

Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2020 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 30

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- We're talking about using food trucks in a way to serve meals now that the weather is changing
- We have Holly here to give an update on the food assessment and surveys

00:05:21 *Michael Jung: The Salvation Army New Bedford has a food truck.*

00:05:23 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Trevor Ferrell <https://www.mcall.com/news/mc-xpm-1999-06-29-3244998-story.html>*

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures, Food System Consultant):

- Highlights of consumer survey
 - o We have around 475 respondents
 - Half have annual income of \$45k or less
 - ¼ are sometimes worried about food running out
 - 1/5 are sometimes worried about economic ability to get enough food
 - o Expenses that compete
 - 50% are household expenses
 - o 41% have transportation issue
 - o Most were concerned about contracting Covid
 - o ¼ respondents use some sort of social service
 - o Less than 2/3 use grocery store as primary access of food
 - o Word of mouth is the highest cited mode of information sharing about food resources
 - o Hardest to get foods
 - Fresh fruits and veggies, affordable meats and seafood
 - o Improvements
 - More information about location and times of food resources
 - App would hopefully take care of this
 - Interest and need for a community garden

00:12:50 *Cara Ciminello (She/Hers): Were there any racial/ethnic inequities evident within the data in regard to food access?*

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

- I'm always shocked when people say they don't know how to get resources
 - o We don't know how to communicate with the masses

00:13:47 *Christine Sullivan: We are too dependent on the web. Many don't have access*

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures, Food System Consultant):

- It's this weird area of word of mouth
 - o How do you formalize an informal mode of communication?

00:14:42 *Christine Sullivan: local cable access and radio*

Wendy/Victoria/Kim:

- We get multiple calls a week from social workers, etc. that are asking for food pantry resources, etc.
- MA 211 has the information as well
- Part of the problem is that we are in between major news stations / outlets, and we don't have local ones

00:15:24 *MiM New Bedford - Kelley Cabral-Mosher: what about something like an annual food resource event in neighborhoods? New Bedford does an NB Connect for people experiencing homelessness it's been a success over the years*

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- The outreach in letters and information where are they going?

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors):

- Mostly Fall River (about 18,000)

Victoria (United Way of GNB):

- Mostly New Bedford area

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- We have all been doing a great job for this responsive work
- Cara Ciminello is working on research for infrastructure of the Food Policy Council

00:17:16 *Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures): @Cara: I don't have that handy, but we will include it.*

Carol (Damiens Pantry):

- We give out the street sheets from the United Way
- We are giving them to clients coming in
 - o The problem is getting to people who don't know about the food pantry
- We don't advertise, and most clients are coming by word of mouth

- A lot of people do not have access to the internet
 - o Especially the elderly
 - o Social workers that work with them have an obligation to tell them

00:19:12 *Victoria Grasela: Fun 107 and WBSM have both done outreach for us on 211, food pantries, our mobile market, etc. Actually, their team is handing out at the mobile market tonight*

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- We are hoping that the Food Finder app is a resource for social workers to get up to date information

00:23:09 *Northbound Ventures: As an additional reference point, only a third of our respondents report having children under 18 in the home.*

Adele Sands (Bristol Aggie High School):

- Because of the Corona virus, every school has had to provide students with laptops
- It would be good for all the schools to have information on their websites on where to get food

Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors):

- Our resources are on the Fall River School Dept. website

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- With our school system in Wareham we get robo calls
 - o Could we have food resources through some of these calls

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly) :

- Robo calls are reasonably accepted by the elderly if they are anticipated
- It would have to be labeled 'City of NB' etc.
- Seniors watch the local cable TV and radio

00:24:33 *United Way Fall River: love that idea*

00:25:46 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: Great idea!*

Lorraine Khazan (PACE):

- Also, we have the fuel assistance program, many of whom are senior citizens
- We may be able to send information in these envelopes

00:26:00 *Wendy Garf-Lipp: How about getting pizza delivery to tape flier to boxes*

Holly Fowler (Northbound Ventures – Food System Consultant):

- Everything that we've looked at, we will put in context of demographics, zip code
- The other thing, is I'm getting around to doing some 1 on 1's
 - o Determining where are the gaps and information that we don't know yet
 - o There will be a link to Calendly that will help schedule this



00:30:55 Northbound Ventures: Thank you everyone! Look for an invitation to more 1-1 or 1-2 conversations soon.

Portia DePina (Marion Institute):

- Food Finder
 - o We have an intern going town by town gathering research
 - o I have Food Pantry information into the App
 - o Currently I'm working on getting the farms, farmstands, etc. in with SEMAP
 - o I think we are 50% done, and hopefully will conclude in the next two weeks

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- If you are willing to check due to your location that would be helpful!

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- When we first were looking at this information, there were a lot of gas stations that were also SNAP / WIC providers
- If you're trying to expand the geography it's easy to go to the government website, to download this information into the app

Rob Shaheen (New Bedford Food Service):

- We received an infrastructure grant of 1.4 million for the renovation of our cafeteria project
 - o We will be redoing all the cafeterias
 - o We will have wrapping / sealing machines
- We should also be getting back proposals for the RFP of the Culinary Center
 - o Hopefully open by this time next year
- We also received a Fresh Fruit and Veggie grant
 - o Getting fresh food samples into elementary student's classrooms and bags
- I have the transportation department looking into refrigerated trucks and a food distribution truck
- School in-person numbers are continuing to go up
 - o Attitudes of students that I saw were excited to be back in school

Robyn Branco (Southcoast YMCA):

- We have a little more information in pursuing the partnership with the food bank
 - o Introducing a market in Wareham
 - o Increasing to Fall River, weekly
 - o Adding one in New Bedford
 - o Another in Swansea
- We are working to find more information from other food pantries so that we can support gaps

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Pantry):

- We are not receiving boxes from Costas, but we are getting them from the Boston Food Bank