

Cumberland County Food Security Council Meeting notes

Thursday, April 14, 2016, UME Cooperative Extension, Falmouth

Attending:

Mary Turner, Stephanie Gagnon, Jason Lilley, Stephanie Acquilina, Richard Rudolph, Danielle Dicenso, Jan Bindas-Tenney, Judy Gatchell, Jim Hanna

- Reviewed agenda and why we are here

Discussed how CCFSC provides opportunity for partners to accomplish more in collaboration than we can do alone.

- Learned how CCFSC Members Use Social Media toward their Mission

Discussed different organizations approach to social media. General agreement we could all make better use of it. CCFSC has web site (Wordpress), list serve (Google group), Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. We can use the web site to better feature Council members and opportunities they provide for public involvement. We can provide a service by documenting some of the historic food security activities over the past 20 years in Maine. All members can post to and connect through our various Facebook pages. It would be good to set up a topic schedule so certain areas are paid attention to at specific time intervals.

- Learned how CCFSC Members are Engaging and Planning to Engage Food Insecure People in Solving Hunger and Poverty in Maine

Maine Hunger Initiative is meeting clients and collecting surveys at pantries. Over 300 interviews were conducted in two weeks statewide. Americorps members are engaging many of the participants. MHI will partner with Good Shepherd Food Bank to achieve shared goal of better understanding the current state of food insecurity. Michael Hillard, USM Labor professor is consulting. Initial goal is to collect 1000+ interviews.

The purpose of the survey is not just to collect information but to ask if people dealing with food insecurity want to be involved in solutions? The work was compared to Witnesses to Hunger in Philadelphia and Humans of New York model.

Jim shared a document he developed in collaboration with the Maine Food Strategy Healthy Food for All subcommittee that is intended to identify current efforts to engage vulnerable populations about poverty and food security. It was noted that the Southern Maine Workers Center is doing some innovative work involving people suffering poverty.

- Provided Opportunities for CCFSC Members to Participate in Upcoming Events

Mentioned the following events:

Cumberland County Food System Summit, May 19, Standish

ME Network of Community Food Council meeting, May 18, Gardner

Portland Food Forum, May 21

Feeding the 5000, in process of confirming October 7 as date

Registration info will be shared with Council as it becomes available

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- Confirmed dates for Council next meetings

Council: 4/14, 6/9?, 8/11, 10/13, 12/8

CCFSC Priorities/Leadership Team: 5/12, 7/14, 9/8, 11/10?

GFC Summit Planning meeting : 4/19, 5/3 Standish

Feeding the 5000 meeting: 4/27, 5/25 Portland

Jim noted that he was nominated to attend the New England Food Summit. If he is selected, the Summit conflicts with the June 9 Council meeting and we will need to reschedule the Council meeting for June 16.