

Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2021 @ 9am

Chat Box Notes are in Italics.

Attendance: 29

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Can we get an update on the culinary center from you Rob?

Rob Shaheen (New Bedford Public Schools):

- On March 1 New Bedford is getting more students back – not every school, not every grade
- Grab n’go lunches are still going, 8 sites every day
- We have to shut down 1 high school in order to construct the culinary kitchen, which will act as central kitchen – project is scheduled to finish on June 30th, 2021
- We received the Infrastructure Food & Security grant from the state, amounting over \$1 million– project costs \$3.2 million

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford):

- We got fish chowder – we still have 1 pallet left, if anyone’s interested
- We started pop-up winter mobile markets, we had one this past Wednesday, we served over 100 households in less than 1 hour – 340 people benefited
 - o Pasta, stuffing, soup, fresh produce from the Y
- On Tuesday we’ll be in Wareham from 5:30 – end of supply, on Bank 5 on Acushnet on Wednesdays
- USDA Food boxes have been going ok from what I know
 - o Next Saturday is the last one for now

00:15:45 Victoria Grasela: vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org

Peter Muise (First Citizens Federal Credit Union):

- Bristol County has the highest amount of court rulings for evictions in the state
 - o We’re working to combat this
- There will be a lot of homelessness come late spring and summer
- Landlords aren’t aware of the resources – they can apply for money
- Housing will become the primary issue, and food becomes secondary if we don’t get this resolved

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly):

- New Bedford Council on Aging has a grant to help process SNAP applications

00:20:15 Kim Smith: Christine - reach out to Sara Labossiere about SNAP/HIP

00:21:04 Kim Smith: Sarah Labossiere: slabossiere@fallriverma.org

Jacob Miller (Senator Montigny's Office):

- We had a call with Neighbor Works yesterday regarding the housing issue
- Please let me know if anyone has ideas with ways the state can be involved
- If someone is applying for RAFT right now they can't be evicted

00:24:52 Patricia Geggatt-Midurski: *Christine, Could an article be drafted to be added to the monthly COAs newsletters?*

00:25:17 Deirdre Healy: *I see eviction support notices during Celtics games!*

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

- Re: evictions, this is the same issue is the same that we've discussed before, we are not going to reach this new population people – can this information be put in the paycheck envelopes of each city, gyms, churches, if you need eviction go to this website, sports venue, on TV advertising, Head Start, community service billboards

00:27:50 Jennifer Pereira DWS CWE: *Have you all tried sending out notices through the churches and posters in the corner stores? I suspect that most folks affected do not have internet*

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Who is the entity to act on that?

Adele Sands (Bristol County Agricultural High School):

- The idea to use the schools' all calls system is a great one – Tom Scott the head of all superintendents through the commonwealth – we can put it on all the school websites, we could hit it all across the state

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- We also have an all call system that we use for our client data base
- We get referrals from Neighborhood Housing Solutions when people in Fall River and New Bedford reach out for RAFT
- It'd be more impactful if we did this in a more organized, intentional way as a group
- We're getting additional funds that go outside of RAFT or ESG to help people who don't qualify
- The key is to help people now, before the eviction moratorium is over – to prevent homelessness

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- I'm happy to work with the Wareham school system
- Pam, will you post something to Food Alert?

Pam Kuechler (PACE):

- We'll try and get something together in the next week that we can get out to people
- We closed on our new building last week and will be making renovations
 - o We'll do a mobile market pantry the week after next, at least 1 day a week

- We are looking for collaboration ideas to do there with food
 - o Perhaps a farmer's market
 - o We have a lot of space; we're at 477 Park St., New Bedford
 - o We will potentially do something with Elliot Farm

Ashley Brister (Sharing the Harvest Farm):

- We've got an excess from last week, we have a pallet's worth of pineapples to give away
 - o The Hunger Commission will distribute those

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- Barbara of Malden will be on our call next week to talk about a new software used

00:46:25 Stephanie Taylor: Hello everyone, some of you I know very well ;) I am here representing Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society's Fresh Fruit and Delivery Program but want to share the survey for your all to share amongst your networks the Massachusetts Commission's on the Status of Womens, for women of color and their experiences during covid. Anyone can complete the survey

00:46:29 Stephanie Taylor: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeuFK8FnC7vx7-vtki9e7HBH7C3Tgt8d2Q0bjE9LZFpFmWTw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR34Rk6DrqixiQK5rLXTu75SLtDzxUWL6nVeZazKgY3oLO_l-vQ3frT3_L0&gxids=7628

00:57:49 Sarah Labossiere: Lindsey Magan, Nutrition Educator, Umass Extension; lmagan@umext.umass.edu; can do "Fit and Fabulous" presentations

Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society):

- We did a hearing last night for women of color and the effects of covid
- I'm working with the Vegan Society which is a small nonprofit, they specifically serve those that have dietary limitations – working to get fresh produce at the food pantries
- I'm looking to partner with New Bedford and Boston
- People believe that Martha's Vineyard doesn't have need, but that's not true

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- We've been working with the Martha's Vineyard Fisherman's Trust to get fish chowder

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion):

- We're working on getting our survey translated
- Next Friday we're doing a Healthy At Every Size training
- HIP Education and Winter Options, we'll be sharing that at those presentations

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):

- SEMAP will be having their annual conference, starting this weekend
- Our Wareham Food Distribution needs outreach, the numbers have been low
 - o I will put the PNG file in the chat



Marcia Picard (Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthy Community):

- I ordered \$700 worth of books that will be used for training for Head Start staff on picky eating, healthy eating and being healthy at every size
- It's kind of a pilot program for Fall River

Jennifer Pereira (Associate Professor at Johnson & Wales):

- We have a group of students in need of internships
- We are developing a food complex for the Fall River waterfront: public markets, commissary kitchens, year round farmers markets and nutrition education for kids

00:58:23 Sarah Labossiere: Winterbridge Friday 3-6pm at Gromada Plaza in FR and Sat 10:30-12:30 if not rained out

00:58:35 Jennifer Pereira DWS CWE: jpereira@jwu.edu