

Attendance: 13

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-emergency-food-resource-meeting-10142021?si=630995ae32fd4f68b0668c99efbddd8d>

Note: This document is primarily paraphrased. Please see the audio for direct quotes. Chat Box comments are included as needed.

Present: Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast), David Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry), Tim Lynch (Girls and Boys Club Metro South Freight Farm), Patrece Peterson (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Jim McKeag (Mass Development), Colleen Hart (Fall River Housing Authority), Jeanne Darc (Boys and Girls Club Metro South intern), Kim Smith (United Way of Greater Fall River), Meg Rogers (United Way of Greater Fall River), Maggie Chenard (United Way of Greater Fall River), Karen Schwable (SEMAP), Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

I. Old Business:

Looking back across the last 3 meetings, all in September, we have had speakers come in to talk about rental assistance, eviction notices and resources available to Massachusetts residents. We talked about the food supply chain disruption from the state vendors for schools and non-profit food providers. We have also talked about with the Farmers Markets and Mobile pantries ending their work, would there be a food gap and how does that impact you.

- To follow-up with you all, I have three questions to ensure that what we are doing together is helping.
 1. Do you have enough resources to handle any housing issues?
 - No issues.
 - In the Chat, United Way Fall River said, there will be a massive amount of families evicted in October and November.
 2. Have you noticed a food supply disruption continuing and is there anything we can do to help or what have you done to adapt and overcome?
 - No other disruptions. However, at the Food Summit, Adele Sands from Bristol County spoke about it and Rob Shaheen in New Bedford School district having problems. We asked Fall River to check to see if they have heard anything and perhaps to report back the next meeting.
 3. Have you seen a food gap and what have you done to meet those needs? Is there anything this group can do to help?
 - No food gap noticed.

4. Did you attend the Food Summit last night? Any feedback?
 - I hope the Food Assessment does not stay on the shelf and hope to have students do something at UMass Dartmouth
 - Liz said SFPC will do more Food System Assessment presentations and if you want us to come to your organization we would be happy to do something with you.
 - We have only a few copies of full 140 pages of the Food System Assessment, and developed a shorter Digest that we printed more numbers to give out.
 - It was striking that the SNAP gap- 45% who are eligible for SNAP do not participate
 - Good to see Sen. Montigny there to represent his region.
 - We are happy to present the Food System Assessment at the next SFPC meeting.
 - We will do another Food System Assessment debrief at a CAB meeting too.

5. The SFPC Community Advisory Board had their first meeting at the end of September 30, and the next meeting is the October 28.

II. New Business: Organizational updates

1. David Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry)
 - 112 received turkeys and start serving today. Hopefully get same amount next week.
 - 50 hams and related items to Thanksgiving and starting today we will give it away.
 - Clarification: It is first come first serve, register on computer to receive a turkey with proof of residence, so if they come back next week, they will not be eligible to receive a turkey. We have to give out turkeys now because we do not have enough storage space. That computer system is exclusive to the GFR Community Food Pantry, so someone could go to another pantry and get a turkey.
 - UNGFR said in chat they did see on social media that Fall River Salvation Army is doing sign ups until 10/31 for Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

2. Kim Smith (United of Greater Fall River)
 - We will have a meeting on Monday, October 18 at 11am to get Fall River groups together to coordinate the holiday schedule and resources: Here is the zoom link:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83409398187?pwd=dHltZzFFMU9Rdi9uazhVOURYR2VKUT09&from=addon>
 - We are starting our fundraiser United We Move www.uwgfr.org/unitedwemove October 23. Be outside and help us out. Registration closes Monday, October 18.

3. Patrece Peterson (Martha's Vineyard)
 - Have Food for Medicine Program up and have 31 people. We give them fruits and vegetables, grains and other clean foods. We are talking with Island Grow Initiative with this program.
 - Men's Health Program in New Program- education around diseases related to food especially targeting BIPOC communities. Looking at MOLIFE, Ivan to partner with on this program.

4. Jim McKeag (Mass Development)
 - State economic development agency. I work in partnership in Fall River south revitalization efforts, bring in resources and I add capacity on the ground.
 - Finding intersection of food and economic development.
 - If you are looking for restaurants to partner with, we would be happy to make connections.
 - Want to make more diverse retail mix. Connect to people live locally and connect them to find early stage resources and capital. If you know people, please send them my way, we want to help. jmckeag@massdevelopment.com

5. Tim Lynch (Girls and Boys Club Metro South Freight Farm)
 - Sorry about the microphone, not sure what the issue is. We connected with Dana Siles and are hoping to provide to her fridge space for her initiative providing food to the local area. And listening about the thanksgiving baskets-- We are looking to connect with groups giving out thanksgiving dinners to provide fresh greens to add to your baskets for families. tlynch@bgcmetrosouth.org

6. Karen Schwable (SEMAP)
 - SEMAP annual virtual meeting November 18, talk more about the Food System Assessment, see some video work, and MDAR farm land available.

7. Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast)
 - BOD Groundworks Southcoast-urban community garden at Riverside Park-Goats to Go organization-let the goats loose to eat the weeds, poison ivy etc. It was an incredible attention getter and see the urban garden and 100 raised beds and kids working on the garden beds.

Please use southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org to keep connecting.