

The Marion Institute's Southcoast Food Policy Council
Quarterly Meeting August 27, 2024
22 participants

The SFPC Meeting updates are on the PowerPoint.

- Action Alert: <https://actionnetwork.org/letters/contact-your-congressional-representative-to-protect-snap-in-the-farm-bill>

Community Updates:

1. Cheryl Green- Pediatrician in Marion, member of the Academy of Lifestyle Medicine. Mass Brigham, Raising Healthy Heart. They are looking for a kitchen to teach healthy cooking to families and children.
 - Damien's Food Pantry in Wareham <https://damiensfoodpantry.org>. Kerry Salton offered to hand out flyers for the program at Damien's. Liz Wiley will introduce Damien and Cheryl.
 - Mass in Motion, Fall River- Aliya Steele would like to partner. asteel@fallriverma.gov
2. New Bedford Public Schools (NBPS) – Rob Shaheen. The school system is building a culinary kitchen that should be done by January 2025. The NBPS will be able to buy more local food and make culturally appropriate meals for our NB students with the new center.
 - The NBPS finished providing over 100,00 meals for children in New Bedford using the federal Summer Eats Program.
 - In partnership with The Marion Institute's Grow Education Program, organized and implemented a professional development day for New Bedford cafeteria employees on the Farm-to-School program. The employees now understand the food system better, along with the nutrition of growing local food with healthy soil over industrial food products. 7 out of 10 children receive their most nutritious meals at school.
3. My Brother's Keeper- Josh Smith- sees more people coming to the food pantries and fewer proteins available.
4. PACE-Pam Kuechler- We see 1,000 people a week, higher numbers than ever. We are not getting the meat proteins from the Greater Boston Food Bank, and had to buy retail meats. We are still getting fresh vegetables from farms. We are concerned that we will not get the turkeys for Thanksgiving. Some people do not eat turkeys for various reasons; they get gift cards instead. There are no restrictions on what the gift cards will be used for. The USDA pallet share program is dry goods and produce, but no meats.
 - PACE is in the early stage of developing a seafood program via Rep. Tony Cabral by buying fish at a reduced rate. Aquafishing is not yet in that program.
5. UMass Dartmouth- Gianna Barbosa- October 29, 10:30 – 3 pm Food Revolution event. Give out free fruits and vegetables on campus, focusing on SNAP Education and Outreach. Gbarbosa@Umassd.edu
6. Coastal Foodshed- Abby Hevey- Moved into a new location in Kilburn Mill in July. We have a large new cold storage unit to move more local food throughout the region.
 - SNAP/HIP Delivery pilot program- We are looking for partners for this project. Contact us: Abby@coastalfoodshed.org.
 - We plan to open a retail store to provide regular hours of local farm fresh foods in 2025.

7. Hunger Sabbath as part of Hunger Action Month in September. We are creating relationships with faith leaders to engage in the food work congregations are already doing in food justice. Rev. Lima is one of the partners working on this subcommittee to create the relationships.

- Suggest the SFPC connect with New Life Southcoast as they do a lot of food work.

8. Spoonfuls, formerly Loving Spoonfuls, Liz Miller- a food recovery organization working primarily in grocery and serving 190 nonprofits across MA. LMiller@spoonfuls.org