



Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2021 @ 9am

Attendance: 22

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-resource-meeting-8192021>

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

Present: Allison Hague (Fall River Family Resource Center), Colleen Hart (Fall River Housing Authority), Fran Hutchison (MA Senior Action Council, Bristol Co. Regional Chapter), Buddy Andrade (Old Bedford Village Development Corp.), Jowaun Gamble (Community Youth Empowerment, Wareham), Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly), Rachael Sirois (United Way Greater Fall River), David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry), Deidre Healy (UMass Dartmouth Leduc Center for Civic Engagement), Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion Fall River), Pam Kuechler (PACE), Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast), Karen Schwable (SEMAP), Shannon Hickey (SEMAP), Olivia Hart (SEMAP), Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford), Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Maggie Chenard (United Way of Greater Fall River), Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Christopher Silva (Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

Updates:

- In the last meeting, Dana Siles from Rescuing Leftover Cuisine, MA & RI Branch Director shared how their organization picks up excess food from businesses and brings it to food providers. They now have over 10 organizations that will receive the food from New Bedford, Fall River and Dartmouth so the next phase is volunteer recruitment.
- Here's the link for the SPREAD THE WORD drafts: www.rlcma.info/spread-the-word-south-coast-ma - if you could encourage everyone to post the "Encouraging Volunteering" draft on their social and/or newsletters, it would be greatly appreciated. Once we have 50 or so signed up, we can start recruiting donor partners. Any questions please contact Dana at dana@rescuingleftovercuisine.org
- These SPFC Resource meetings are not the CAB meetings. These are the emergency response to COVID to coordinate food efforts. We will continue to meet every two weeks because we may need this with the COVID Delta variant is growing. Fall River groups are now also folded into this meeting.
- For CAB- Christine will be meeting with each of you to talk through structure, logistics for CAB regarding times to meet and how to meet, some priorities for CAB.



Buddy Andrade (Executive Director of Old Bedford Village Development Corp.)

- Work on environmental justice, growing food, Buddy is from Rochester and Wareham and love area
- Concerned with Mobile Market at Serenity Garden which is great, but there is a shortage of boxes and there is an increase in people needing the boxes. PACE is working on it through Gary Mello. Does anyone have access to dry goods? We are trying to distribute dry food at same time as farmers market on Tuesdays. Some people still are unemployed and we saw a drop in numbers because SNAP/HIP. Buddy need dry goods.
- We had a problem with space in building and fixed the roof fixed, and hope to get freezer
- Karen from SEMAP: There will be another round of FSIG (Infrastructure Grants) to build food security- about 15 million that should come in the next few weeks and no longer rolling administration of grants. SEMAP working with grant writer to offer Technical Assistance- zoom meeting in early September. Karen will share information on listserv as it comes together.
- **Action:** Liz from MI- offered to use this hour to invite a grant writer for FSIG to help anyone write the grant. Karen and Liz will talk about this.
- Liz and Buddy and EPA- 1st "Local Food, Local Places" <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/local-foods-local-places> putting together community members and EPA will facilitate workshops, so if you know people in south end of New Bedford, please send Buddy obvdcbr@yahoo.com and cc Liz anyone who would attend so they can invite them. There will be maybe three zoom workshops and if they do well in one region, they can get funding to replicate it in other areas.

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly)

- Senior Farmers market coupons distributed and produce deliveries to housing sites and done by next week. We converted market coupons to bags of produce based on low use last year.
- Reopened most of the congregate dining sites but now closing again. Starting to see people return to them now they are not going
- Home delivery program going 1400-1600 meals a day – thought would drop off, but it has not
- Lunch in Park had low participation and learned that it needs to be in a popular park to work and promote it differently.
- **Action:** Food Finder-Any information that needs to be changed, Christine Smith csmith@marioninstitute.org will send a blank template for you to complete and Christine and Paul will enter the information into Food Finder.

Victoria Grasela (United Way of Greater New Bedford)

- Mobile Markets are going well- you can see the schedule here: (<https://unitedwayofgnb.org/mobile-market>) Wareham and New Bedford, rain or shine.
- United Way Worldwide offered Americorp Vista for BIPOC Communities- hoping for 2 Vistas to help with the Hunger Commission and one for SFPC.
- **Action:** Tori, contact Jowaun Gamble www.warehamcye.com and email him because he has a good social media to spread the word with the Wareham Mobile Market.

Pam Kuechler (PACE)

- Continue Mobile Popups, 477 Park Street and one on Lot 13 Thursdays and may increase if need rises and continuing to talk about protocols.

- Still offering food delivery with grant- so if have people interested call main office 508-999-9920 Janice Scalon coordinating.
- PACE- boxes Buddy talked about- vendor Greater Boston Food Bank uses changed so ramping up dry good bags until Food Bank restarts dry good again. King Street bagging facility will have new interns so increase capacity to make bags of food.
- Can add mobile popup truck so need Pam know if want to start in an area.
- Food Bank building-should be in late November
- Pace interested in working with Buddy and Liz with Local Food, Local Place to open their new facility to use
- **Utility assistance**- PACE has emergency funds also apply to PACE for fuel assistance and starts in September. Piloting online application but not yet ready.
- www.Paceinfo.org my email pamkuechler@paceinfo.org
- **Rental and Housing Assistance**- have people call Housing opportunity Center <https://paceinfo.org/programs/housing-opportunity-center/> 508-993-0033 (ext. 102) and housing navigator <https://search.housingnavigatorma.org>
- SFPC can bring a housing speaker into the meeting if needed

David Perry (Greater Fall River Food Pantry)

- Opened on a Saturday and had low numbers but since it was first time that is fine
- Had last Concert in the Park
- Received produce boxes from Boston– the large 22 pounders are back in stock
- Buddy, David can help with produce and meat when you have room and facilities

Rachael Sirois (United Way Greater Fall River)

- Keeping Chart up to date on website <https://uwgfr.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Food-Pantry-Soup-Kitchen-8.9.2021-page-001-1-scaled.jpg>

Sarah Labossiere (Mass In Motion, Fall River)

- Trying to schedule legislator day in September for Farmers Market.
- Senior coupons have 60 left out of 400. Giveaways worked and requested more.
- Looking for farmers and food vendors interested in Fall River Fam, the Fall River Artisans market, every other Sunday, on old 2nd street.
- Patty Rego – VIVA popup space South Main and Columbia – look to get attention and people to come. Look for advertising slabossiere@fallriverma.org and Patti Rego, District Director for Viva FallRiver prego@onesouthcoast.com.
- Need clarity- Is Kennedy Park Famers Market (Saturday morning) happening? Heard stories that in place but not SNAP/HIP certified. Karen (SEMAP) said nothing changed. Sarah said there is different manager.

Allison Hague (Fall River Family Resource Center)

- Sharing information so families know where to go for food.
- <https://foodfinder.marioninstitute.org/>
- Doing a lot of housing assistance, taking a long time for applications to be processed (6-8 weeks) be



because so overwhelmed.

- **Action:** Liz and Christine Smith-WOULD like Housing expert to show where money is available
- **Utility assistance:** Salvation Army- Good Neighbor Fund- have some money due to COVID
- Fires in the Fall River area- part of receiving Displaced Fire reports and working with Red Cross

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

- Fall River and New Bedford working with Healthy Neighborhood projects (Robert Woods Johnson Foundation funded MIT, Conservation Law Foundation), chose two communities to develop mentorship program relative to food distribution. The Y in New Bedford/Fall River via Lisa Rahn (Full Plate Project) to develop surveys for people receiving the food to discover how to reach people who are not getting the food.

Deirdre Healy

- Partnering with students on Food Justice- how do you think about students joining these calls?
- Could students be on the CAB and people of lived experience of hunger be in the SFPC, Working Groups. Liz and Christine could come out and talk with your candidates.
- **Action:** Develop guidelines for how to participate in the meeting
- Liz and Deirdre have call with Sen. Montigny's office about Food Summit in the fall. Food System Assessment also be reported out in the Summit.

Fran Hutchison (MA Senior Action Council, Bristol Co. Chapter President)

- New SFPC CAB member- She is SNAP recipient herself and food access is a big issue
- Advocacy organization- housing transportation, hunger <https://www.masssenioraction.org/>
- Success this past year, simplified the SNAP application
- auntieauntie302@gmail.com and 774-283-0208

Please use southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org to keep connecting.