

Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2020 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 24

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- We have some new folks on the call today, please feel free to introduce yourselves

Pat Magursky:

- Hi all, I'm a volunteer with PACE, getting food and supplies to people. I've been a nurse for 40 years and I look forward to working with you all. I also work with Coastline Elderly and the Council on Aging in Acushnet

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Kristin and Katie are here from FIMA, Food is Medicine Massachusetts. They're going to do a presentation

Kristin Sukys (CHLPI):

- I'm a policy analyst at The Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation of Harvard Law School (CHLPI), a statewide coalition
- Massachusetts Food as Medicine State Plan (FIMA) addresses a broad spectrum of services for those with serious health conditions. This mainly consists of healthy foods that are tailored to meet specific needs of at risk populations
 - o Medically tailored food packages and home deliveries
 - o Nutritious food referrals, including CSAs
- 2 year mission surveying health care providers, payers & consumers, mapping services across MA
- We're implementing 3 Task Forces, including a state and senate pilot bill calling for expansion of services

Katie Garfield Clinical Instructor (CHLPI):

- I'm a Clinical Instructor at Harvard Law
- We're looking for opportunities to partner and collaborate
- To strengthen the foundation of our health system to better address needs
- A common theme for Healthcare Providers, is that they don't know how to connect people to basic nutrition and how to accurately screen people for food insecurity
- Goal is to structure research around how interventions actually work, get a better sense of impact on a household
- Another core thing we're working on: the next Mass Health Waiver, coming after June 22

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- One question, who actually is conducting the research?

Kristin Sukys (CHLPI):

- anyone who is being funded, and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) are also conducting evaluations
- Some other organizations doing evaluations are: Just Roots in Western MA and Community Servings - GBFB is doing a big study on mobile markets

Katie Garfield (CHLPI):

- NIH National Institute for Health has a grant to do research; also a lot of philanthropists, like Rockefeller Foundation, are giving grants for things like produce prescriptions

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- the ACO was starting to incorporate questions around food insecurity in their intake, is there any sort of reporting obligation?
- GBFB has done a collaboration in New Bedford with mobile markets and they're collecting food insecurity data there

Katie Garfield:

- Mass Health is not requiring public reporting on these

00:12:45 *Katie Garfield (CHLPI):*<https://foodismedicinema.org/>

00:26:46 *Kristin Sukys (she/her):* https://www.bostonindicators.org/reports/report-website-pages/covid_indicators-x2/2020/october/food-insecurity

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- The work you're doing ties in with the Marion Institute, there are ways to join FIMA coalition for anyone interested
- For those interested, email me

Kristin Sukys (CHLPI):

- We're going to do a series of short webinars in November & December, one to address what's happening at the federal level & the other is a Massachusetts deep dive

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- Everybody, what are you seeing out there?
- Karen, what are we seeing with farmers markets?

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Most are closing soon, Fall River is closing at end of October at the Doolan Apartments
- Getting the word out about HIP as coupons need to be redeemed by end of October

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- I know there are some Fall CSAs, but are any farms shifting to this model for the winter?

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- We have to call farm by farm, things are closing up because of the draught – working on a page for the website stating who’s doing delivery

00:31:36 *Stephanie Perks:* *The drought has impacted a lot of their yields as well for the winter*

Olivia (SEMAP):

- Winter plan survey – only 2 farms have answered, but generally people are planning to continue their current practices with pickups/delivery; there hasn’t been a lot of definite answers re winter farmers markets, people don’t know yet
- Probably won’t be as many

Stephanie Perks (Coastal Foodshed):

- Unfortunately we’re not able to go into the church so we’re scrambling to find a location, if anyone knows of a space it -- it doesn’t have to be in New Bedford
 - o Looking at potentially YWCA and Cape Verdean Center
 - o Indoor space issue is a problem in the Winter
- We only have 7 vendors, so it’s not that much
- We’ll expand our delivery to Fall River and Westport, for SNAP customers

Liz W (Marion Institute):

- I’m happy to talk to a place in Wareham for a pick up site, would that help you?

Karen Schwalbe (SEMAP):

- Mass Farmers Markets has a grant to construct kiosks that have potential for heat, following the European model of year round farmers markets

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- What are folks seeing in the Food Pantry world?

Dave Perry (Fall River Food Pantry):

- Boston Food Bank is now out of food boxes, we heard that United Way NB has some

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater NB):

- We are getting boxes from Costa, the grant usually goes till end of October but we’re only going till next week

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater NB):

- We wrote a letter to our local congressman to get program extended but we haven’t heard back yet
- We get 24 pallets, which is 1008 boxes



Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- There's been some natural attrition with home delivery meals, people are going out and doing more shopping
- Trying to shift to more grab n' go lunches, we have a program launching next week for people 60 +
- On The Go Lunches is providing lunch in Acushnet on Tuesdays and Marion on Thursdays
- We passed on Farm to Family boxes when they got dairy because of refrigeration
- Is anyone doing Thanksgiving meals?

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater NB):

- We're doing our Annual Hunger Heroes, we package 1000 fixings for Thanksgiving meals and deliver to pantries

Dave Perry:

- Starting next week our clients will start receiving Thanksgiving style meals

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Is the database for tracking turkeys still in the works?

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater NB):

- We're still figuring things out

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion):

- Please join us on the United Way call Tuesday the 20th at 9 a.m. – there will be a HIP presentation & opportunity for questions

Zoom Info for United Way Call

: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81624143817?pwd=aXo4RnJlQ1NpUHZwaHc3QVZ2YTlDdz09>

Meeting ID: 816 2414 3817 **Password:** UNFRUWH ; **Dial In:** +1 646 558 8656 **pw:** 8115841