

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 28, 2021 @ 9am**

*Chat Box Notes are in Italics.*

**Attendance: 28**

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Let's start with Farmers to Family food boxes; Kim do you know who was successful?

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

- I'm not sure who in Fall River was successful
- I know the Fall River School Dept did get a grant and will get 1000 boxes until the end of February
  - o Through Katsiroubas Bros In Hyde Park

**Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):**

- We don't have any updates. We applied for boxes through Produce Alliance and are waiting to hear back.

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Southcoast MA is being overlooked and we need more advocacy which we'll address
- First, I want to address immediate, emergent needs – who would like to start?

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

- The Shah Family Foundation is looking for additional organizations to participate in the program
  - o It's a Pilot Program, featuring hot food for school aged kids
  - o They're working with a food truck
  - o Would like to add a few more sites to their distribution – in the Wareham, New Bedford, Fall River area

00:14:07 *Deloris Joseph: I would love to see this happen in Dartmouth, maybe partner with one of the schools. Claudia can you send me some information: [djoseph@town.dartmouth.ma.us](mailto:djoseph@town.dartmouth.ma.us)*

00:23:15 *claudia arsenio: Michael Madigan, Project Associate, Shah Family Foundation, 353 Newbury St. Boston, MA 02115, [michael@shahfoundation.org](mailto:michael@shahfoundation.org); Or: Debbie Fringuelli, Senior Executive Director, GLEASON FAMILY YMCA, (P) 508.295.9622 x13 (F) 508.295.8973, (E) [dfringuelli@ymcasc.org](mailto:dfringuelli@ymcasc.org)*

**Ashley Brister (Sharing the Harvest Farm):**

- We're expecting a mini freezer on February 12<sup>th</sup>
- We're making progress on the buildout of the distribution site

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- Fish Chowder came from John Vasconcellos at the Community Foundation
  - o Reach out to Tori Grasela at the Hunger Commission if you want it
  - o It'll be available in mid-February
  - o Comes on a pallet 140 cases per pallet, each has six 18 oz cups of chowder
- We're also working on getting pints of frozen oysters from Greater Boston Food Bank
  - o This is a good push for our local food system, to get local food into the system
  - o When they're available we'll send out a food alert and you can put in requests to Tori

**Rob Shaheen (New Bedford Public Schools):**

- In February we are renovating the high school cafeteria, kitchen and pod areas
- We're purchasing a building for our culinary center, that could potentially be ready by Fall of next year
  - o Potential to do 5000 – 8000 meals a day, breakfast and lunch
- We're looking to expand our programs, the two new facilities next year will increase our abilities
- We've been hampered by not having enough space; we'd like to share some space, so we can do distribution

**Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion):**

- It's slowing down in the winter and we're starting to make plans for next season
- SEMAP and I are working on creating a survey to promote HIP Education

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

- DTA recently released a new tool for checking PEBT balance

00:29:32 *Patricia Geggatt- Midurski: Yes, there is much confusion amongst recipients of SNAP/PEBT benefits especially with monies being loaded on different dates.*

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- We're continuing our mobile pop-up
- Our families are struggling with food and with meals – with the kids being home for such a long period of time
- Our pantries haven't seen a huge increase

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We need more outreach in Wareham, to reach families there

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

- In 2020, though we are based in Wareham, only about 20% of our clients came from Wareham

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

- Outreach isn't reaching the public well enough, we need to find other ways – we can publicize through churches, the radio and social media
- We should script something for the United Way to announce

00:35:15 Deloris Joseph: *What a good idea Wendy.*

00:35:37 Deloris Joseph: *Yes Tori, send it to me and I will have it listed on the Town of Dartmouth website*

00:35:59 Deloris Joseph: *I can also send it to Dartmouth Public Schools and have them post on their social media platforms*

00:36:10 Patricia Geggatt- Midurski: *I work at the Acushnet COA as the Outreach Coordinator. I will ask to have it listed on Town of Acushnet website*

00:36:50 Deloris Joseph: *What are HIP benefits*

00:37:24 Liz Wiley: *HIP = Healthy Incentive Program. We will explain it next Deloris, good question*

00:39:15 Olivia Hart: *Sure thing! I can send all of SEMAP's HIP promotional materials*

00:39:59 Sarah Labossiere: *Yes - forgot about putting that out to Food Alert - thanks Olivia!*

00:40:23 Deloris Joseph: *I also want us to be able to share this info with the daycares, private schools, catholic school, etc*

**Victoria Grasela (United Way of GNB):**

- I'll reach out to the radio again
- I wanted to push the link on our website to all the pantries

**Susan Murray (Coastal Foodshed):**

- Those who are new to SNAP, we have 3 different ways for people to access HIP

00:40:52 Susan, Coastal Foodshed: *Places to access SNAP/HIP benefits (New Bedford): New Bedford Winter Farmers' Market Saturdays 10-2 Buttonwood Park Warming House (inside); Coastal Foodshed Farm Stand: Thursday 12-5 at 466 Brock Ave, NB; Coastal Foodshed Virtual Market – shopping Saturday through Monday with pick up at 25 Blackmeer st. on Wednesday from 2-5pm. You can find more information on our website: [www.coastalfoodshed.org](http://www.coastalfoodshed.org)*

**Marcia Picard (Fall River):**

- The biggest vehicle for getting the word out is the school system
- Also the Housing Authority
- We should be targeting large conglomerates of people

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

- There are 90,000 people in Fall River, and only 10,000 people in schools
- We should also target the clergy

**Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):**

- I have some funds left over from a grant last year that I'm trying to figure out how to spend
- Have any organizations out there done any recorded cooking demos?

00:42:44 Sarah Labossiere: Christine - UMASS Nutrition Extension has some and is willing. I will post Lindsay Magan's email

00:43:18 Sarah Labossiere: I think I have DVDs of the "Who's Cooking Fall River"

00:45:32 Wendy Garf-Lipp: [wendy@unfr.org](mailto:wendy@unfr.org)

00:46:18 Sarah Labossiere: Lindsay Magan, UMASS Extension Nutrition Education Program: [lmagan@umext.umass.edu](mailto:lmagan@umext.umass.edu)

00:46:27 Christine Sullivan: [csullivan@coastlinenb.org](mailto:csullivan@coastlinenb.org)

**Marcia Picard (Fall River Schools):**

- I can provide information for the person who is doing it now

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We did a cooking demo last summer with Little Moss restaurant, and also NECAT

**Benoit Azagoh-Kouadio (Round the Bend Farm):**

- We have some videos that were produced for Manifest Love, all using fresh local veggies

00:46:31 Deloris Joseph: We did something like this when I worked for the Arc of Bristol county. There would be a zoom on Saturdays to make the meals. The families were given the food bags ahead of time and followed along with the presenter on Zoom. This was very successful

00:46:40 Marcia Picard: UMass Ex. NEP contact: Lindsay Magan - [lmagan@umext.umass.edu](mailto:lmagan@umext.umass.edu)

00:48:41 Benoit: [Desa@roundthebendfarm.org](mailto:Desa@roundthebendfarm.org)

00:49:50 Ashley Brister: Sharing the Harvest is also exploring the idea of cooking demos. Love the zoom idea!

00:55:42 Victoria Grasela: A list of food pantries:  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX1vTx7pm5SSdZON85adSHSKij0VuJgoA6bJNA2bfn6HwA64rkDTEQI\\_JDQqFwQ7yyqZYp2Y\\_XkspkC3mn/pubhtml](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX1vTx7pm5SSdZON85adSHSKij0VuJgoA6bJNA2bfn6HwA64rkDTEQI_JDQqFwQ7yyqZYp2Y_XkspkC3mn/pubhtml)

00:56:19 Kim Smith: Our food pantry list is on [uwgfr.org](http://uwgfr.org)



Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Regarding the advocacy piece – yes, that is a role that the Southcoast Food Policy will be taking on
- We're recruiting an Advocacy person
- I also reached out to Mayor Mitchell to raise the alarm
- Earlier, we had an influx of funding that came to the Southcoast and allowed us all to be really responsive, effective and more spontaneous in our reactions
- Now we're in a worse situation, and we don't have the funds coming in
- I'm starting to look for funding for the advocacy role
- I'm also looking to work with the Mayor in Fall River as well
- Funding does not come past the 128 corridor, and we're all competing for the same resources here
- Legislators will be responsive to a large, active group - we need to harness the 220 + people on our policy mailing list and activate