

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 11th
 - 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

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

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