

Meeting Minutes
August 27 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 28

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Thank you all for showing up every Thursday! We have gotten great feedback about the FPC group – and it’s become a community of practice because we have been a consistent group every week!
- There will not be a meeting next Thursday
- The next meeting will be Thursday, September 10th

00:03:58 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Leadership matters! TY*
00:04:17 *Karen Schwalbe: Absolutely Wendy!*
00:06:12 *Kelley Cabral-Mosher: Liz! Thank YOU!!*
00:07:33 *Liz Wiley: Thank you ALL*

Robyn Branco (YMCA Southcoast):

- I’m the Director of Mission Advancement at the YMCA Southcoast
- We will be deepening our relationship with the GBFB
- We are establishing a permanent site in Fall River
 - o Currently this is being managed by our Fall River ED
 - o We will have storage space for some perishables on site and further at our Dartmouth location and increase production at Sharing the Harvest Farm
- We are trying to see how to fill the gap and support the community beyond the partnerships we’ve created around USDA boxes

00:08:20 *Chelsie Stephenson: Gm, my other meeting is running late so joining until. 😊*
00:09:24 *Liz Wiley: Thanks Chelsie - happy to see you. Could you do an update for WIC before you have to hop off?*

Lorraine Khazan (PACE):

- We are still open at Morse Twist Drill, PAACA
- Acushnet Council on aging is closed but moving to Fairhaven
- Site at Kilburn Mills will be closed, but we are hoping to open a site at the New Youth build site

Liz W (MI):

- The Farmers Markets are suffering for several reasons during these times
- We’re hoping that Coastal Foodshed can fill in some of the gaps in the South End

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- They are open in three markets
- They also have a delivery & pick up program



- SEMAP is working with Coastal Foodshed to put info documents / flyers into delivery boxes for the farmers markets

Chelsie Stephenson (WIC):

- WIC is still remote, working from home
- Our diaper pantry is open and doing well
- The farmers market yesterday was a huge success
 - o 9 transactions with SNAP, but most was WIC coupons
 - o We had a line late into the day
 - o If you have families with diaper and formula needs, please reach out

Liz W (MI):

- We met about SNAP benefits being taken away because of stimulus money that people received

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

- We sent out the information on this to our lists and hoping it spreads around
- Jacob from Sen. Montigney's office is trying to work on the process of re-applying

00:18:12 *Northbound Ventures:* *Are they being reaccepted easily?*

Jacob Miller (Sen. Montigney's office):

- I have gone back and forth with DTA government affairs office
- I will update you when I can

Liz W (MI):

- Chelsie, do we know the turnaround time on people reapplying?

Chelsie Stephenson (WIC):

- The one person I helped, received her benefits two days later
- I've heard fast turnaround times

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

- We need to be aware of how it will affect those who are now receiving \$400

00:19:37 *Northbound Ventures:* *Good question, Wendy.*

00:20:19 *Northbound Ventures:* *But having the guidelines would be helpful.*

00:20:35 *Northbound Ventures:* *It should be based on more than one month.*

00:21:09 *Kelley Cabral-Mosher:* *I can check in with my Mass in Motion colleagues at DPH about the SNAP & Unemployment benefits - I have a meeting tomorrow*

00:21:58 *Wendy Garf-Lipp:* *great*

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

- Today is the last day of getting restaurant food for our clients



- We invested into a lot of dry goods (cleaning supplies as well)
- We will be transitioning food distribution through the schools

Liz W (MI):

- This the last week for the Farmers to Families distribution

Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):

- We have not heard back from Sid Wainer on the extension of the (2 year) boxes

Dave Perry (Food Bank of Fall River):

- As of Tuesday we are at 355 with 71 new clients
- Averaging about 15-20 new clients each day
- I do have a concern when I hear YMCA coming to a site in Fall River
 - o With all of the current orgs getting the same food from the GBFB I don't want to see it become a competition

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures, Food System Consultant):

- You mentioned that they are all the same folks
 - o Do we have data on this?
 - o Is this something that we could use in the Food System Assessment to figure out how many clients were using multiple clients?
- I want to explore the competitive aspect
 - o When you are worried about competing with each other, what is at stake?
 - o Is this competition or options?

Dave Perry (Food Bank of Fall River):

- When I visit the Citizens to Citizens location I see they see the same people
- If I'm open on Tuesday and another market is open, it becomes a choice for
 - o I will have to throw away food if our numbers go down for what we are used to ordering

00:24:26 Northbound Ventures: How do we know they are all the same people? Is there data based on SNAP?

00:24:36 chelsie stephenson: Sorry Phone call happened during meeting. I am here

00:25:30 Northbound Ventures: What makes it a competition, Dave?

00:31:34 asands: Is it more about collaboration with each other?

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures, Food System Consultant):

- What's at risk is that pantries have extra food that can go to waste

00:32:45 Robyn Branco: Has there been overlap with the Y? It was my understanding that we held it on a day and time that no other pantry was open

Robyn Branco (YMCA Southcoast):

- I believe that a date and time has been picked around the time of other Fall River partners

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

- There is a problem of having extra food and going to waste
- Is there a way for the extra food to go through the schools?
- Fall River is a big city – we need to structure markets to reach everyone

Liz W (MI):

- With all of the connections and resources we have created through these calls, it should be a goal to never waste food
- How can we create the streams of redistributing foods through our connections?
- I don't see people going to multiple sites as the issue, just more structure needed between the organizations
 - o Maybe there can be more coordination of what is served

00:36:23 Northbound Ventures: Collaboration opportunity. :)

00:36:42 Desa VanLaarhoven: I believe an email list serve to this group would be a super easy solution. That is what we do at RTB Farm

00:36:54 Northbound Ventures: Great suggestion, Desa.

00:37:08 Portia DePina: yes, and perhaps some social media alerts

00:37:15 Northbound Ventures: That is easily done with a google group.

00:37:47 Desa VanLaarhoven: Yup I agree

00:37:56 Victoria Grasela: But this is what we do with the Hunger Commission - all it takes is a call to us and we can pick up and bring it where it needs to go

00:38:02 Northbound Ventures: How do we make it easier for the clients? Is there a way for them to be able to go once a week instead of every day?

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

- To go to one food pantry does not give them enough food
- They were designed to be supplemental
 - o But many of the clients are using them more than that
- Does Tony and Citizens for Citizens have the same issue?

Victoria Grasela (United Way):

- There is the option of Mike from the Hunger Commission to pick up extra food and put it to use

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

- First call would be to the Hunger Commission
- Second call would be to the Green School

Liz W (MI):

- A list serve, I hope will happen through the food alert
- If we need a temporary list serve we can look at that

00:38:47 Karen Schwalbe: I can't wait for the Food Alert app!

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

- Maybe we also need this list serve to have what services people can offer as well

Veterans Association:

- We are also available to pick up extra food

Michael Jung (Salvation Army):

- Dave we are able to pick up extra food you may have as well

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures, Food System Consultant):

- When I hear that clients have to go to a different place every day, but are not getting a hot meal, there are a lot of questions in this for me – where are the bottlenecks?
 - o Is it the frequency of delivery?
 - o Storage space?
 - o Frequency of delivery?
- Could we provide enough for a family of 4 in one place?

Michael Jung (Salvation Army):

- One issue is that clients can only carry out so much food
- If there is a family of 10 what they can take only lasts so long
 - o Then they will have to get to other pantries throughout the week

00:43:46 Victoria Grasela: Here's the list of who we serve: <https://unitedwayofgnb.org/hunger-commission/>

00:44:02 Kimberly Hoy: I think moving food around is great, But I think the point of getting enough food to a family for a week, rather than watching clients go from pantry to pantry is a good goal. When clients go from pantry to pantry they are often getting duplicate foods that they are probably throwing away.

00:44:23 Victoria Grasela: We get a grant from UWGFR to serve the Fall River community.

00:46:18 Victoria Grasela: Mike can be reached directly at 774-271-7681 or you can call me at 508-994-9625 ext 210 and I can connect you

Veterans Association:

- We have the same issue, but also have limited storage space

Dave Perry:

- We have the same issue as Mike, at one point we had wagons for people to carry out
- I would love to have some of you visit the food pantries to see how it works

00:48:58 Desa VanLaarhoven: I'd love to Dave

00:49:07 Robyn Branco: I'd love to as well - thanks Dave

00:49:31 Liz Wiley: Dave - what are your hours on T/Th?

00:49:34 asands: Me too, Dave

00:49:52 Dave Perry: 235 Nashua St.
00:50:17 Kimberly Hoy: Me too Dave.
00:50:24 Dave Perry: Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-noon

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

- At one point we gave out people carts to fill as well as a backpack
- This might be something we want to look into

00:54:28 Jackie Millar: At Algonquin Heights in Plymouth the weekly food pantry is run out of their community center. They do an additional 20 deliveries to the residents that are homebound and also have carts that the residents can borrow and return.

00:54:45 Michael.Jung: The Salvation Army NB food pantry is Wednesday 9-12 & 1-3, and Friday 9-12. We also serve in Freetown on Monday 1 pm at the Calvary Pentecostal Church.

00:55:12 Michael.Jung: Here is my email michael.jung@use.salvationarmy.org

Lorraine Khazan (PACE):

- Funding for the food banks can be an issue for staffing the pantries
- Storage then becomes an issue as well

Desa VanLaarhoen (RTB):

- I love this conversation – communication is key
- I have been a big proponent of list serves
- For someone with fresh produce we need to get rid of it quickly
 - o Also knowing where the food is going is important to us
- If there was a simple email, I think that the food could be sourced real quick
- I think that it needs to be at least a temporary serve until the Food Finder app is up and running

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- This is similar to why the farmers markets are suffering
- This is a great time to purchase storage crops
- We will be gathering resources that could go out

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

- We have to make sure that the information is realistic to our clients
 - o They might not have dark/cool cabinets or a porch
 - o Some have dorm size refrigerators / freezers

Liz W (MI):

- Please get thoughts on what type of information we should be putting out in these flyers so that they are realistic

Adele Sands (Bristol Aggie):

- I've really appreciated this conversation with concrete information being passed around
- We've students through FFA who can be working on figuring out some of these issues

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

- This would be great - even if it's something like a small dark cabinet that could be created

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

- Could Bristol Aggie students do canning?

Adele Sands (Bristol Aggie):

- That's not out of the question!

00:56:00 *Jackie Millar: Love the Bristol Aggie idea!*

00:56:26 *Holly Fowler (she/her): We can see it!*

00:57:04 *Kimberly Hoy: So glad to be on this call today. Thanks everyone.*

00:58:11 *Marcia Picard: Canning equipment - Great, unique approach for a grant request!*

Dierdre Healy (UMass):

- Great discussion!
 - Our food summit will be on September 8 th at 4 o'clock
 - We will have the president of Project Bread who are often working on these issues
 - o As well as Senator Montigney
 - You will be receiving a digital poster
 - Please spread it widely!

Holly Fowler:

- We have 300 responses to the consumer survey
- 1 is to the Spanish online survey, 0 for Portuguese
 - o This is not to say there are not hard copies coming in

00:59:56 *Portia DePina: I have 29 hard copies*