

Meeting Minutes
July 16 @ 9am

Chat Box notes in Italics

Attendance: 29

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- We are about to start a BETA phase of testing the Food Finder app – which will help identify locations for food pantries, farmers mkts., community meals, etc.
- We will review this in more detail with UMass Dartmouth after we do updates

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- Piloting a grab and go lunch at Council on Ageing
- We are looking to hire drivers, but could take volunteers in the meantime
- We have 195 USDA meat boxes going out this morning
 - o These are just for seniors, put together by the council on ageing, we are the distributor

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- Having slow and ‘spike’ days -which is unusual
- The MWD truck that we’ve been using is under repair and will be taken in two weeks
 - o We can still use the Maritime fridge, but it’s not ideal
- We are trying to find next steps at King Street
- We will also look into the possibility of a truck from Sid Wainer

Buddy (VABCED):

- We had an uptick at the Food Pantry
 - o We were able to get rid of the 75 Food boxes we received

Liz Wiley:

- I think we will start seeing an uptick now that Pandemic EBT cards are getting used up

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors, Fall River):

- We received a letter from United Interfaith Action
 - o There were over 1000 Pandemic EBT cards that have not been activated or used
 - o We need to get the information out to families that there is money on this for them
 - o We need to figure out how to get people information, especially if there may be a second round
- One of the issues is that people who normally don’t get EBT money didn’t want to use it or that it may come back to hurt undocumented family members
 - o We are suggesting that people who do not want to use it to buy a Stop and Shop gift card or donate groceries to those in need

Rob Shaheen (NB Public Schools):

- DTA just sent out a letter giving instructions for folks on how to use it
- No decisions have been made for what the Fall will look like
- The produce boxes are going very well, we ran out of 350 at 12:30 yesterday
- The meal service is up to 5,000 meals / week at the parks
- Looking at storage at a possible site (old Shaw's site)
 - o This might not work in timing because of red tape to make it happen
 - o The Culinary Center might happen on a better timeline

00:15:54 *Jacob Miller: Not sure if it's helpful, but if people are having trouble accessing P-EBT cards, our office (Sen. Montigny's), can help people with DTA.*

00:17:04 *Jacob Miller: Feel free to send anyone my way. My e-mail is jacob.miller@masenate.gov*

Kimberly Hoy (Mansfield):

- We are pretty level
- Our distribution is outside, we are not sure what we will do yet when the weather turns

Liz Wiley:

- What are people doing about refrigeration?
- We as a SC food policy council need to talk about how to bolster the infrastructure that we have around the pantries – we don't know what is coming for the Fall/Winter, and not knowing that the supplemental meal services will continue, need to support the organizations that will be doing this for the long term

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- We are thinking about when the weather turns as well
- We are going to be buying refrigeration, as well as working with our current storage partner
- Have to return the refrigeration truck we have been using in a couple of weeks

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- It's been a good market season, and people have seemed to adjust to new markets
- We made a decision on Fall River at Dulan Apartments in the South End (Dave Rose)
 - o This will be the 3rd in Fall River
- We just ordered post cards for each site to distribute to clients throughout Fall River

Marcia Picard:

- Last Friday Cardinal Medeiros went really well, and there were a lot of walk ups
- The word is getting out there, beyond the residents in the buildings

00:24:56 *Rob Shaheen: farmer markets are doing better this year than previous years?*

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- It's a mix, some have made the adjustment, some are doing well, others are limited by grab and go
 - drive up, which limits purchasing
- People haven't said that 'business is usual'

Winter's market in Fall River?...

- There should be and we should talk about where and when?

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- Dave Perry had a Winter market, that was not successful about 5 years ago
 - o We need more accessible options for items at the market to attract people

00:32:49 *vabced@gmail.com: something to think about for the winter market is to talk to Pawtucket winter market. They do really well and can give insight into how they got to where they are.*

Rob Shaheen:

- How are the markets doing this year?
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Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Farmstands are doing well with everything happening, markets are

Food Finder App Conversation

Liz Wiley:

- Deirdre Healy has been spearheading the development of this app, and has kept together a team with a new web developer, Paul Constantine.
- There has been a lot of development in the app, and we just received some funding, we are hopeful to be able to use this in the near future.
- This is not yet like a traditional app – it an app based on a website.
 - o **Food Finder** is for the general public
 - o **Food Alert** will be for all of the food providers (Food pantries, farmers, institutional buyers, etc.)
- We need the correct data fields in order to build out – reviewed the fields during the meeting via screen share

Dierdra Healy (Umass Dartmouth):

- I think that there is an application for people who are helping people find nutritious food (i.e. case workers, social workers, etc.)

Paul Constantine (Umass Dartmouth – Web Developer):

- Thank you all for everything you do!
- Making these data fields as accurate as possible will make this useable
 - o This is tailored to mobile phones
- Some of the things that stand out, such as ‘other’ are important because this is a great time to verify and/or add or remove a field for the app

00:40:58 Victoria Grasela: MEMA has something similar- what makes this different? Or how can we connect the 2?

00:40:59 Victoria Grasela:
<https://memamaps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5867d881a9324121839605c56a3d7cc9>

00:41:17 Victoria Grasela: Mass 211 also has something like this

Victoria Grasela (United Way):

- I’m wondering if there is a way to connect these different resources, so that pantries do not have to duplicate efforts
- I know that MA211 has fielded 60k calls, many from the local area

Deirdre Healy:

- We have seen several apps come and go, and have thought a lot about it. We thought that it would be beneficial to have something that is super local
 - o If we could keep a partnership going where we could have interns helping to get streamlined information

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- I think that a unique aspect of this app in particular will be the Food Alert component, which will be a tool to sync communication – what we often do in these calls. Is there something like this

Victoria Grasela (United Way):

- Food Spoiler is the only other app, that we were not able to get down to this area

Christine Sullivan:

- Food Spoiler was from students out of MIT, it was a for profit model. I will have to return to this
- There are other products in Food Rescue apps that should be researched.
 - o Most of the work in this field was happening in the Boston area, with casual connection to this area, but no solid connection

Peter Muise (First Citizens):

- Sandra Newfelt (Who is no longer there) was a contact for this area. I have not heard anything from them since.

Deirdre Healy:

- It would be difficult to connect the Food Finder with the Food Alert, so we thought this would be a hard connection.

Wendy Garf- Lipp:

- Fall River MA211 has a lot of great information, but the format of MA 211 can be tricky.
- I think that we can utilize it the best we can, but we will need information above and beyond
- The big nation-wide app is called 'Farm Link' as well as a Boston based program from B.U.

00:43:09 *Kimberly Hoy: GBFB also has a find food tab on their website*

Jon Little (Somerset):

- With a small food bank these questions are too broad for a pantry of our size
- The groupings under the food pantries and food types would be useful for a pantry of our size

00:41:03 *Kimberly Hoy: Our panty could be "sorted by" canned food, bread and pastry, produce, and meats and proteins. Would love to be able to sort by HIP Having prepared meals at the food pantries might be a great option for the future.*

00:42:09 *Christine Sullivan: are the meal times something that each site can enter on their own, or is it a drop down menu*

00:44:41 *Liz Wiley: It would definitely be worth our effort to make sure we could sync our regions hours of operation*

00:46:29 *Kimberly Hoy: That would be awesome*

00:46:47 *John Little: Pantry food sub type seems a little too detailed for us.*

00:47:19 *Debbie Fringuelli: I have to go. The Wareham Y is willing to help with food distribution in the cooler months but we will not have refrigeration. Have a great weekend!*

00:48:52 *Christine Sullivan: I have had conversations with Spoiler Alert and can make that connection for you*

00:49:00 *Christine Sullivan: It is a for profit business*

00:52:15 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/college-students-effort-save-farms-food-families/story?id=70647794>*

00:52:28 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Farm link - college students food rescue*

00:54:39 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: <http://www.bu.edu/csc/community-service-center-programs/sfr/>*

00:55:57 *Christine Sullivan: could you just put fresh/ frozen/ shelf stable*

00:57:24 *Pam Kuechler: I need to jump to another meeting. Thank you all!*

00:57:51 *Kelley Cabral-Mosher: This is looking like a great start*

00:58:23 *Kimberly Hoy: Maybe add dairy as a category and prepared foods.*

00:58:34 *Kimberly Hoy: Overall I think it looks good.*

00:58:48 *Victoria Grasela: Can the volunteer piece link to volunteer southcoast?*