



**Meeting Minutes  
November 10, 2021 @ 9am**

**Attendance: 14**

**Audio Link:** <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/sfpc-emergency-food-resource-meeting-11102021?si=2ac4037483004e398257c4a9c1406443>

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

Present: Robert Shaheen (New Bedford Public Schools), Karen Schwable (SEMAP), Shannon Hickey (SEMAP), James Lehner (SEMAP), Victoria Grasela (Greater New Bedford United Way), Elizett Pires (Bristol Community College, Student and Family Engagement), John Buddy Andrade (New Bedford Development Corp.), Nick Decas (Damien's Family Pantry, Wareham), Sarah Laboissiere (Fall River Mass in Motion), Dana Siles (Rescuing Leftover Cuisine), Lisa Rahn (YMCA Southcoast), Karen Canfield (Rep. Hendrick's office), Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

Old Business:

1. The next SFPC Community Advisory Board Meeting is Thursday, November 18 at 3 pm. This will be our second meeting of the Community Advisory Board.
2. The next SFPC Emergency Food Resource meeting is Thursday, December 9. We will not be meeting during the week of Thanksgiving, and we will decide on December 9 if we will meet again in late December.
3. The 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment has been released. You can download and read the full report, the digest, and infographics at <https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/food-system-assessment/>.
4. If your organization, such as your Board of Directors, volunteers or staff, or other coalitions you work with would like us to present to you, please contact Liz Wiley ([LWiley@marioninstitute.org](mailto:LWiley@marioninstitute.org)) or Christine Smith ([CSmith@marioninstitute.org](mailto:CSmith@marioninstitute.org)). We can modify the presentation to your needs.
5. If you want to join the Southcoast Food Alert Listserv, please see details here: <https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/southcoast-food-policy-council-resources/>

New Business:

- 1.) Karen Schwable (SEMAP) Invites Liz or Christine to talk food System Assessment- preview SEMAP BOD meeting on November 18, 6:30-8 pm, where we will also show SEMAP video and introduce James Lehner, new Communications and Outreach with HIP and SNAP. <https://semaponline.org/event/semap-2021-annual-meeting>
- 2.) Shannon Hickey (SEMAP) Shannon works with farmers directly, lately on FSIG grant writing. Also, if farmers have surplus food, she uses Southcoast Food Alert to share what is available.
- 3.) Lisa Rahn (YMCA Southcoast- Full Plate Project and Community Outreach). I would ask for feedback. We see a significant increase in numbers at the Markets. We expected more in September with no more benefits, but this is a large increase in people. I am referring to the Dartmouth market, which is

every Tuesday afternoon. This was a merger between Dartmouth United Outreach at Smith Mills Church and once a month market. The church used to provide food for 100-150 families. Now we see over 300 households once a week in Dartmouth. There is also an increase in Fall River and New Bedford. Wareham was already at full capacity at 300. Anyone else seeing a surge?

- ✓ Damien's in Wareham – Yes, the number of people now rivals our Thanksgiving numbers. The majority of people come from Brockton.
- ✓ Greater New Bedford United Way- Yes, that is what we see too. I just spoke with our driver in the New Bedford Hunger Commission, and he said the Greater Fall River Food Pantry is closed this week and not opening again until after Veterans Day, and that could be driving people to get food at other places.

- 4.) Victoria Grasela (Greater New Bedford United Way) Thanksgiving preparation is occurring and going well. At Damien's in Wareham, Jackie called Tori and said an organization has 150 pallets of dry food they want to donate, but the food is in Milford. Jackie in Damien's is taking a few pallets. Contact Tori if you are interested [vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org](mailto:vgrasela@unitedwayofgnb.org). Coordinate with Tori if there is food to pick up.

**ACTION:** Tori is interested in an in-person presentation for the 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment with her partners.

**ACTION:** Greater New Bedford Community Health Center will receive 700 20-pound frozen turkey and trimmings next Friday. Call Joyce at 508-717-1212.

- 5.) Rob Shaheen (Director Food Services New Bedford Public Schools) There are shortages and delays with getting food, and we do not have many refrigerators and freezer space. We do not know what we get daily until it arrives. We communicate with parents to let them know what is happening. I am hoping that by the end of the year, distributors and supplies will be caught up. For example, we are always low on forks, trays, and so on. We have not had much advocacy luck up the supply chain. Bruce Oliviera gave a lead for turkey, but it is the turkey breast, so it is costly. We are looking for turkeys, and Rob found some from Greater New Bedford Community Health Center via Tori Grasela.

- 6.) Buddy Andrade (New Bedford Development Corp.) We will be getting Thanksgiving supplies from Tori at Greater New Bedford United Way. Local Food, Local Places EPA grant- I want to thank Chris Silva, marketing staff at Marion Institute, Adam Davenport GROW Education), Abbey Hevey, Liz Wiley for stepping up and honoring and working with the black community in a way that is all one community. Thank you especially to Liz, for her leadership with EPA. We have done seven workshops with an average of 30 people. None of this would have happened without Liz's leadership sharing this opportunity with the community. I foresee great things in the south end of New Bedford, and we will be able to build black leadership in the community and get people to eat healthily. We have shown that if we commit to working together, it does not matter where you come from or who you are; it can only get bigger and better. What we are doing in the Local Food, Local Places grant can be replicated in other places in New Bedford and other cities. After more funding comes in, we will see a big change in the south end of New Bedford.

**ACTION:** Liz sent info regarding another grant with Abby Hevey for next Tuesday- if we can meet for 20 minutes, that would be great.

- 7.) Nick Decas (Damien's Place Wareham) We see an increase in the number of people coming to Damien's. We submitted the Food Security Infrastructure Grant and just waiting to hear if we



received funding. We started our yearly fundraising campaign. We are open the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. We are in the process of looking for a new facility.

**ACTION:** Nick wants a 10-15 minute Southcoast Food System Assessment presentation for their BOD meeting.

- 8.) Dana Siles (Rescuing Leftover Cuisine) We are ready to partner with food donors, as we have 50 volunteers and can start some food transport in the area. [dana@rescuingleftovercuisine.org](mailto:dana@rescuingleftovercuisine.org). We delivered over 1,000 meals to Southcoast through Randolph. Donors are businesses (hospital, school, business, restaurant) that have excess consumable food, diverting it from waste. We do not pick up from individuals. We have volunteers to take from a place and distribute to many food providers.

**ACTION:** Buddy is interested in working with Dana.

- 9.) Elizett Pires (Bristol Community College) The BCC has a Mobile Market (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month) but has no food pantry. Details are here:

<http://www.bristolcc.edu/about/inthecommunity/bristolmobilefoodmarket/>

Pre-Registration is required. We can serve up to 450 individuals each month. The distribution is currently "drive-thru," so you can receive food in a no-contact setting. The groceries are pre-packed and will be loaded into your vehicle by volunteers. The market will be held, rain or shine, under the Solar Canopy at the Fall River Campus. The following dates for the Mobile Market are December 9 and January 13. Contact Elizett at [Elizett.Pires@bristolcc.edu](mailto:Elizett.Pires@bristolcc.edu) and 774-357-2459.

- 10.) Sarah Laboissiere (Fall River Mass in Motion)

Promote three Farmers Markets in Fall River- weather permitting.

- St. Anne's Hospital, Tuesdays 11 am-2 pm until November 23.
- Health First Family Care Center, Wednesdays 2-5 pm, until November 24
- Cardinal Medeiros Towers, Fridays 2-5 pm until November 19

Compliment for Sarah Laboissiere from Liz Wiley- At the Southcoast Food System Assessment presentation to the MA Policy Council, Winton called attention to the success of Sarah L's work at the Farmers Market in Fall River, for the legislators day, for the HIP outreach too.

- 11.) Karen Canfield (Rep. Hendricks office) MA House approved ARPA funding and earmarked \$78 Million for FSIG. The Legislative Food System Caucus is the biggest caucus, of which Rep Hendricks is a member. If you are applying for a grant, our office is happy to write a letter of support. If you need help with advocacy, please reach out to me at [Karen.canfield@mahouse.gov](mailto:Karen.canfield@mahouse.gov).

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