

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
March 21, 2017
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: April 18, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m. [HHS campus](#)

Attendees:

Steering Committee – Alexandra Danino (SF-Marine Food Bank); Becky Gershon (SF-Marine Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); David Lewis (UCCE Marin); Lauren Klein (UCCE Marin); Lori Davis (Sanzuma); Reba Meigs (HHS)

Committee Members – Casey Poldino (ZeroWaste Marin); Cio Hernandez (HHS); Elaini Negussie (HHS, Nutrition Wellness Program); Laura Hettwer (HHS, Public Assistance); Shannon Lovelace-White (AIM); Susan Martinelli (West Marin Community Services); Veda Florez (Latino Marin); Wendy Pacheco (YLI)

Guests – Debbie Friedman (Conscious Kitchen); Kitty Thornton (Public Health Preparedness, USF student); Meghan Adelman (USF MPH student); Morgan Glasser (Redwood High School Farm); Nick Gardner (Marin Co Youth Commission, Food Justice subcommittee); Rachel Stover (HHS Eligibility Worker)

Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis?

- Lori: April 1st free Zumba and lunch in the park 10am-2pm in McInnis Park. Also free Zumba the first Saturday of the each month? month.
- Susan: Free park day at McNear's Beach, China Camp on April 23 from 11am – 3pm.
- Becky: SF-Marine Food Bank Missing Meals Study released, looks at the gap remaining after counting the provided meals through gov't programs and non-profit network, combined with meals people can afford on their own. Can share more in the future.
- David: Vince Trotter is the new UCCE Sustainable Agriculture Coordinator. He also continues to wear the "Agricultural Ombudsman" hat.
- Shannon: Thursday Civic Center farmers market is back to its old location; Friday April 21 fundraiser at the Lark Theater showing the film "The Last Crop;" the permanent farmers market is currently in the fundraising phase; the mobile farmers market truck was recalled by the dealership since April 2016, still on the waitlist for airbag parts.
- Casey: working on a zero waste school program for Marin County schools.
- Alexandra: April 21 Earth Day event at Bahia Vista with HHS – rolling dental, medical, and CalFresh assistance. May 13 "Fruit & Veggie Fest and CalFresh in a Day" event at HHS.

- Veda/Alex: 2/3 of college students struggle with homelessness and struggle with food insecurity, folks are discussing extending school lunch assistance into junior college. Invite Sadika and Edith from COM, also include Dominican, SRJC, Sonoma State? Zara with Ambassadors of Hope? 10,000 Degrees?
- Veda: Novato Multicultural Festival on April 29 from 1-5pm, looking for organizations to have a table and share info.

Council Business -

- **Location for May 16 meeting changed to 20 North San Pedro, Point Reyes Room Building (near the credit union, across from the Civic Center in San Rafael)**

Equitable Access Report Update

Community Food Production Panel - Marin's Urban Ag, Farm-to-Cafeteria - Lori Davis, San Rafael City Schools; Morgan Glasser, Redwood High School Farm; Debbie Friedman, Conscious Kitchen

Lori Davis, Sanzuma

- Sanzuma works on helping schools increase access to healthy food through school garden production gardens. San Pedro School school's 5th graders are working on growing the produce that they eat in the cafeteria from start to finish (bed prep and planting to harvesting to invoicing and packaging).
- Offers nutrition education along with garden programs to schools. Beginning to offer physical education classes as well.
- Collaborates with parents, restaurants, whole school staff, community members, and the food service director for the San Rafael City School district, who has access to a shared Google doc listing the status of produce as it's being grown and will be available.
- Families who volunteer to do garden work can take produce home. The most dedicated families can have their own garden beds.

Morgan Glasser, Redwood High Sustainable Agriculture class

- Farm on campus, students are outside working on the farm 2-3 times/week. Farm has been growing food for 4 years, is growing slowly but steadily.
- Grow and sell the produce they grow at School Farmstand once a month. Markets are an opportunity to educate the community about growing food. Revenue goes back into maintaining and expanding the farm.
- Work days the last Wednesday of every month, can take home harvested veggies.

- Pilot program for next year: mix between gov't/economics and sustainable ag class. Very popular, more students are interested than there is space.
- Added a chicken coop and grape vines, will add an apple orchard of 30-40 trees the students grafted themselves with help from Indian Valley Organic Farm & Garden.
- Morgan is working on a project introducing bees, which will increase market avenues.
- Mr. Stewart teaches AP Environmental Science and Sustainable Ag. He also maintains the farm through the summer. Students also tour and learn about Marin farms.
- Part of a larger sustainability program throughout the school: compost, water harvesting, brick (cob?) pizza oven, energy-efficiency, etc.
- “Don’t grow food, grow soil.” “Ugly veggies are tasty veggies.”

Debbie Friedman, Conscious Kitchen

- Cultivating local ecological food system in and around our schools.
- Partner with schools to transform their school meal services (usually heat & serve, pre-packaged, and overly processed) to food cooked on-site by chefs using fresh local organic seasonal non-GMO ingredients.
- Zero-waste: no packaging, use real plates and utensils, students well integrated and all cleaning products are non-toxic/organic.
- Conscious Kitchen Student Ambassadors are involved in every aspect of the program: culinary skills, set-up and clean-up, buying all food from local organic farmers and ranchers at the AIM farmers market, harvesting in school gardens, working with the head chef, etc.
- Partner with Marin City Health & Wellness Center, ZeroWaste Marin, Alice Waters and the Edible Schoolyard, Cavallo Point, and others.
- Began in Sausalito/Marin City School District. Expanded to 14 other schools in Marin by partnering with Good Earth Lunch Program. Goals: expanding to other counties and ultimately state- and nation-wide. Currently talking with Contra Costa USD, SFUSD and LAUSD about expansion.
- CK partners with the schools. They have some corporate sponsors (Clif Bar, Patagonia), but the schools themselves own the program, so CK works with schools to manage their budgets so they can afford CK.

Lauren Klein, UCCE Marin

- Couple “East Marin” urban/suburban farms/ranches of note: Draper Farms in San Anselmo, produce only - honor system to sell veggies to the community, as well as sell to a couple local restaurants; and Woolly Egg Ranch in Mill Valley - eggs at some farmers markets as well as on-site, sheep for wool and meat, produce, honey, etc on-site sales.

- I should have mentioned IVC!!
- Farm-to-cafeteria programs:
 - Cedars Day program for folks with disabilities, sell veggies at farmers markets, and use in their kitchens with cooking and nutrition programs
 - Homeward Bound farm to kitchen apprenticeship program in Novato
 - Marin Country Day School and West Marin Elementary school gardens are examples of well integrated systems
 - Marin Montessori Middle School at St. Vincent's farming over an acre with 52 students.
- Other:
 - Miguel Villarreal (Novato Food Service Director) prioritizing nutrition, reducing sugar, and supporting school gardens in Novato USD.
 - Significantly more awareness, coordination, and support for school and community gardens since 2010 – and a lot more knowledge.

Food Assistance: CalFresh update – Becky Gershon

- CalFresh Taskforce was created a couple months ago, comprised of community-based orgs who have a connection to CalFresh, along with various HHS departments.
- Divided into subgroups: data-tracking, best practices, client experience, systems design. Subgroups are meeting with the goal of increasing enrollment in CalFresh by 30% by the end of 2017. Having a subgroup devoted to line staff was suggested.
- Three focused strategies: 1) increasing dual enrollment between MediCal and CalFresh clients, 2) reducing 'churn' -- when someone on a program falls off the program and then soon reapplies (inefficient use of resources for the county and hard on the family who has lost benefits for a couple months), and 3) AB 402: several years ago a bill was passed in CA that allowed a school lunch application to double as the initial part of a CalFresh application, assuming the family would qualify. Marin is experimenting with how to use this in San Rafael schools, asking about CalFresh interest through schools.

Healthy Retail: Marin City Target ask – Elaini Negussie

- Target opened in Marin City. Group has been meeting to advocate for Target to carry more healthy food options, used ChangeLab's template to draft a letter for MFPC to sign in support. *Elaini to send to the Council for input and support
- Building a greenhouse in Marin City for their Intergenerational Garden (will incorporate the current MCCSD Childrens garden) – great opportunity for people to pitch in and help.

Sugary Sweetened Beverage Update – Reba Meigs

- Berkeley was one of the first cities to pass a soda tax; we can learn from Berkeley about what the tax has done for the city. They have noticed a decrease in soda consumption and increase in water consumption since the tax.
- Both MFPC and First 5 Marin hosted meetings learning from experts in the SSB tax world in the past couple months.
- Where are we now? HHS is in conversation with YLI to bring them on board to help the CX3 Healthy Retail work in youth-run community assessments. Formation of an SSB tax coalition is in the works, looking for a coordinator to support that work. Talking with the American Heart Association and affiliated doctors in Marin.
- Next steps: polling data to show that there is an interest from the community.
- **As of now, MFPC SSB subcommittee is comprised of Reba, Steve, and Lori – but is open to anyone on the MFPC to join!**

SF/Marin Food Bank support of state bills & budget items – Becky Gershon

- SF/Marin Food Bank has prioritized support for certain state bills:
 - **AB 164:** CA FPC Advocates sponsored. Would create the infrastructure and mechanism for the state of CA to fund CalFresh with state money.
 - **AB 796:** relates to SSI and SSP (cash assistance if you are low income or have a disability, or over the age of 65 – what you would get if you didn't pay into the social security system). SSI funding was cut severely in 2009, eliminating the cost of living adjustment. AB 796 would reinstate the cost of living adjustment and bring the benefit levels up so no one is living below the federal poverty level.
 - **AB 214:** clarification on an existing bill advocating that college campus dining halls accept CalFresh.
 - **SB 61:** would extend the ability for taxpayers to contribute to the Emergency Food and Families Fund (generates about \$500,000 to divide among food banks throughout the state).
 - **SB 138:** would require state and school districts to register kids who are on MediCal onto the federal school meal program automatically.
 - **CalFood:** only state fund that goes out to food banks to help with the costs of purchasing, storing, and transporting food – and has to be spent on California grown fruits and vegetables. Most states in the country have funds like this, but are funded better than California's. CalFood is asking for \$17.5 million.
 - **SSI/SSP:** CA governor is reluctant to pass any bills with a fiscal impact without it having gone through the budget item process as well; this covers both bases.

CA Food Policy Council Report/Other Policy follow-up – David Lewis

- March 14 the BOS listened to the recommendations for the development code, all passed 5-0. Allows for someone with a rural county parcel to host a community garden for community members (not for sale) without needing a use permit. Also allows for mobile slaughter and small-scale slaughter facilities. Ranchers and farmers will continue in an environmentally conscious way.
- No one was able to attend the Sacramento winter meeting of CA FPCs.

Closing – Lauren Klein, Alexandra Danino & Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2017, from 3:00 – 4:55 p.m. at the HHS campus