

Meeting Notes
May 13, 2021 @ 9am

Attendance: 31

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-may-13-2021/rsQOmOpHO3H>

Note: This document is largely paraphrased. Please see the audio for direct quotes. Chatbox comments are identified as such below.

Southcoast Food Policy Council Announcements:

- We are recording this meeting for chat purposes and notetaking purposes, and we send the recording out to everyone in the follow-up email
- We are meeting biweekly now
- We are going to do updates in a round-robin type of style
- If people want to discuss specific topics or have guest speakers, I'd be happy to facilitate it. Please reach out or put it in the chat log so we can follow up with you
- Our main method of communication is through the Southcoast Food Alert, which is different from the emails that Christine and I send out from the Marion Institute. We need to have good communication amongst the food policy council. So please, if you're not on the Southcoast Food Alert listserv, please join it by reaching out to Christine Smith! Its purpose is to communicate related to food security, food issues, and the work we are doing together as the food policy council. You can post jobs on it if you have extra food, can alert other places, etc
 - 00:09:28 Christine's email: chris@marioninstitute.org
- Welcome, Christine! Christine Smith is our new project manager for the Southcoast Food Policy Council! You'll be hearing more from her. She is really excited to work with everyone and learn from everyone! She's really enthusiastic about what we can accomplish together!
- Mike from Shaw Foundation is looking for other places in the South End from 1 pm -3 pm to give out food boxes. The Shaw Foundation can distribute meals to kids 18 years and younger. They do breakfast and lunch. They do Monday, and they do three days' worth, and Thursday they do four days' worth. They can't distribute at a site that is already distributing meals, including school meals. Does anyone know of any?
 - Ed will make a couple of calls and get back to Liz and Christine.

Updates:

- United Way of Greater New Bedford
 - Ryan is the new driver for the Hunger Commission of United Way of Greater New Bedford. He picks up food and brings it to people in need. Ryan has a good idea of the needs of the

the community and what people prefer. He's looking forward to making sure as many needs are met as possible. Happy to be here!

- 00:18:22 *Sarah is correct- Monday and Thursdays in FR*
- 00:19:02 *That's a great turnout, Dave!*
- 00:20:17 *frvax.com*
- 00:30:38 *Smith Mills Church in Dartmouth is still doing distribution on Tuesday evenings*
- Fall River Housing Authority
 - Thank you for everything you've given us! We fed 150 families and gave out fresh fruits and vegetables and cups of soup and chowder! I'm receiving 400 more cups of soup on Tuesday, and I'm going to work with Kim Smith to get 250 more packages of fresh fruit out to our residents
- Greater Fall River Food Pantry
 - Yesterday we received five pallets of farm to family. I will have three pallets available if anyone needs them. Ryan has been a great asset to me. We helped 20 people get vaccines on Tuesday at the clinic. We're moving along.
- Kim – Fall River
 - The initial opening of our remote call center was staffed with eight multilingual vaccine navigators. We have language-lined services for all languages as well. 833-8-VAX-NOW; FRvax.com; People can search for appointments by day, time, location, vaccine type, and walkups as well. We are really pushing the grassroots efforts to get out into the community. Pushing for family vaccinations, and we've seen effective progress!
 - 00:21:57 833-882-9669 (833-8VAXNOW)
- Sarah – Farmers' Market Fall River
 - Farmers market survey: semaponline.org/fall-river-farmers-markets-surveys/
 - I love to have anyone here take it. Even if you're not from Fall River, that's okay. We'd love to hear your opinion. Farmers' markets will be starting up on June 15th at St Anne's on Tuesday, at Health First on Wednesdays, and Carlos Medeiros on Fridays. The flyer will be coming out by the next meeting. We have a press release going out, and we're working on video promotion. We are so excited!
 - I Will send it out in Food Alert as well
 - 00:25:08 *Fall River Farmers Market Survey link (English, Portuguese and Spanish) - if you are familiar with Fall River at all, please take the survey, share it with your co-workers and people you work with! semaponline.org/fall-river-farmers-markets-surveys/*
- Semap
 - We are looking for community newsletters or neighborhood associations, Facebook groups, emails, newsletters focused within the Fall River community. If you know anyone you can put me in contact with, please let me know; that would be awesome!
 - 00:25:11 *My email is olivia.hart@semaponline.org. Feel free to send any community newsletters/email blasts you know of in Fall River my way!*
 - I will reach out to Patti Rego

- The Livestock Institute (TLI)
 - Help out local farmers with their custom slaughter needs, and we are also a retail store, and we do wholesale. We are a nonprofit. We are interested in connecting with food-based nonprofits in some capacity, especially with meat products. We have a lot of ground products available. We are looking to have conversations about how we can sell or donate a lot of our meat—matching as well! Keep Meatworks and TLI in mind. All of our beef and pork is raised in Massachusetts. We are on route 6 in Westport if anyone wants to stop by our retail store
 - Will read through and approve the TLI section of the food system assessment report
 - Sarah@thelivestockinstitute.org
- Youth Advocate for the Town of Dartmouth
 - Today the high school opened fully; now, all the schools are open. The schools are still giving out the food boxes on Thursday. I'm worried about what will happen in the summer, so I'm going to be reaching out to see what their plan is. We will partner up with a local organization in Dartmouth to make sure kids have access to food in the summer. I've been working with New Bedford with the food boxes from Mass Military to get the word out in Dartmouth.
 - I will talk to Liz and the Dartmouth Y about the Shaw Foundation
 - 00:32:48 Ryan M: *I work closely with Sy and offer him stuff a lot*
 - 00:35:24 Deloris Joseph-Youth Advocate: *@Ryan. That is great. I had a conversation with Sy on Friday and wanted to brainstorm how we can help the community over the summer.*
- Community Benefits at Southcoast Health
 - Wellness Van – we've been out in the community using the social vulnerability index to target neighborhoods that may have barriers to get to our clinics to provide some education and an opportunity to get the vaccine. We are doing Johnson and Johnson. We are accepting walk-ups as well. We've been out since mid-April. We have a full schedule for May. Thank you to everyone on the call for their help in getting the van out there! Marissa will be streamlining where people can find information by sending it directly to several people on this call. We've put some flyers and talking points together about the different vaccines; if anyone wants them, please let me know and share. We're also working on putting together some PSAs and working on business style cards that can be given to clients about vaccines and where to go, and how to access it.
- Pam in New Bedford
 - We will have electricity in the new building in a couple of days! Once that happens, we'll be loaded and ready to go. As of right now, we are doing distribution two days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but we'll start to see some more action as we rebuild our pantry over there. We are available to help out if people need help with transportation or getting products.
 - I will get data from Smith Mills and Elliot Farm and send it to Liz

- Christine Sullivan from Coastline Elderly Services
 - We partnered with Donald Bamberger, the Dartmouth YMCA who has a new nonprofit called Grow Greater New Bedford, and he's very interested in installing garden beds throughout the city and urban agriculture. He just put two beds for us at a senior housing project at Anderson Way in Dartmouth, and we had a planting unveiling of the beds yesterday. But what's nice is they don't just install the beds and walk away. They provide technical assistance throughout the growing season to help residents keep them going and rotate different groups. He's very interested in expanding his project throughout the area. He is very experienced, and his wife is a horticulturist.
 - growgreaternb@gmail.com Donald Bamberger
 - We have a cooking program we did with Round the Bend Farm. It will be aired next week, but we work with Round the Bend and Coastal Food Shed to buy 100 bags of ingredients for residents of New Bedford housing, so they watch the show and get to cook the meal with the show.
 - We are making grab-and-go lunches in New Bedford, Acushnet, and Fairhaven on Wednesdays for people 60 years and older. We are looking into partnering with the school system in New Bedford to make lunches in the park for seniors too.
 - I was on a call with Food is Medicine this week, and they were talking about this Farm to Institution, how to make connections, and how there's no one around to do that. And I told them some groups do this. There are these food policy councils that want to help you do that. I think they are pretty close to getting the legislation passed for Medically Tailored Meals and if we get health insurers involved with paying for meals, it's going to open up a whole new ball game in terms of money available to pay for meals and part of what they're pushing for is that the ingredients for these meals be purchased locally as much as possible. They're looking to develop learning sessions and technical assistance to connect food providers with farms and figure out how to do that. I just wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. It may be time to circle back with them and revisit this idea.
- Marcia –
 - Growing your own food. Groundworks Southcoast is an environmental program that deals with young people in Fall River and New Bedford. Sarah and I are involved with them. We are in the process of installing 100 raised beds in a park in the north end of the city. They will be adoptable by area residents of the city and be instructed how to grow and what to grow. We are also working on building a greenhouse which is a bit of a challenge. It's a fenced-in property at Riverside park. We also have a Sew and Grow program where we give free cloth reusable lunch-sized bags with 14 items: potting soil, peapods, popsicle sticks as markers, seeds (tomato, beans, and pepper), insert on vaccinations, a flyer from coastal foodshed. I have put together 671 of them so far. They've been going out occasionally and already given away 500 to schools, New Bedford parks, and recreation programs. We'll put together another 5 or 600 more to help people get more into growing their own food.

- Wendy
 - Partners put together a great program in Baltimore where cafeterias use 100% locally sourced food and students help with gardening.
 - I'd be interested in hearing from him to talk about how a community can be transformed at one of our meetings. Here's his website:
 - <http://www.cafeteriaman.com/update-tony.html>
 - Liz will look into it
- Semap
 - Fall River markets are opening! We are still looking to have partners in other communities. We can help all service agencies promote access to local food. Written materials, in-person meetings, a video, anything you want to do. We are looking to gather market managers and directly connect with you to connect to local markets.
- UMASS Dartmouth
 - Legislation in the works – End Hunger on College Campuses. 37% of public university students in Massachusetts are food insecure. If anyone is interested in knowing more about that, I can share the information. It will provide targeted resources so that students on campuses can apply for SNAP benefits and meal swipe programs. We are working on endorsing the legislation.
 - *00:54:44 END HUNGER ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES. Let's help our students graduate and succeed. An Act establishing the Massachusetts Hunger-Free Campus Initiative. [SD1477/HD2969 Sen. Harriette Chandler, Rep. Andy Vargas, Rep. Mindy Domb]*
- Christine – Marion Institute
 - I'm looking at national and state conversations about different legislation and different ones we want to support to suggest to the steering committee. Please send me any information because I want a comprehensive look at what legislation is going on.
- Lasagna Love
 - Things have been great! We are a national nonprofit. I have volunteer chefs here on the Southcoast who make and deliver homemade lasagna to anyone in need. We have 80 volunteers here on the Southcoast. Most recently, we were at the Westport food pantry and the East Freetown food pantry, and we did a pop-up event and handed out servings of Lasagna and got people to sign up for home delivery of a full pan. Next week we are at Smith Mills. Shout out to Nick for his donation! He donated 250 lasagna pans, and 400 take-out containers! Wow!
 - I also reached out to Ed for some collaboration