



**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 30, 2021 @ 9am**

**Attendance: 28**

**Audio Link:** <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-emergency-food-resource-meeting-9302021>

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

Present: Victoria Grasela (United Way Greater New Bedford), Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast), Lauren Utschig (Girls and Boys Club Metro South), David Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry), Allison Hague (Fall River Family Resource Center), Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly), Tim Lynch (Girls and Boys Club Metro South Freight Farm), Stephanie Taylor (Martha's Vineyard Vegan Society), Colleen Hart (Fall River Housing Authority), Jeanne Darc (Boys and Girls Club Metro South intern), Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion Fall River), Shannon Hickey (SEMAP), Pauline Macedo (City New Bedford), Kim Smith (United Way of Greater Fall River), Desa Van Laarhoven (Round the Bend Farm), Meg Rogers (United Way of Greater Fall River), Nick Decas (Damien's Place Wareham), Erin Hovan (Rochester resident), Pam Kuechler (PACE), Laura Bradley (New Life Southcoast Church, New Bedford), Maggie Chenard (United Way of Greater Fall River), Chloe Melville, Dana Siles (Rescuing Leftovers Cuisine), Patrice Cornishby (Resident of Fall River), Amelia Jones (GROW Education Food Corps), Shaylenn Brooks (GROW Education Food Corps), (Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

**Updates**

- Food System Assessment report will be launched at the Virtual Food Summit on October 13, 6:30 pm -8:00 PM, in partnership with UMass Dartmouth and Sen. Montigny's office, and the Food Finder will be officially be launched. A panel will respond to the data. An invitation will be sent out next week.
- SFPC Community Advisory Board's first meeting is September 30, 3-4:30 pm. We will look to recruit more people to join us in Working Groups once the CAB establishes the priorities that arise from the Food System Assessment.

Dana Siles- Rescuing Leftover Cuisine

- [dana@rescuingleftovercuisine.org](mailto:dana@rescuingleftovercuisine.org)
- Dana, Liz, and Christine Smith met with Steve Silverstein <https://www.southcoasttoday.com/news/20191218/newsmaker-of-year-nominee-steve-silverstein-has-big-plans-for-new-bedford> regarding rescuing food from his restaurants. It was a good meeting, and he is interested and could potentially recruit a lot of other Southcoast restaurants to donate food to food providers.



- Dana is working on a grant to expand staff capacity to operate at a higher level in the region but looks good with having about 15 food providers and hundreds of volunteers and now recruiting restaurants.
- Slow and Steady is the course.

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion Fall River)

- We sent quotes gathered from Farmers Markets surveys to legislators to imbed HIP into MA law, so we do not have to renew it each year.
- We have been given an extra two weeks to distribute coupons (per Bristol Elder Services) - they need to go out by October 15 and expire October 31. Also, seniors over age 60yrs in other towns should contact their Councils on Aging to see how they can get coupons! Though not sure if every town receives an extension on distributing? The original distribution deadline was September 30. Call 508-324-2421 to get Senior Coupons.
- From Saint Anne's Hospital, about the nutrition outreach at the SAH market on Tue, 10/5: "Oncology Services and Nutrition Departments are partnering up to table at the October 5 Farmers Market on-site Saint Anne's Hospital to promote good nutrition as a way to help prevent cancer. They are working with our Strategic Communications Team to develop materials for the event and will be actively engaging with those shopping at the Market." The lead on this is Lauren Salisbury, MA, RD, LDN.

Allison Hague (Fall River Family Resource Center)

- We are collaborating with the YMCA's Full Plate Project in Fall River to pack and distribute food.
- We are delivering food to COVID impacted families.
- We are part of the Greater Fall River Disaster Response group working with displaced families.

Victoria Grasela (United Way Greater New Bedford)

- Still doing mobile markets for two weeks

*It sounds like markets are wrapping up, but will there be a gap?*

Pam Kuechler (PACE)

- We have delivery service for food through transportation grant through spring. Call the office and talk to Genesis to coordinator food drops.
- Beginning to talk and plan for holidays and ways to make it easier to register, methods to make it more convenient and more efficient to deliver the holiday food.

*Holidays-Others:*

- Salvation Army has begun their registrations for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Allison is meeting with Citizens for Citizens today to find out their registration process.
- Tori got her first Thanksgiving call in July, and they've gotten about 2-3 a week since.

Nick Decas (Damien's Place, Wareham)

- Numbers are up in the last two weeks. It could be because we are giving away \$20 gift cards to Stop and Shop. Word of mouth is getting around, and we have over 160 people this weekend.



- Tori said the numbers she sees an increase in people from the Wareham Mobile Market.
- Nick asked if there is any grant coordination, particularly for FSIG.
- **Food Insecurity Infrastructure Grant Program (FSIG)** Next round of funding available to complete **grant due October 31** <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fy22-food-security-infrastructure-grant-program-rfr/download>. “Eligible grantees include applicants that are part of the Massachusetts local food system including production, processing and distribution, the emergency food distribution network, community and food organizations, school meal programming (including summer meal sponsors), urban farms and community gardens, non-profits, and organizations that provide business planning, technical assistance, and information technology services. Applicants may be those representing farms, small retailers (under 50 full-and part-time employees), food banks, fisheries, seafood dealers & processors, and other food system businesses or organizations who are focused on addressing food access and/or improving and strengthening the resiliency of the Commonwealth’s food system by increasing distribution of locally grown and sourced food. Applicants may also include those experiencing difficulty sourcing food for those facing food insecurity. This call for grant application proposals does not apply to the purchase of food for consumption.”

**Another grant:**

There is \$27M for food pantries in the Governor’s budget. <https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-announces-27-million-in-federal-funding-to-address-food-insecurity-for-families-and-individuals-affected-by-covid-19> It looks like for our area, the South Coast Community Foundation was awarded \$2,986,186 to allocate to the community.

Shannon Hickey (SEMAP)

- Last week SEMAP hosted a virtual workshop on grant-writing in particular to get FSIG money. Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3n80cllhR08>
- Notes: <https://semaponline.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/FSIG-Grant-Writing-Workshop-9-22-21.pdf>
- [shickey@semaponline.org](mailto:shickey@semaponline.org)

Kim Smith (United Way of Greater Fall River)

- We have started Youth Vaccinations. Register at <https://FRVAX.com> Vaccines are at Doran School 9/27, 1-4 pm, Atlantis Charter School 9/27 1-5 pm, Henry Lord Community School 9/28 2-6 pm, Durfee High School 9/29 2-6 pm, Talbot Middle School 9/30 4-6:30 pm, Morton Middle School 10/5 2-5 pm, Kuss Middle School 10/6 1-4 pm, Stone School 10/7 1-4 pm. Youth can get the vaccine and enter the Fall River Youth Vax Giveaway to win a prize every Friday at <https://frvax.com/youth-vax-giveaway>
- <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-in-home-vaccination-program>
- 2021 Annual Campaign Kick-Off and Trail Festival Saturday, October 23, to fight for our community's health, education, and financial stability. Join after the walk/run/ride for awards, live music, food, and beverages from local vendors. More info at [www.uwgre.org/unitedwemove](http://www.uwgre.org/unitedwemove)



Meg Rogers (United Way of Greater Fall River)

- Most food pantries are doing grab and go and very little doing prepared meals.

Patrice Corbishley (Fall River Resident)

- It is hard to get food onto public transit, so it would be nice to know where to food closer to home.

Here is a list of ways to find food:

- <https://foodfinder.marioninstitute.org/>
- [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vTx7pm5SSdZON85adSHSKij0VuJgoA6bJNA2bfn6HwA64rkDTEQI\\_JDQqFwQ7qyqZYp2Y\\_XkspkC3mn/pubhtml](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vTx7pm5SSdZON85adSHSKij0VuJgoA6bJNA2bfn6HwA64rkDTEQI_JDQqFwQ7qyqZYp2Y_XkspkC3mn/pubhtml)
- <https://uwgfr.org/covid-19-information/>

### **Prepared foods: Who does this in the community?**

Christine Sullivan (Coastline Elderly)

- Meals on Wheels seems to be a well-liked model for delivering prepared foods. Maybe this model can be extended out to other food providers.

Dana Siles (Rescuing Leftovers Cuisine)

- We are looking for food providers who could handle huge refrigeration storage capacity. Ideas?  
**Action:** Kim Smith said David Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry) has storage, Christine Smith said Lisa Rahn at the YMCA in Dartmouth might have storage, Pam Kuechler said they might have storage, Desa Van Laarhoven/Liz Wiley said Eva Summerifa in South Dartmouth might have storage, Sarah Laboissiere said Bristol Community College might have storage.

Please use [southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org](mailto:southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org) to keep connecting.