

**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2021 @ 9am**

**Attendance: 31**

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We have Debbie Amaral from the Malden YMCA with us today – she is here to discuss the digital pantry system software, Your Market, with us

**Debbie Amaral (Malden YMCA):**

- In June, we received \$75k from a venture grant to start this system
- We developed the software in August
- We first started enrolling other YMCAs in September
  - o the Southcoast and the city of Brockton will be coming on, etc.
  - o We have enrolled 2700 households since September
- The system has a full delivery and intake system
  - o People only have to fill out an intake form once, on the first visit
- We see about 200 households come a day
- We have this in Haitian, Creole, Portuguese, Spanish, Chinese & Arabic
- You can look people up phone number

**Pam Kuechler (PACE):**

- How easily extractable is the data?

**Debbie Amaral (Malden YMCA):**

- We're developing some middleware [software] since there are many agencies who have to use their own software for reporting purposes
- Brockton has funds to do some of this development
- The software is free for the first two years, then the overall cost is about \$120,000 a year
  - o We could split the cost between agencies, i.e. 100 agencies on, it'd be at most \$100 a month
- People can choose their food preferences, i.e. fresh produce and frozen meat – it's one of the big reasons we took this
- Next step is to get 100% choice in bags and deliver them out
- Users can make suggested edits to a group, after analyzing data sets
- Data is being held in Public Trust, and can only be held in nonprofit hands – it can't be sold for profit
- Data from other communities won't be used for our individual fundraising

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We'll coordinate a deeper session for pantries to discuss this with Debbie
- Let's do a round of updates

**Meg Rogers (United Way of Greater Fall River):**

- We've opened our Covid Relief Operation portals
- Our impact grants are rolling out in next two weeks, that include funds not just specific to Covid

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

- I was on a brainstorming session with EOHE and DE for potential funds to come into our area
  - o We discussed how Covid food relief efforts can be implemented going forward
  - o The funds will be all year long – this could be a standing program
- Important that the foods be culturally relevant
  - o We can use the farms' surplus, process it and giving it back to them to distribute

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- I had a conversation yesterday with the Massachusetts Food Policy Council Network – they're doing similar things as we've been doing here on the Southcoast
  - o They stressed the importance of having the policy councils operate as a collective
- The data we're able to pull together will be able to show that long-term change

**Patrece Petersen (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society):**

- We're distributing fresh produce and up to date information on Covid
- We're struggling for funding right now

**Liz Wiley (Marion Institute):**

- We're still trying to get more people to get meals from the Wareham food distribution site
- We'd like to coordinate more conversation around the Housing information we sent out