

Meeting Minutes
April 29, 2021 @ 9am

Attendance: 23

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/april-29-2021-marion-institute-sfpc-regional-resources-meeting/s-6eq2cPyl941>

Note: This document is largely paraphrased. Please see audio for direct quotes. Chat box comments identified as such below.

Question: Should we continue meeting every week or drop down to every other week?

- Every other week sounds good. Let's try to plan these meetings for every other week, alternating with the meetings of other local groups. Can we say the 1st and 3rd, or 2nd and 4th? That way it will be less confusing for everyone.

Announcement from Marion Institute:

- New Program Manager for SFPC will be starting at the MI next week! We've pushed off our efforts to form the steering committee until she joins. I'm hoping many of you will join the steering committee or other working groups or if you're unable to put in that time, that's okay, I hope you will still be able to join as an at large member and we'll keep you updated with everything. I'm hoping we can begin to turn some of our conversations to that soon.

Updates:

- Coastal Food Shed: Hi everyone! I'm Marcy Eichner from the Coastal Food Shed! I've worked in food access before and I'm excited to be here and learn about the issues this area is facing. Happy to be here.
- David Perry: Last week I met with Lasagna Love. We are now going to be supplying them with the lasagna, hamburg and tomato sauce.
 - Wendy: People are so excited! This is an amazing partnership. Families will learn how to make lasagna! Families will receive ingredients and make 1 lasagna for them and 1 lasagna to donate to the food pantry.
- David Perry: Numbers have been the same. Decreased a little, but not where we were pre-covid. Boston boxes will continue until June so that's good news in a way. We give those boxes in addition to everything else we do. I think Farm to Fresh ends this month, I'm not sure.
- Adele: Let's set something up with Robin and Karen to talk about canning!
 - Karen: Yes! Ask your health officer and see what he allows. If he says its okay and its fine or we can talk to Amanda from UMass to check in with her. I will reach out to her. We can work around her dates and availability.
- United Way Fall River: We are meeting twice a week at this point for vaccine outreach and hesitancy and PR and so forth, looking to expand the access to give out vaccines. We are working

with Tess at the Board of Health and we're looking at other food distribution sites – businesses, parking lots, things like that. If you know anyone who is willing to host a van please let us know and we will get that scheduled! We have plenty of vaccines available.

- We've also been working with United Neighborhoods, Health First and Star in Fall River to create a vaccine call center called Untied We Help Vaccinate Fall River (8338-VAX-NOW). It will be staffed 12 – 8pm every day a week starting next Tuesday (5/4/21). We have multilingual staff vetted thru Health First. Star is doing the training. We are doing the admin piece. We will be doing outreach to call people who aren't showing up or if there's excess vaccines available. We want to get that word out to everyone who's interested in getting a vaccine appointment!
- Wendy: We're looking into developing shared language to talk about vaccine hesitancy. People are hesitant about vaccines for lots of different reasons. We are hoping to help someone who will eventually take the vaccine but needs people to take the time to talk them through all the things they are nervous about.
- Pam: There's a similar thing happening in New Bedford. Several agencies are collaborating to provide people with help to get vaccine appointments and break down barriers that are preventing people from getting vaccine appointments. We are collaborating with vaccine distribution sites. I will have more details next week (we just got the grant, yay!). If anyone knows of people in greater New Bedford area who are struggling and needs additional assistance, call one of the sites to help walk them through the process. I will send details through Listserv!
- Liz: Where in New Bedford is the Shaw Foundation distribution site?
 - Pam: Maybe PACCA, I can let you know
 - Victoria: One at the YMCA in New Bedford and the Salvation Army in New Bedford as well
- Wendy: We have lots of house things available for anyone in need (Bathroom things, rugs, furniture, clothes, etc). Call Jeanie Bettencourt and she can set it up for you!
 - Jeannie: 774-328-2043
- Mass in Motion: I created a new flyer that consolidates our HIP information and how to use HIP now (including coastal food shed info, skinny dip farm, oak dale farm, country farm). On the backside is the farmer's market survey. I will post both of them in the chat. Maybe Liz can add it to the email. I will also post the link to the live farmer's market survey. It's live, it's in three languages. The flyer is only in English right now but will be translated.
 - Our farmers market is starting in June 15th – St Anne's 16th, Carlos Medeiros and
 - SNAP webinar – Monday at 10am. Geared towards school administrators and staff. Marcia sent it to Cindy and Claudia to pass it on to adjustment counselors. Open to anyone in any town in MA. It's trying to make families aware that if something has been especially helpful to them, now is the time to apply to SNAP.
 - Emergency broadband benefit is a new program starting up. Will give people a \$50 discount on monthly broadband access and a one-time \$100 voucher for a device if they need it.
 - I'm printing these flyers and I'm hoping to drop them off places. I will try to get some people to do surveys!
- MLRI is happy to host a forum!



- Liz: Do you know if EBT rolls over? Yes SNAP and EBT rolls over for a year, WIC does not.
- Coastal Food Shed Update:
 - Coastal Food Shed will still be at Buttonwood on Saturday until the end of May and soon we will be announcing days for the outdoor summer season. We won't be downtown in the summer season. We will keep you updated.
- Karen Schwalbe: The DPH rescinded the farmers market orders that were statewide. Decisions about farmers markets will now be made by individual boards of health.
- Victoria: Prepping for our event tonight. We've been working to start scheduling our summer mobile market in NB and Wareham. We've been in contact with Rachel Davis to help set up a van on site for vaccinations at the market
- Whitney Tully:
 - Shoutout from Lasagna Love to Dave Perry! He gave me a great tour of the food pantry and offered to supply Lasagna Love with supplies! Awesome!
- Damians in Wareham:
 - Last 2 weeks the numbers have been down quite a bit. Not sure why. We were down 20% on both days that we served last week.
- Martha's Vineyard: We have collaborated with another organization to start a Food for Medicine type of program. Most referrals come from hospital or hospice. We give them 5 fresh fruits and vegetables. Excited to come visit tomorrow!
- Partners for Health has been working on a Health Neighborhood Research Project funded by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. New Bedford, Fall River, Brockton, and several communities around Boston. Sitting down with people for 30 minute videos, receive a \$20 gift card. People have been very forthcoming about public safety issues! This year might be different because of COVID. Food insecurity and food distribution was a thread throughout breakout rooms for all 9 communities. We're going to be talking about how we're going to assess and determine how we'll go about it. What I'm thinking about is finding out who is going to Flint, do they live there or are they coming from somewhere else, are they using SNAP? WIC? What can we do about it?
- Liz: We should look at RWJF funding because they are looking at that health equity gap with food insecurity.
- Wendy: RWJF is convening on May 10th, 11th and 13th where you will be able to hear about the assessment of each the communities. I will send it to you Liz.
- Jennifer Pereira DWS: Each presenting their projects. Send me an email if you're interested and I can send you a list of what they will be. Jennifer's email: jpereira@jwu.edu
- Marion Institute: I have solicited many of you with different food programs to provide data. Carl and Marcy and a couple of you who are new... The long awaited Food System Assessment Report will be wrapping up this month (for real). We put in a section highlighting the work that has been done in 2020 during the pandemic and we wanted to pause and take a moment to pay homage to all of you and all the work all of our organizations have been doing from March 2020 – March 2021. As a region, we will be able to use this report to get attention and resources. It covers 3 counties: Bristol, Norfolk and Plymouth County. I wanted to do a special section at the beginning though of a



small snapshot of some of the work we as a region were able to provide as far as meals, food boxes, volunteers, any sort of metric. Many people have sent their top 3-5 metrics. If you haven't sent it yet, please send it to me by next week latest because we will be sending this to our design person soon to put it all into a infographic. Everyone will be credited and everyone will be able to use that infographic to show what is needed to have a response effort that is still needed. Please let me know if you have any questions.