

Meeting Minutes
August 6 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance:

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- We have guests today Johanna Regan and Tamar Brandes-Krug will talk about voter registration

Tamar Brandes-Krug:

- CD 4 votes projects
- Congressional candidates in district 4 and community members are working to improve the voting turnout of this historically low area.
 - o Non-partisan and politically neutral events
- If you would like to get involved please email us at CD4votes@gmail.com
- We are working with the United way, and have informational posters to advocated for people to vote

Johanna Regan:

- We had our first event this past week
- We will be hanging flyers this week at businesses
- And we are open to ideas from the group of any places we have not hit yet

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- There are a lot of folks on the call conducting farmers markets and pop-ups that could be good places to get involved
 - o Also, these may be great places for Census advocacy as well
- If anyone is able to put information into the veggie boxes or bags
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00:09:52 *Tamar Brandes-Krug: cd4votes@gmail.com*

00:12:11 *Liz Wiley: <https://my2020census.gov/>*

Wendy Garff-Lipp:

- Connect with me offline for more ideas
- Also to put flyers in emails use this tool to put into emails

00:13:45 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Wendy@unfr.org*

00:15:34 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: <https://pdf2jpg.net/>*

Dave Perry:

- We're increasing clients every week
- Went from 305 to 350 over the last month
- This is positive because the word is getting out there for new clients to know that we are there

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- We are beginning to see things that are not covered by Food Stamps, i.e. toilet papers etc.
- We are able to distribute it through the school department

Pam:

- We are starting to see an uptick of clients
 - o This comes as the same time that the unemployment benefits have come down
- We have decided to lease a large truck for refrigeration – this will work short term for the next month
- We are continuing to get 2 deliveries from Elliot Farm of produce per week
- We are continuing looking for locations for the South end of NB Distribution

Desa VanLaarhoven:

- Week 20 of project Manifest Love
- Just completed a survey to the participants to fill out
- One of the things we did early on was send out homemade laundry detergent
 - o The survey said that clients want that back
- 135 full shares per week through NorthStar, YWCA and YOU and BCC
 - o Along with 100 families of extra veggies heading to Westport
- We are planting squash and beans for late fall crops to continue

Liz:

- Is there opportunity to get the consumer survey out to these participants

Desa VanLaarhoven:

- Yes, and this survey was to assess the impacts of what the impacts of this program was.

Liz:

- We launched the consumer survey last week
- Currently we only have responses in English and predominantly white women (94% currently)
- Everyone should have the link, and if you need paper copies please get them from us
- Ideally these would be focus group, but because of Covid-19 these surveys are even more important

John Little:

- We are seeing a decrease in our numbers over the last couple of months, so hopefully people are getting food through pop-ups
- I have a question about the new USDA mixed food boxes

Victoria Grasela:

- We are waiting for the final numbers, and a finalized plan on how we are going to get the boxes out.
- The content of the boxes can be delivered separate



- They have to prove that the families are getting the individual boxes, but don't have to be sent out that way
- These boxes will be focused on going through the Food pantries as well as some of the partners such as Immigrants assistance and CEDC

Liz:

- The Westport food pantry is looking to see if they can get help while applying for 501(C)3 status

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- Marcia Picard may be able to help, as they are a Westport org, and have other organizations under their umbrella.

Karen Schwalbe:

- Welcome Olivia Hart is SEMAPs new outreach and communication person
- There is a meeting tonight to review draft regulations for FISMA (Food Safety and regulation act) – see link
 - o This will affect farmers markets
 - o There is also a two-week comment period

00:35:16 Karen Schwalbe: <https://semaponline.org/mdar-fsma/>

- Tuesday 2-5 at Doolin Apts.
- Wed 2-4 at Health first
- Fri 3-5 at Cardinal Medeiros

- If you are distributing farmers market or WIC coupons please let us know and we can help with outreach

Liz:

- We hosted a demo with Paul, the developer of the Food Finder App
 - o It was mostly a time for him to get feedback
- It's important for it to be user friendly from the beginning so that we can keep users
- This will set the stage for the food alert app, that will help many of the communication streams that we've been working on during this call
- Paul would like to come and do another demo, and we can provide Portia with more information

- I'd like to introduce out new Marion Institute teammate Portia DePina
- She will be working a lot on the Food Finder app
- Keri is our newest Food Corps member who will be working with Grow Education over the next year, and we will have another Food Corp member starting in a couple of weeks

- There is a Food Justice working group happening through the YWCA to address racial inequities in the region
- I am co-chairing the Food Justice group with Rita Braga

Victoria Grasela:

- Please add me to the working group

00:29:52 Kelley Cabral-Mosher: I will get the survey links out on Mass in Motion platforms

00:31:37 Kelley Cabral-Mosher: From what I understand - I'm not sure if this has come up - on Wednesdays the line is wrapped around the building at Keith middle school for food pick up

Wendy Garf-Lipp:

- United Neighbors has a home project at Merrow Manufacturing that will be a distribution site for home goods to those who need them
- It will happen Tuesday, August 25th
- We would love home items that are in good shape and that you can pass on