

Meeting Minutes
July 22, 2021 @ 9am

Attendance: 17

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-resource-meeting-7222021>

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

Present: Josh Smith (My Brother's Keeper), Nick Decas (Damien's Place), David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry), Meg Rogers (United Way Greater Fall River), Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford), Ali Bettencourt (Southcoast Health), Pam Kuechler (PACE), Deirdre Healey (UMass Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement), Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast), Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly), Shannon Hickey (SEMAP), Olivia Hart (SEMAP), Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Reya, Maggie, Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

Marion Institute/Southcoast Food Policy Council

- We are looking for more members on the Community Advisory Board, working groups, resident equity advisors, people have lived experience of hunger and members at large. An application form was attached in the chat as we are looking for members. If you would like to nominate yourself and nominate other people, please contact Christine at csmith@marioninstitute.org, and she will send you a form to complete.

Meg Rogers (United Way Greater Fall River)

- They have small capacity building grants up to \$50K for youth behavior health <https://uwgfr.org/new-programs-welcome> due Wednesday July 27 on their online portal: <https://uwgfr.org/request-for-proposals>
- Updated the Food Pantry/Soup Kitchen chart for Greater Fall River on our website: <https://uwgfr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Food-Pantry-Soup-Kitchen-7.6.2021-page-001.jpg>

David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry)

- Shah Foundation donated \$4k worth of gift cards they are giving out.
- They have 15 cases of KN95 masks they are trying to get into the schools.
- If anyone needs diapers, contact me at 401-266-8335 and schedule a come to come get them.
- At the Pulaski Park Concert in the Park series, Fall River they are giving away 50 bags of food from 5:30pm-8:30pm and giving away cases (4-6 bottles) of hand-sanitizer.
Action: Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford) needs diapers and hand-sanitizers and will contact David 401-266-8335.
Action: Pam Kuechler (PACE) needs diapers and will contact David Perry to pick up between 8am-12noon at 401-266-8335.

Marcia Picard (Groundworks Southcoast)

- HealthFirst Farmers Market on Quarry Street – Chelsea was there giving out diapers so it is going well and St. Anne’s Farmers went well. Sarah L was at HealthFirst Farmers’ Market and did a TV interview and talked about SNAP and HIP and did well.

Josh Smith (My Brother’s Keeper)

- Work in Fall River, Dartmouth, Westport, New Bedford delivering food (mostly from Greater Boston Food Bank) and furniture, and when they do donation drives they will also deliver hygiene products. 774-305-4590, Tues-Fri 10am-12pm, Fall River, New Bedford, Dartmouth & Westport
- We are in need of produce.
Action: Josh will contact David Perry to get produce at 401-266-8335 and pick up between 8am - 12noon but call to ensure someone is there.

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford)

- Hired a new driver (Terry), and starting Tuesday mobile markets for people who cannot make it to pantries and do ask questions
- Started this week in Wareham Middle School July 20, 5:30pm and next one is July 27, 5:30pm. Other suggestions for space at Onset VFW and Town Hall. New Bedford Mobile market July 22, 5:30pm at Bank Five North (1724 Acushnet Ave), July 27, 5:30pm at Bank Five South (160 County St).
- Question: We have gotten push back for requiring masks, is anyone else and what are you doing with masks? Most places are requiring masks and having weekly or biweekly discussions on masks and keeping an eye on COVID numbers due to the variant.
Action: Victoria will contact Nick Decas in Wareham about Mobile location at new email ncdecas@gmail.com

Olivia Hart (SEMAP)

- Farmers Markets guides are printed and you can order boxes of Farmers Market food guides at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd2Rhppg-DQ116TYnaXkbupQceHHpGY344uYFpP8xes53ZaxA/viewform>
- 00:30:58 Shannon Hickey Our online guide does have the delineation between farms accepting SNAP and those accepting HIP. <https://semaponline.org/buylocal>
- Hoping to bring legislators to Farmers Markets and a survey will be distributed at Farmers Markets towards the fall.

Pam Kuechler (PACE)

- There are consistent numbers and they are assessing mask requirements as they go.
- They will be in the new building in early fall and new way to deliver food service there.

Ali Bettencourt (Southcoast Health)

- In hospitals, there is still a requirement to wear masks and at farmers markets they require a mask if you have not been vaccinated.



- Mobile vaccine unit has given 1,117 COVID shots. Phasing out vaccine clinics and will be able to get shots at primary care doctor.
- Partnering with AD Makepeace for a Farmers Market in Rosebrook plaza, Wareham Thursdays 3-6:30pm.

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly)

- Congregation program re-opening in Mattapoisett and Rochester with varying degrees of success. People getting nervous again with variant and less seniors going out.
- Bought Farmers Market coupons from local farms and will directly give to the seniors.

Deirdre Healey (UMass Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement)

- 00:38:29 UMass Dartmouth will be back live in the fall. If anyone would like to discuss projects, internships (9 hours a week) or volunteer opportunities with our students, please contact me at dhealy@umassd.edu.
- In fall in an event, a 9/11 Youth Project –so not this year but in 2022.
Action: Christine Smith and Liz Wiley will be in touch about students working with SFPC on the Food Finder and bringing the student lead food justice onto the CAB and possibly having a student Work group within the SFPC.

Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society)

- Renewing Island Grow MOU
- New Food Pantry in Taunton called the pantry of The Baptist Church of All Nations <https://thebcan.org> at 61 Winthrop Street need produce.
Action: Stephanie will contact David Perry to get produce pick up for Taunton Food Pantry between 8am-12noon at 401-266-8335.

Nick Decas (Damien's Place Food Pantry)

- Numbers served have flat-lined and possibly due to needing a sign so people know where they are, maybe construction causing problem but not planning to do survey to discover why people are not coming.
- Victoria Grasela may contact Nick about Mobile Pantry collaboration.

Please use southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org to keep connecting.