

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
May 16, 2017
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: June 20, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m.

Next meeting returns to the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendees:

Steering Committee – Alexandra Danino (SF-Marine Food Bank); Becky Gershon (SF-Marine Food Bank); Bonnie Nielsen (UCCE Marin); Julia Van Soelen Kim (UCCE Marin); Lori Davis (Sanzuma); Reba Meigs (HHS)

Committee Members – Audrey Peck (Redwood High School Sustainable Ag program); Casey Poldino (ZeroWaste Marin); Elaini Negussie (HHS, Nutrition Wellness pgm); June Farmer (Marin City CX3); Kathy Carver (ExtraFood.org); Shannon Lovelace-White (AIM); Sheila Kopf (SF-Marine Food Bank); Wendy Pacheco (YLI)

Guests – Edith Cadena (SF-Marine Food Bank); Katie Chapman (AIM); Noah Talamantes (Redwood High School Sustainable Ag program)

Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

- Becky: Food Bank is advocating for state funding for CalFood: state funding stream for banks throughout the state; money can only be used on CA food. This year the Food Bank is asking the governor to fund at \$17.5 million. Now is a critical time in the budget process, please fill out and sign postcards of support.
- Reba: updated Food Guide with Spanish version is out. Food App “Food Now Marin” launched this weekend – **to view as a Council at the June meeting.**

Council Business – Lori Davis

- Reba: adopting a healthy food & beverage policy for Marin Food Policy Council meetings as well as events that MFPC sponsors; draft circulated with last month’s notes.
****Approved unanimously.**
- Reba: MFPC letterhead designed by Brown Miller, circulated at today’s meeting.
****Approved unanimously.**

Innovative Models to Address Hunger - Sheila Kopf and Edith Cadena (SF-Marine Food Bank)

Hunger stats and college students:

- Students unable to meet their basic needs are less likely to perform well and more likely to drop out.

- When kids born into the bottom fifth of the income distribution graduate from college their chance of making it out of the bottom fifth increases by 50%.
- There has been a decline in low income students attending college
- Recent nationwide survey of college students: 2 in 3 students reported food insecurity, 50% reported housing insecurity. 90% faculty agree that students are experiencing some level of food insecurity, only 20% of students know how and where to access resources
- Importance of enrolling student to CalFresh.
- 30-50% of CA community colleges have food pantries on campus.
- 2013 UC student wellness survey led to a Student Wellness Committee, \$75,000 granted to each UC to address student hunger, success resulted in this amount doubling: \$3.3 million for 10 campuses for a 2 year period.
- Number of college campus food pantries is growing exponentially.

How food banks are responding to hunger on college campuses:

- Some sites have a budget, some are working with local farmers markets, some are working with their food banks, some are letting students donate unused meal plan points to help.
- SF State is the first campus food pantry that SF-Marin Food Bank has launched (February 2017). Hard to find the right person to talk to and work with; once they made the connection, all fell into place. Targeted outreach to get the pantry off the ground.
- Limited cook menu (not receiving chicken or eggs). Two shifts of student volunteers to run the pantry. Open one day a week. Students sign in but they don't need to apply, has been promoted to 8 different targeted student groups in need. Wendy shared a similar situation at UC Berkeley, June shared a similar situation at Petaluma campus of SRJC.
- SF-Marin Food Bank did a produce pop-up run by the Food Bank to gauge response: would students take fresh produce? The students did, so the pantry
- Concerns: stigma about needing food assistance; set up so it's students providing for students, all volunteer, open and welcoming community. Hugely successful: started at 50 and quickly grew to 100 students receiving food.
- College and Universities Food Bank Alliance: membership has quadrupled in the last two years. Cost for college has increased more than incomes have increased, even though the economy has recovered for the most part.
- Last month first farmers market style weekly food pantry began at COM. Limited cook menu. Food ordered for 50 households, held in the parking lot for a 3-hour window; ran out of food in an hour and a half! Have increased their food supply to 125 from 50. Will continue through the spring semester and summer session, and reassess in the fall.

Doing CalFresh outreach for college students as well. If students are on EOPS, should automatically be able to get CalFresh – but many students aren't aware of this.

- Question: could IVC farm donate some produce to the COM pantry?
- \$1 donation leverages \$5 food purchased by the Food Bank, food purchases are intentional, menus are planned critically with 60% produce included. Farm to Family program very successful on the CA distribution network, also specific relationships with local farmers.

Food pharmacy pilot program:

- Provide free groceries along with other health services for a set period of time. People referred to the pharmacy for 3 months, and then referred to the regular food bank system.
- Work with physicians, target audience is people with diabetes and hypertension.
- Cohort of patients come to the food pharmacy at a designated time to get groceries, referrals to CalFresh, health screenings, cooking demos, referrals to other food services throughout the county, and RD's on hand to answer questions.
- SF location has chosen to work with clinics with the highest number of hypertension in the African American population.
- Interested in opening food pharmacies with Marin City and Larkspur clinics. Most of the people who use the Marin City Health center are not Marin City residents: they come from all over.
- Parks prescription program wanting to have a food prescription piece; the community is ready. Black farmers market: Freedom farmers market out of Oakland provides CSA boxes purchased through the clinic.
- Growing trend of site-based intervention showing promising results: one stop shop for whole person care and prevention.
- Health fairs at school sites have had success also, since they are trusted sites.

CalFresh Awareness Month Update – Alexandra Danino

- MFPC passed CalFresh Awareness Month resolution in May.
- Current political update on the federal level: draft exec order released on VOX that would create huge burdens on immigrant families wanting to receive CalFresh and SNAP at the federal level. Bottom line: CalFresh rules have not changed at the state or federal level. If there are changes they will come through the Farm Bill, and it would be next year at the town meeting local level. Biggest worry is that the program could be block granted. Currently it's an entitlement program (if you're eligible you will get benefits, and the budget fluctuates along with the population), but if it's block granted each state

gets a set amount of funding based on current enrollment levels (which are low in CA) and the state would decide how to use it (which could close the door on folks who are eligible but not currently enrolled). Wait and see, respond if need be. Cuts could also come through the federal budget (to be released by Trump on May 23rd). Food Bank strategy: collecting positive impact stories to share the importance of the program.

- Local level: media campaign on CalFresh during CalFresh Awareness Month. Wrap up report for the BOS meeting at the end of the month to present current work happening. CalFresh Taskforce has a workplan to address the huge eligibility potential – goal is to increase our CalFresh enrollment by 30%. Biggest outreach focus is tightening up dual-enrollment with MediCal and CalFresh, in-reach with the population currently on MediCal.
- MFPC letter to be sent to Marin City Target – should MFPC also meet with Dr. Cadet in person as well? Yes, Elaini will coordinate the meeting, to update MFPC at the June meeting.

Regional Food Policy Council Convening – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Thursday, June 8 at the Lucchesi Community Center in Petaluma, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Open to all MFPC members. Members of FPCs from four neighboring Councils to learn successes and best practices. \$25 suggested donation, not necessary to pay. **Can set up a carpool from Marin for those attending.**

Closing – Julia Van Soelen Kim, Alexandra Danino & Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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