

**Cumberland County Food Security Council**  
**Council Meeting Notes**

Thursday, July 12, 2018, 9:30-11:30 am

UME Cooperative Extension, 75 Clearwater Drive, Falmouth, ME

**Attendance:**

- Jim Hanna, Executive Director of the CCFSC
- Finn Naylor, CCFSC Summer Associate
- Richard Rudolph, Former Farmer / Acting President of the CCFSC
- Bri Bowman, Coordinator of the Maine Network of Food Councils
- Brian Towson, Amistad
- Alan Robitae (SP?), CC Family Independence - Medicaid Expansion
- Jae Min Yoo, CCFSC Summer Intern / SBCA
- Judy Gatchell, CCSFSC Board Member
- Kathryn Sargent, Locker Project Board, etc.

**Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation**

- Jim, Kristina, and Mouhiddin went to a conference in Boston in December, Jim went to the workshop about the RWGLS. Model by Bread for the World.
- Policy and equity are important to the CCFSC.
- Sold out - 2 seats left for council members that forgot to sign up.
- Presentation - Cumberland County Food Security Council background, Bread for the World Background, Opening Activity
- “Are you familiar with the racial wealth gap?”
- Hunger and poverty are congruent.
- Policy choices have created the RWG.
- Interest - Use this event as a pilot and see if we can do it again at community request.
- Plans to apply for grant money from Maine Initiatives to be a leader in the food security sector.
  - Suggestion: Name groups in Portland that are doing this work.
  - Framing that this is a predominantly white group.
  - Closing activities include options for follow up.

**Membership Proposal - What will it mean to be a CCFSC member?**

- **History:** Came out of campaign for food security in 2010 (report led by PS, TD, Muskie, United Way) - UW formed the council in 2011. Jim involved in 2012. 2014, CCFSC spun off from UW and reformed under fiscal agency of Good Shepherd. Own 501c3 completed in April → Why we are currently looking over membership and structuring. Had some aid from a lawyer for the legal necessities. Founding board, but want to build upon. Currently Richard, Mary, and Judy. Need to have clear ideas of what membership means - would like to have “What it means to be a member?” by Oct. 16 (Annual Meeting) Because board is more complicated, would like a simpler structure for membership affiliation.
- Suggestion: Should be thinking about building a board alongside membership development.
- Qs - What is our reach? Do we collect dues? Is membership something the board should define - therefore the board has to form before the membership conversation?

- Maine Network of Community Food Councils - ability to make real impact is through a very narrow scope. Keep county/regional wide and then work together with other food councils for certain projects.
- Join together for policy work.
- Jim would like to convene a policy group with council of churches and Maine Equal Justice partners, amongst others. Goal to educate and advocate through collaborative work.
- Suggestion: Make sure that CCFSC presence is out there online.
  - Institutionalize and formalize someone doing that, if not a committee about it.
- What is the value of membership? Benefiting from participating?
- Change from 2014 - No limit on number of council members.
- Individuals as well as organizations. One vote from organization. (ex. 3 people from GSFB, GSFB would only get one vote that the three individuals would need to agree on)
- Have not enforced resignation with organizations that have not come to meetings.
- Make it clear that certain organizations don't have more clout/decision making than others and individuals.
- Suggestion: Make a schedule of meetings and go over titles and membership review, ex. Every January do a review.
- Is there enough happening to have these meetings every other month? Is there enough to draw people here that often?
  - Suggestion: Keeping them every 2 months, but making the meetings shorter. 2 hours is a long time.
  - Suggestion: Zoom technology for those who are remote.
- Suggestion: Work on the things that affect food security - living wages, Medicaid, institutions.
- Suggestion: Clarify what members do. Do some work on committees.
  - Suggestion: Less general meetings with committee meetings in between.
  - Suggestion: General meetings followed by breakout committee meetings.
- What can we do that is helpful to people to draw them to these meetings?
- Suggestion: Sending out alerts about policy - when to vote, when to call, etc.
- Kathryn - Suit Up Maine - on FB and send out weekly legislative things that warrant contact. Groups of area focused people - no area focused on food. If there is something we are concerned about - connect with Kelly's group to send out to the SUM network.
- Identifying partnerships like this one, where someone is doing the groundwork already.
- Suggestion: members have to embed this work in their organizational work.

## CCFSC Updates

- Closing the Hunger Gap with Local Food Report
  - One more read of the report.
  - Starting with the template.
  - A few gaps of data.
  - Going to continue the report and data collecting.
  - About 60 pages.
  - Will be up on the website. Promotions and printed executive summary.
- PPS Food Security Task Force
  - Writing report currently.
  - Laura, volunteer leading the data process.
  - On School Board agenda for August 21st.

- Take it back to other councils, and share the model.
  - Kathryn will be the final proofreader / editor.
  - Suggestion: Send out a press release for both this report and CHG.
- Cumberland County Gleaning Initiative
  - Strawberry Gleans with Garbage to Garden, MANA, Yarmouth Food Pantry, South Portland Housing Authority, Preble, Bridgton Community Center
  - Two Farmers Produce Pick Ups

## **Policy Updates**

- State: Medicare veto and next session
  - Alan
    - Anticipating a lot of apps for MaineCare expansion.
    - Children (brings in parents if at certain income), disabled.
    - Group 21-64, not children, don't have children that bring them in, not disabled, if they fall below the 133% of the FPO.
    - Due to research of central office, off of other states that did this, anticipated between 20,000 - 90,000 applications, thought would hire around 25 more people to help with this.
    - Everything came to a halt. Declaration - are you applying due to the expansion? Apps that say yes are sent to a regional office and held there.
    - Expecting Veto, it wasn't. Next week another court date.
    - Locally, the SoPo office has an eligibility specialist that submits them to the regional office. When they get permission to run it - they can go back and submit.
    - This administration is saying they're going to deny them all - but creates more work for local office. The law is in play the funds are just not there.
    - Local office is down 7 people - still have to do normal work but also this.
    - Apply online or apply on paper (paper best so it's not lost).
    - Need to protect the date - supposed to make decisions within 45 days.
    - Not sure what is going to happen by August 17th. Not sure what the administration is going to do.
    - Daily checkins with all of the state. 100s of apps a day, not the 1000s that were anticipated (due to Media)
    - Not stopping. Alan has to honor the law and do the main part of his work.
    - When they get the funding, they'll be ready to go and jump in.
    - OCFS - trying to find money for the new hires and lack of child protective workers.
    - Want to make sure that no one falls through the cracks.
    - Q: Who set the 45 days?
      - Law was 90 days, the corrective action plan turned it to 45 days - Maine Policy.
    - Q: Will people 1-2 years not be able to apply?
      - Yes they'll be able to apply. Just encouraging to apply now so their date is protected.
    - Would need to look back at all the cases if they have to deny everyone - a lot of work.
    - Court could say the law is law and needs to be administered. Force the applications to run and they will need to start paying.
    - Slow roll out.

- We should be encouraging people we know who fit the criteria to apply now and protect their date.
- 133% because MAGI rules has a disregard of 5%.
- Next meeting is September.
- The advocacy groups are telling Alan this. Include the disclaimers.
- Q: Notice any loss of trust in the state with people who have uncertain futures?
  - Well earned loss of trust with state, but not with the Amistad group, because they do not give anyone false promises.
- Slow roll out has been beneficial because they can perfect the application.
- Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, Kennebec counties have most applications.
- Federal: Farm Bill
  - Negative farm bill - passed by house. Better passed by senate. Uncertainty about reconciliation between the two. Thought there would be news by July 2nd, there was not.
- Organizing Policy Committee and Work Group Formation
  - Going to put out a Doodle for a time to convene this meeting.
  - Dates will most likely be after the 12th of August.

## **Announcements**

- Richard will interview Jim Garrison on his radio show, a potato farmer in debt. Aug 2nd or 9th.
  - Always looking for interviewees!
- Summer Food Maps!

## **Upcoming Dates**

- Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation; 7/17 - 9:30 AM - Goodwill - Washington Ave.
- Bridgton Community Center Dinner: August 2
- Full Council: September 13, November 8
- Leadership Team/Board of Directors: August 9, October 11, December 13
- Annual Meeting: October 16