freezer space to give us breathing room in terms of distribution
 - o Two more deliveries in July and August
- We started a grab and go pickup up at the Council on Ageing in Dartmouth
- We have a senior's farmers market program (coupons for seniors)
 - o We have taken half of this value and developed a home delivery service because we were afraid of seniors not going out during COVID

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- Our markets open this week
 - o Operating normally after holiday
- We have continued the 'online farmers market delivery' to Coastal Foodshed online delivery
- Mobile Farms stands are not operating currently
 - o We need to hire someone to operate it!
- We are still doing pop-ups if people are interested in partnering
- We are purchasing about \$4-5,000 of produce for the partnership with United Way and Marion Institute project of vegetable boxes
 - o We are not just working with Southcoast farmers, but reaching into Southeastern Ma as well
 - o We can reach out to Meatworks if meat is of interest

Liz Wiley:

- What we're trying to do is take some burden off of United Way and Hunger Commission
 - o If you are on the United Way list you probably already have access to this
 - o If not send me a message if you are interested

Ivan Brito (MOLIFE):

- We're seeing a busy pace, doing every other week (from 100-200 people)
 - o We're connected to the United way for fruits and veggies and GBFB
- Looking to go back to a regular schedule of 3 Wednesdays per month

Peter Muise (First Citizens):

- If you contact Jim Daniels at the Career center, they will screen for you for and could get you an applicant. (For Stephanie at Coastal Foodshed)

Rob Shaheen (NB Food Service):

- We're still working with Parks Dept for summer meals on Mon, Weds, Fri
- Continuing the produce distribution box through August every Wednesday

00:28:40 Rob Shaheen: Information about Summer Feeding Sites in New Bedford can be found at NBPRB.com

00:40:29 Rob Shaheen: An additional update about renting space for the Food Service Department is we are having some issues with what's allowed for costs per year to lease or rent and available space in the City. I'm still waiting for some brokers to reply back to me about what's available. The folks I talked with don't have adequate space available at this time.

Desa VanLaarhoven (Round the Bend):

- We are week 16 into project Manifest Love
 - o Weekly shares have been ramping up slowly
 - o From this week 71 shares up to 125 shares
 - o These shares are being delivered by the YWCA, YOU and Northstar
- We are thinking about what the next wave might look like
 - o We plowed an extra acre for storage crops in preparation
- We have been giving out meat from our farm and Shy Brothers cheese along with the produce that have been a hit.
 - o This week we are giving pizza dough from Renegades Rising (have started a buy a loaf, give a loaf of bread)
- If there was a specific situation in which someone needed to use our kitchen we could make space for that

Holly Fowler (Food System Consultant):

- We have hit a point where we are done with the Supplemental Food Survey and analysis
- The farmer/producer survey is at 44 participants
- The next piece is the consumer survey
- We are starting to draft the report
 - o Still need to get out to fisheries to survey and understand landscape

Liz Wiley:

- United Way was able to translate into Portuguese and Spanish
 - o Would still be good to translate to Kiche but we should get it out
- We will need everyone who can to send this out to their populations
 - o If you need paper copies for a specific population, let us know (computer survey is ideal over paper)

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- There is a group that may need verbal translation

Bill N (SREPPD)

- You might want to record the survey's online, and have it on your website

00:34:19 *Kimberly Hoy: I can send the survey out to our network.*

00:35:10 *Kristi Marshall: Yes, I'll distribute paper copies at markets*

Liz Wiley:

- There is a grant for MA Food Trust - Food System Infrastructure
- This is a reimbursable grant, which has been a concern
- We have been talking to Jose Luis, who is part of the LEAF Program to share more information

00:41:36 *Liz Wiley: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy21-food-security-grant-program-rfr/download>*

Jose Luis (MFTP / LEAF):

- The Massachusetts Food Trust program was launched by the state
- We are able to offer bridge loans for people who qualify for this program
 - o Loan at 0% for a year with no payments
 - o Then you could pay off your loan with the reimbursement
- This is for healthy food programs and businesses (Farm Stands, Mobiles Markets, Independent grocery stores, etc.)
 - o The maximum application for the grant is \$500,000
 - o You also have to buy new equipment with the grant
- The MA Food Trust could also help you purchase used equipment as a 0% interest loan, not a grant

Bill N:

- There is a need for storage and refrigeration space
 - o Does your program meet these needs?

Jose Luis (MFTP / LEAF):

- Yes, refrigeration and transportation are included
- Could also be used or impact studies, such as marketing work

Peter Muise:

- If there is an opportunity to expand an
- Do you know what the timing of the reimbursement is?

Jose Luis:

- I'm not able to answer that, but I don't think it would be more than a month

Liz Wiley:

- The Southcoast Food Policy Council is putting in an application with Coastal Foodshed and the United Way
- It would be great to have letters of support for the region from all of the food pantries

Rob Shaheen:

- We are also trying to put together a grant
- A great thing about this grant is that you can apply up to 3 times

- I would also open up the document and answer questions in a Word document, and then copy and paste into the grant application
 - o You cannot save and come back to the application

00:45:14 *Kristi Marshall: Would this include items like additional HIP/SNAP equipment? Our market is sharing its unit between curbside pickup and open market sites?*

00:48:36 *Kristi Marshall: Also, materials for safe market set up (signage, tables, plexiglass, etc.) and labor for operations (monitoring attendance levels, other activities to comply with COVID restrictions?)*

00:48:54 *Jose Luis - MFTP/LEAF: Yes, to all*

00:49:19 *Rhonda: Artists work with reimbursement funding. Do the work. Prove you did it through receipts etc. submit form for reimbursement and usually get paid 6 weeks later.*

Holly:

- Yes, equipment for HIP and SNAP would qualify
- If anyone is on the call that knows how much the costs of getting HIP equipped, could you please share that information

00:50:25 *Jose Luis - MFTP/LEAF: jrojas@leaffund.org*

00:52:49 *Jose Luis - MFTP/LEAF: <https://massfoodtrustprogram.org/>*