



Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2021 @ 9am

Attendance: 13

Audio Link: <https://soundcloud.com/user-8563948/southcoast-food-policy-council-emergency-food-resource-meeting-1292021>

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

Present: John Buddy Andrade (New Bedford Development Corp.), Sarah Labossiere (Fall River Mass in Motion), David Perry (Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry), Marcia Picard (Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast), Lorraine Khazan (PACE), Rachael Sirois (United Way Greater Fall River), Allison Hague (Family Resource Center), Wendy Garf-Lipp (United Neighbors of Fall River), Tim Lynch (Girls and Boys Club Metro South Freight Farm), Genesis Galan (Rep. Carole Fiola office), Kim Smith (United Way of Greater Fall River), Christine Smith (SFPC, Marion Institute), Liz Wiley (Marion Institute).

SFPC Update:

1. The SFPC Community Advisory Board Meeting has met twice and the next meeting is Thursday, December 16 at 3pm.
2. Unless we hear otherwise from all of you, we will discontinue the SFPC Emergency Food Resource meeting at the start of 2022. In January, we will begin to have Quarterly meetings of the Southcoast Food Policy Council members-at-large. These quarterly meetings are open to the public. At our first Quarterly meeting, Thursday, January 6 at 9am, we will give a presentation on the key takeaways from the recently completed 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment.
3. The Community Advisory Board of the Southcoast Food Policy Council will begin using the Food System Assessment to identify priorities that the Community Advisory Board and subsequent Working Groups will be focused on in the coming months. Southcoast Food Policy Council members-at-large are welcome to join and participate in any identified Working Groups of the SFPC.
4. With the end of the SFPC Emergency Resource meeting, we encourage sharing resources like flyers, meetings, grants, questions, extra resources through the Southcoast Food Alert Listserv. To join, contact sfpc@marioninstitute.org. Once you are in the Southcoast Food Alert listserv, just send an email to southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org and the email will go to everyone on the list.
5. As a reminder, the 2021 Southcoast Food System Assessment can be downloaded at <https://www.marioninstitute.org/programs/sfpc/food-system-assessment/>.
6. If your organization, or group you are affiliated with would benefit from a Food System Assessment presentation, please contact Liz Wiley (LWiley@marioninstitute.org) or Christine Smith (CSmith@marioninstitute.org). We can modify the presentation to your needs.



MA Food System Collaborative Food Forum- all workshops from December 3-9 are on their Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCEV-LISCPionutprh5e93Gw>

New Business:

David Perry, Greater Fall River Community Food Pantry

- November numbers 491 families, (1,575 clients), up 30 families from October. 952 children under age 18, 497 ages 18-64, 126 people over age 65. Seeing more Latinx families. Have plenty of food.
- 465 turkeys, still have turkeys to give away, giving \$40 gift card

Marcia Picard, Fall River Public Schools/Groundworks Southcoast

- Y Global market-, gave away food for 200 families, drive though, large variety of food
- Partners for Healthy and Conservation Law Center- 9 communities; surveying hundreds of people with social determinants of health. Discovered something slightly disturbing- where do you get your information and how much do you trust these sources? Highest rated information getting from family and friends. It would be interesting to compare Fall River Info and New Bedford information.

Sarah Labossiere (Mass in Motion, Fall River)

- Next week will put out flyer for ordering food online, Coastal Food Shed and Oakdale Farms.

Liz Wiley (Marion Institute)

- Another organization has thrown turkey away, so please use southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org and that system works well so use this resource to eliminate food waste. Just email southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org and the email will go out to everyone.
- **Action:** Christine will update the criteria for the Southcoast Food Alert Listserv and re-send it. For job postings, it needs to FOOD related.

Food Finder and Food Lists

- Food Finder too complicated and not user friendly. Maybe zip code listing, and can print the Food Finder.
- There is no fee for the listserv, it is a google listserv. The only fee is for <https://foodfinder.marioninstitute.org/>.
- With client, a static sheet is best, as long as it is updated weekly. People like the printed copy with a date on it so we know how old it is. Print small amount because constant updates. Tell clients to call before they show up at food pantry in case pantry is closed.

Lorraine Khazan, PACE

- Director of HR, but started by running the food programs. Expanded from food closet to stand alone program. Not yet in new building and hope to be in by spring 2022. This will incorporate wrap-around services, on Park Street between Smith and Parker.
- Thanksgiving distribution, at least 500 families, more people asked for gift cards than turkeys. Going to distribute the rest of the turkeys for Christmas.



Buddy Andrade, New Bedford Development Corp.

- 110 turkeys and gift cards, and gift cards good response. Thank you United Way New Bedford.
- We are happy to have Coastal Foodmoving into the Old Bedford Village office to host a winter's farms market. In the last two months much has happened such as how to bring education on food nutrition. Tuesday was the first day with Coastal FoodShed Farmers's Market and it was a success and will be there all winter and outside in the spring.
- Old Bedford Village is at 41 Bedford Street, New Bedford, across the street from Serenity Garden. This is also the site of the Old Morse Cutting Tools. The City just received funding to do more clean up and invest in infrastructure. We would like to see a year-around Food Hub of sorts. Jan 19 is the last meeting of the Local Food, Local Places and thanks to Liz to helping to make this happen.
- John "Buddy" Andrade obvdcbr@yahoo.com

Rachael Sirois, United Way of Greater Fall River

- COVID new way- this year have Butterball gift certificates and can be used at any grocery store. It is hard to defrost turkey in time so we gave instructions but gift certificates seem to work best and give people freedom to buy what they want.
https://lp.butterballturkeygift.com/?gclid=CjwKCAiA78aNBhAlEiwA7B76p2ENgQUuvQ5CJehBgVXN7nI_b9NaI9d-KiPXSZnZ8lvOu6-NXrDj8xoCC4wQAvD_BwE
- Not everyone culturally eats turkey. So other gifts certificates are good, and more generic ones means you can shop no matter where you are in the city.
- Citizens for Citizens expanding Fall River Food Pantry, and renting a space, Elsberry Street. Now have their own truck. Crystal Arpa is their food contact carpa@cfcinc.org. Christine will add her to listserv and SFPC if she is not already.

Allison Hague, Family Resource Center

- Hybrid model due to increasing COVID numbers. Still helping with housing, toilets, referrals, basic needs, school related issues, and mental health huge barrier.
- Takes 8-10 weeks to get a mental health counselor or psychiatry, especially youth, lots of grief with over-dosing and loss of cancer. Biggest barrier is mental health with children and youth because system is over-whelmed. Even group mental health programs meeting less because COVID.
- Surgeon General said we are in mental health crisis for youth nationally.
- Lots of recruitment for tele-health.

Wendy Garf-Lipp, United Neighbors of Fall River

- Mental health program for youth- 6 different school, and 15 kids in each school. Just a drop in the bucket.

Tim Lynch, Boys and Girls Club Taunton

- Finished Thanksgiving pantries, getting ready for Christmas harvest.
- We have herbs, lettuce, and Swiss chard to give away. Contact Tlynch@bgcmetrosouth.org
- Looking for partners, volunteers and Taunton Camp Riverside or Brockton Club House then we'll have two Freight Farms.
- If any organizations interested in Freight Farms please contact Tim.



Genesis Galan, Rep. Carole Fiola office

- genesis.galan@mahouse.gov If there is any information or upcoming events that you would like to share with Representative Fiola, I would love to hear from you!
- Crystal Arpa is their food contact carpa@cfcinc.org

Kim Smith, United Way of Greater Fall River

- Last 24 hours for the Youth Vax giveaway, ages 5-24, giving away 12 gift cards to purchase food. We have 405 youth registered. Youth must live in Fall River to enter. <https://frvax.com/> Winners will be picked December 10, 2021.

Please use southcoastfoodalert@marioninstitute.org to keep connecting.