

Cumberland County Food Security Council
Full Council Meeting Notes

Thursday, September 13, 2018, 9:30-11:30 am
USM Wishcamper Center, Room 205, Portland, ME

Attendance: Amy Carrington (Internship Coordinator USM), Colleen (Local Food Coordinator CCFSC), Ashley Bahlkow (SBCA, Yarmouth Community Gardens Donation Plot), Victoria Kolwicky (Maine Farmland Trust), Joni Daly (Cultivating Community), Erin (USM Student, Maine Hunger Initiative), Bob Deacon (MS86 School Board), Clara McConnell (Good Shepherd Food Bank), Laura Morrissey (qualitative researcher), Jim Hanna, Executive Director of the CCFSC, Richard Rudolph, Former Farmer / Acting President of the CCFSC, Brian Towson, Amistad, Kathryn Sargent, Locker Project Board, Kristina Kalolo (CCFSC, SBCA), Elenor (Program Administrator for Cumberland County), Judy Gatchell

Racial Wealth Gap Learning Simulation

- Held event in July at Goodwill
- Want to host and bring other organizations into this learning experience
 - Take approximately 4 hours to run the simulation
- Potential to have this be a workshop at the [Universities Fight World Hunger Conference](#)

Implementing Food Fuels Learning Recommendations

- [Full presentation](#)
- [Abbreviated presentation](#)
- [Full “Food Fuels Learning” Report](#)
- [Executive Summary](#)
- The Portland Public School Food Security Task Force is looking for members interested in leading and participating in action groups around these five areas:
 - Charitable food
 - Federal nutrition programs
 - School gardens
 - Nutrition education
 - Sustainable food practices
 - If any of these groups resonate with you, please email Jim at jhanna@ccfoodsecurity.org.

Policy Updates

- [Farm Bill is in conference committee](#) - Senators and Congress people will mediate the two versions. If a resolution is not made at the end of September, there will be an extension of the current Farm Bill. A potential compromised approach is to restrict state’s abilities for state’s to use waivers for work requirements.
 - House in favor of expanding work requirements for SNAP to include 18-59 and parents with children in the home older than 6. These individuals would need to send paperwork proving that they are working, in job training, or volunteering. If this is not done, the sanctioning process will begin immediately. This has the potential to affect 2 million people with the potential to save \$18 billion that would be funneled into job training. States would be in charge of creating this system to monitor paperwork and implementing job training programs. This reallocation of funds would end up being

\$30 per month per person for job training.

- Current work requirements for able-bodied adults, between 18-49, without dependents can seek SNAP for 3 months if you are unemployed, after that you need to be employed, in a job training program, or volunteering. If you are not doing those things, you will lose access to your benefits.
- During economic depression most states took advantage of waivers for work requirements. Governor LePage decided in 2014 that Maine would not seek waivers for work requirements and would enforce the 3 month time limit. As a result, about 10,000 people lost access to SNAP.
- Good Shepherd surveyed over 2,000 people across the state for their Hunger Pains Report (2016). 25% of people at food pantries were there because they had lost access to SNAP in the last year. The reality of being “able-bodied without dependents” was complicated and left many people vulnerable who did not traditionally fit this description.
- [Congressman Poliquin put out an op-ed about work requirements for SNAP](#)
- [Chellie Pingree’s letter to the editor](#) “SNAP recipients don’t need new job training program”
- The majority of people on SNAP who can work, do work. The reality is that so many working people need to receive SNAP because of low-paying jobs.
 - Article: “[Americans Want to Believe Jobs Are the Solutions to Poverty. They’re not.](#)”
 - Statewide we are eligible to exempt 15% of recipients - Maine does not currently do that
- Option to convene a policy group if there is interest and energy. Other groups that are working on food/farm/ag policy:
 - [Invest in Tomorrow](#) is a policy group hosted by Maine Equal Justice partners
 - [CEI](#)
 - [Maine Farmland Trust](#)
 - [Good Shepherd](#)
 - Recently received grant to bolster advocacy. Clara will focus on direct lobbying; Meg Taft will focus on grassroots advocacy.
 - [Southern Maine Workers Center](#)
 - Recommendation: put out a doodle to find a time to meet and discuss pending policy issues

Board Recruitment Update

- Board members will be voted in at the annual meeting in October
- Recruited to date: Amy Carrington, Bob Deacon, Laura Morrisey, Richard Rudolph, Judy Gatchell
 - Mary Turner may not be able to continue in her Board role due to her new job
- We are still seeking board members, please share any strong candidates

Upcoming Dates

- Full Council: November 8
- Leadership Team/Board of Directors: October 11, December 13
- Annual Meeting: October 16
- [Universities Fighting World Hunger Conference](#) (Hosted by USM): March 2019
 - [Call for proposals](#) is open on USM website - root causes of poverty and hunger, skill building

workshops