

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 7, 2021 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 26**

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Let's go around do a round robin to see what people are seeing, needing, and to see if these meetings are still helpful
  - o Should we continue the weekly call?

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- The meetings are really helpful
- In terms of food insecurity, we're not seeing a huge change
- This group is helpful to have on a somewhat regular basis, maybe every other week instead of weekly
  - o To help problem solve, if food insecurity continues at this level we're going to need to figure out supply needs

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

- I agree, I think we should meet every other week, and keep in contact

**Ashley Amy (Algonquin Heights):**

- This is my first time here. We're a housing complex of 200 units in Plymouth
- We've been running some food programs

**Kim Smith (United Way of Greater Fall River):**

- We have a small representation of Fall River here but it's an important one
- In Fall River we're in collaboration with Wendy Garf-Lipp
- Mondays we have a sub-meeting that includes food, and coordinating goods, and eliminating duplication of effort
  - o This group brings us together as the Southcoast with New Bedford and Fall River
- Priority areas to consider are: low resources, nutritional value, and looking towards the future as an important component
- Not being reactive but proactive is a huge benefit of these calls that we should continue

**Nick Decas (Damien's Pantry):**

- Over the holidays we've had a lot of generous donations
- We're implementing a new intake system since the pandemic has forced us to be outside – we're just not preloading carriages
- We're trying to give our people choice, to bring dignity and eliminate waste
- In Wareham there are a lot of people living in hotels, how do they get to us?

- Maybe we take trucks to the hotels and set up food distribution there, with foods that make sense to cook in hotel living
- Damien's is in Wareham, but 70% of our clientele is from New Bedford
  - I believe there's a large part of Wareham we're not reaching
    - Figuring out if we can package things to bring to schools

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

- We're going back to giving our clients choice in the food items they pick
- We're buying UVB lamps that kill 99.9% of germs to sanitize – set it when no one's there for 15 minutes
- We don't allow people in without masks
- Ask them 5 questions, like at a doctor's office
- Clients never touch anything, volunteers put everything in a bag
- Volunteers have shields, masks and plexiglass in the intake area
- The pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10 – 12

00:19:10 Wendy Garf-Lipp: <https://www.healthline.com/health/does-uv-kill-coronavirus#:~:text=While%20a%20UV%20lamp%20may%20be%20used%20to,Sitting%20in%20a%20hot%20bath%20can%20prevent%20COVID-19>

00:19:24 Wendy Garf-Lipp: There's an article on UVB lamps

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

- We have cookbooks that were created specifically for motel populations, and we also have some for kids to cook at home in microwaves when their parents aren't home
  - I can give to Nick at Damien's Pantry for the hotel population

00:21:29 dave perry: Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry

00:21:44 Wendy Garf-Lipp: wendy@unfr.org

00:21:47 dave perry: 235 Nashua St. Fall River, 02721

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- The draft of the Food System Assessment report will be done on Tuesday Jan 11<sup>th</sup>
  - We will need some readers and editors
  - It will be a guiding document for our steering committee and identifying the needs for our region
- These weekly meetings will focus on collaboration that are necessary to get what we need right now

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We had some recent Covid cases and had to shut down and coordinate everything so we could re-open
- The pantry is back open today with a different crew – the warehouse was not impacted at all



- GBFB will be getting us some boxes that will get us through the next few days
- We're in great shape to deal with surge of people who haven't been able to be here for next few days

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- A reminder to use Food Alert for needs like this
  - If you need volunteers, if you need to shut down
  - Tori at United Way can help with food distribution

00:27:34 *Meg Rogers-UWGFR- she/her:*

[https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Brief\\_Local%20Impact\\_5.19.2020.pdf](https://www.feedingamerica.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Brief_Local%20Impact_5.19.2020.pdf)

**Ivan (M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc.):**

- On our end things have been similar, we've been getting a lot of donations from community, both money and perishable food
- We're open every Weds from 11 to 1
- We lost some volunteers because of an increase in positive covid cases
- We're looking for consistent volunteers
- We changed operation and give food bags outside now, socially distanced with masks
- The numbers are high so we're trying to reach more people
- We're looking for resources and infrastructure like buying more freezers
- We're at 725 Pleasant St.

**Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):**

- This is the first full week of the Winter Farmer's Market
- We're operating all our programs
  - Today we have the Brock Ave mobile market from 12 – 5
  - Buttonwood Warming House goes till the end of April on Saturdays from 10-5
    - That's 2 in-person sites for people to use SNAP/HIP Benefits
  - We also have pickups and will do a pilot for delivery for SNAP customers, waiting on getting some funding for that
- We've seen a decrease in terms of what food's available from farmers since there's been a drought

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- The silver lining of the pandemic is highlighting the need for people to have more control and access over their regional food systems
  - It's a positive trend that food hubs are really thriving

**Ivan (M.O. L.I.F.E., Inc.):**

- What are people doing for registration?
  - We're trying to find ways to streamline our process especially since because of covid, we're doing things outside in the cold

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

- All that we ask is for proof of residence – that’s all that GBFB wants – we also want it broken down by age group

**Claudia Arsenio (Full Plate Project/YMCA Southcoast):**

- We use their zip codes, total # of people in household, adults, children, seniors
- YMCA in Malden has developed a new data intake software for GBFB – they’re offering it for 2 years for free
  - o You can take picture of Q Cards to scan into the system
  - o I will find send info about it to Food Alert
- We need a driver for 10 or 15 hrs a week
- In Wareham we’ve been doing distribution to homeless shelters, sharing our resources with places that wouldn’t normally be able to access us
- We’re doing pre-bagging for the first time today, instead of onsite distribution
- We are putting flyers in our bags that provide important info, i.e. being able to go to any school to get school meals, not just your kid’s school

**Nick Decas (Damien’s Pantry):**

- We’ve been writing all the info by hand
- We have a trailer with 2 windows where we do intake outside, on an iPad
- We give people a beeper like they give you at restaurant so they can go back to their cars and not have to stand in the cold

00:51:55 ndecas: [ndecas@decascranberry.com](mailto:ndecas@decascranberry.com)

**Olivia Hart (SEMAP):**

- We’re planning for the coming farmer’s markets season and doing as much HIP promotion for that as possible
- I’m spearheading a farmer’s market contest for students