

**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 10, 2020 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 28**

**Liz W (Marion Institute):**

- The QR codes for the survey were a great help
  - o We are at about 500 responses with more diversity in responses
  - o This was a great success
- The last survey is a buyer survey that Holly is working on now
- A lot has changed in terms of programming in the last couple of weeks
  - o What are people seeing at pantries and pop-ups?

**Dave Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry):**

- The timing of Sid Wainer deliveries has been an issue, we're missing clients because of late deliveries

**Meg / Wendy (Fall River):**

- You should be able to give the boxes away to clients picking up school supplies

**Dave Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry):**

- NAASF approached me to do boxes through them as well
- We are receiving an extra 30 boxes for Little Compton
- We are making bags for people that are staying home during Covid
- We have last month's numbers from 305 in June to 420 in August
  - o Getting closer to where our numbers usually are

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We're also seeing an increase in numbers consistently
- Our warehouse crew is making bags rather than the boxes for the places where we do drops
  - o The youth want to stay on working, so for now we have enough labor to make this happen
- We're thinking that this increase will be into the fall and winter
- We want to increase our popup sites, but have not been able to yet due to driver issues

**Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):**

- Our demand has leveled off and are not receiving new home delivery asks
- We are working on distributing the farmers markets coupons
  - o We're working with Coastal Foodshed at a popup market at a housing site
- We were able to convert some of the coupons to produce boxes that we could deliver
- We are doing another round of produce box deliveries
- We always do canned food delivery for hurricane/power outage season

- We ask clients to put them aside, but not sure if they do

**Carol (Damien's Pantry Wareham):**

- We're seeing a steady increase (about 120 when open)
- There are a lot of new clients, and we're not restricting how many times clients can visit
- We did sign up with NAASF and Sid Wainer
  - We are looking to convert from boxes to bags due to price

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

- We used to get boxes (100 at a time) from liquor stores, if you catch them on a delivery day

**Meg (United Way Fall River):**

- We have also used Uline, which has a quick turnaround

*00:21:57 Stephanie Perks: Bulk buying from them is the way to go!*

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Wondering if there is a way to use reuseable bags?

**Dave Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry):**

- That's not allowed by GBFB

*00:23:02 Christine Sullivan: in Falmouth you can use reusable again :)*

**Victoria Grasela (United Way New Bedford):**

- We are still waiting on Sid Wainer for the USDA boxes
- Right now at our mobile markets we have relaxed accounting on low income clients
  - We will need to start easing in on getting people to fill out paperwork again
  - At one point it was the MA Health card
- Is there something universally that we can all qualify them?

**Dave Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry):**

- We get food from Boston and MEFAP food
- As long as you are on Social Security you automatically qualify for both
- We do have a sheet that they have to fill out: name, address, income, bills, housing, etc.
- If they are not on SS, then there is an income bracket to fill out

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- Did new information come down that we need to start collecting that
- The concern I have, is that we have people that are newly unemployed and not on social security
  - I haven't seen communication from Boston as of yet

**Victoria Grasela (United Way New Bedford):**

- I got the communication through our mobile market – so maybe it's for mobile markets only?

**Liz W (Marion Institute):**

- How does this recording work?

**Dave Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry):**

- It takes about 5 minutes to fill out the application on their first time, and then they are entered into the computer
  - o There are several categories of information that they want every month

**Carol (Damien's Pantry):**

- The clients can sign themselves in, and eligibility is on them
- It is then entered into our computer
- We have a 15 day window to report all of this information to Boston

**Leanne Nelson (St. Mary's Cathedral):**

- We have 3 separate parishes that have food pantries – and have combined
- We will be doing it at Good Shepard moving forward
  - o Wednesdays and Fridays are grab and go meals
    - About 400 at each time

*00:34:21 Ashley Brister: Question for Dave and Pam. What % of food is coming from Boston Food Pantry?*

**Dave and Pam:**

- 80-95 % of food is coming from the food pantries

**Ashley Brister (YMCA – Sharing the Harvest):**

- We are always trying to figure out where the food from Sharing the Harvest is coming from

**Victoria Grasela (United Way New Bedford):**

- Ashley, let's talk to see if we can see if Mike can see where the vegetables are going to

*00:37:43 Stephanie Perks: would love to know for our program this summer too but I understand how difficult that would be for Mike - a lot more work on his end I would imagine*

**Victoria (United Way New Bedford):**

- We record how much comes and how much goes out, but is not detailed enough to know which individual places the veggies are going to

**Liz W (Marion Institute):**

- This would be big to give more data to see where local food is coming from

**Dierdre Healy (UMass):**

- I heard that as well, and this has been a continued conversation since the first Food Security summit

00:39:11 Kelley Cabral-Mosher Elevate Southcoast: I heard that as well

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- We know that there is potential to expand locally produced food, including Sharing the Harvest farm
- I think that this is something that the SCFPC can work on

Robyn Branco (Southcoast YMCA):

- More efficiency when we have an abundance is an important point
- We are looking into increased production at the farm
  - o All has to do with increased funding and capacity

Ashley Brister (YMCA – Sharing the Harvest):

- From the ground level I know that the Food App could help streamline the distribution and could be helpful

00:41:09 Stephanie Perks: We haven't fully calculated the numbers but a really rough estimate is 75,000 pounds, distributed - very rough estimate so don't hold me too it yet!

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- This is a rough estimate, as weighing the produce is hard

00:44:32 Ashley Brister: Great news!

Liz (Marion Institute):

- With the Food Finder App (Portia from Marion Institute is heading up)
- We are close to going live
- We need more representation from further outside the New Bedford area

00:45:10 Christine Sullivan: could I speak to that?

Liz (Marion Institute):

- We are trying to make it easy for you to enter in your information
- We might to a mass email to all of you that we don't have so that we can get everyone on board
  - o And we will send a tutorial with that
- Food Alert, when we get to it, will be the communication module for excess food
  - o This will not be up and ready for 3 to 6 months
  - o Currently we are looking at a list serve until Food Alert is ready

00:46:26 capeport: [pdepina@marioninstitute.org](mailto:pdepina@marioninstitute.org)

**Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):**

- The original list was New Bedford centric because it was from a Tufts grant for our clientele area

**Dierdre Healy (UMass):**

- There was a Fall River list serve put together, that was not complete

*00:56:06 Deirdre Healy: Just want folks to know that as a result of our Food Summit, our student Narcisse Kunda will be leading the start of a "UMass Dartmouth Food Corps" of students working on hunger issues in our local and global communities. More to come. Recording from the summit will be available soon. Thanks everyone.*

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

- I can only put on the list serve - what I know about, and I learned about a lot on this call alone
- We need to make sure we know of all of the services happening

*00:56:10 Liz Wiley: Thanks Wendy*

**Ally (Southcoast Health):**

- Our numbers are now only 7 people in-patient for Covid currently
- There was a spike, but I'm not sure where it was
- In general, our numbers have been decreasing
  - o We are continuing testing
- We are seeing schools reopening as a risk
  - o Staying vigilant – they want people to remain conscious
- They are planning for a resurgence, just in case
- Our Southcoast van will focus on Covid and the flu moving forward

*00:59:05 Stephanie Perks: I've gotta run, but I wanted to share that we will be having a Mobile Farm Stand on Fridays at the Kilburn Mill, 10-2pm, starting in a couple of weeks. Also looking for partners to do a small pilot for SNAP deliveries.*

**Liz W (Marion Institute):**

- I wanted to circle back with Adele, to check back on the opportunity for canning extra food

*00:59:45 Ashley Brister: Yes. I feel like that's a great idea. Especially when super perishables like tomatoes are in abundance locally.*

**Adele Sands (Bristol County Agricultural):**

- We don't get the kids back until the 17<sup>th</sup>
- The FFA leaders are excited, because there is a community service aspect to that
- We will be looking for some grant funding

**Peter Muise (First Citizens):**

- The spike in New Bedford is not a general spike
  - o It was in a nursing home and a church

**Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):**

- The food security infrastructure grant does close on the 15th, but they are expecting to use all of the funding this round