

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
June 20, 2017
[HHS campus](#)

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: July 18, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m.

*** = Voting members**

Attendees:

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

Committee Members – Casey Poldino* (ZeroWaste Marin); June Farmer* (Marín City CX3); Kathy Carver* (ExtraFood.org); Kathy Koblick (HHS); Laura Hettwer* (HHS); Miguel Villarreal* (Novato USD); Steve Schwartz* (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative)

Guests – Felicia Chavez (Marín Equity Coalition); Irene Garcia (SF-Marín Food Bank); Megan Scott (HHS, Leadership Program); Rachel Stover (HHS); Rita Kessler (San Rafael Food Services)

Welcome and Council Representative Announcements – Lori Davis

- Becky: script and call to action to call members of congress to urge them not to cut funding for SNAP. Mailed the postcards we signed to increase funding for CalFood program at the May meeting. Result: during the conference period they settled on \$6million/year of ongoing funding
- Lauren: share the Community Gardens brochure.
- Miguel: Novato has the second largest parade in the Bay Area for July 4th. This year's theme celebrates Healthy Living, Miguel is the Grand Marshall – all invited to join from 9:30-10:30.

Council Business

- Lauren: updates to Governance doc updates (including a quorum of 33%, will be calling this December for new Steering Committee members, funding for MFPC expires in 2018, SC to work on a budget going forward). ****Vote for approval: consensus reached****
- Lauren: Please check the circulating membership list, will update membership on the website.
- Reba: FoodNow Marin App – designed to help people locate free and low cost food resources in Marin.

Summer Hunger and Feeding Programs for Youth in Marin - Miguel Villarreal, Novato Food Services Director and Rita Kessler, San Rafael Food Services

- Summer meals program video
- Free & reduced serves 22-24 million students/year. Reach about 16% of those kids during the summer = 16 million kids aren't receiving the services they qualify for
- Summer meals programs trying to meet that need – federally funded through USDA, underutilized throughout the nation. USDA has tried to solicit more sponsors – it doesn't have to be a school (faith based org, parks, camps, etc), just needs to be a site that has 50% or more needy kids during the school year. All kids 18 or younger can participate for free, don't need to be enrolled in any specific summer programs, just show up (no application or documentation).
- More successful programs are on school sites (or other orgs like Boys and Girls clubs) with organized activities to draw the kids because families feel these are safe.
- Kids may even be getting enough calories, but not enough real nutrition
- Help get the word out: fliers, Marin IJ press release, website, etc. Miguel recorded a robocall out to 450 homes (only 36 hang-ups), but still more folks didn't show up. Most helpful: community liasons and parent advocates (one-on-one interaction). *Miguel and Rita to send fliers and info to Reba to display at HHS Health Hubs this week. Irene to send Miguel and Rita a list of pantries*
- Have Novato and San Rafael been in conversation with other school districts? Could collaborate more.
- Serve 2 meals (breakfast and lunch) for about 2 months (through August 4) at 4 locations around San Rafael and 3 locations in Novato. Novato sites serve on average 200 meals/day. Conscious Kitchen should qualify to provide summer feeding in Marin City *Lauren to follow up*
- Healthy children pantries summer packets through SF-Marín Food Bank. Issue with a lag in information, would like to collaborate more to get the word out on participating sites earlier.
- SF is opening sites to entire families allowing parents to eat as well, has been successful. USDA only allows children a small amount of food (a 'traveling apple') after consuming most of the meal on-site, need to raise money privately to be able to serve adults.
- San Rafael is trialing some nutrition education, showcasing produce from Davidson, trying new meals.
- Where are there gaps? Transportation is one. Many areas on Marin aren't being served by these 7 schools. Idea of a food truck to take food on the road. CDE has a list of all summer feeding sites throughout CA. Site needs a kitchen to actually prepare the food. Any government food program has paperwork to file, meet all the health dept regulations, etc., only have \$3/meal to pay for food, labor, and regulation work.
- Question if pantries would be good sites so parents could get food as well as children.
- What does it take to be part of the USDA program? Agencies such as Food Banks, YMCAs,

Boys and Girls program sites, centers that draw lots of children. Schools can sponsor a program at other sites. *Kathy Koblick is willing to work on a summer feeding subcommittee to look into the issue further. Miguel, Irene, June, Becky, Reba, Lauren, Lori, Kathy Carver interested in joining 1 additional subcommittee meeting*

- Connection with CalFresh: this year tried to encourage families to apply for CalFresh at the beginning of the school year, but perhaps it would be more effective to do outreach in the beginning of summer, when they are about to have a greater food need. Could also use the CalFresh database to find the families with kids living in areas with summer feeding sites, send info to those families advertising summer feeding options near them.

- Text 877877 “food” and they will text you back locations near you.

Marin Leadership Academy Update - Megan Scott, HHS, Leadership Program through the County

- Their team’s project is under the framework of equity, specifically housing and food equity, with a focus in West Marin. Began assessing the situation in fall of 2016, identified that there is a lot of work going on with a lot of orgs in this area, but not a lot of coordination between the orgs. They have until August and have decided to continue to do the assessment piece and identify gaps and provide info to CDA for them to move the project forward. Looked at the MFPC website and would like to see an avenue for engagement/information sharing platform for use by orgs on either the MFPC website or on another linked site.

- There are technologies and platforms that make this engagement possible. The need exists across multiple areas of focus. Huge need of strong staffing management (bandwidth, time, money, etc.) to maintain the workability of this stie/platform. It’s not worth putting the money into developing this without the support to maintain and continue this.

- What is the buy in? What outreach needs to happen to reach so many agencies and make them decide that this project will be a good do-to resource to aid collaboration between folks doing similar work. Marketing is critical.

- What are the issues that would lend themselves to this type of platform? Would appreciate any feedback from MFPC. Any existing websites that could be brought in and/or learned from (what worked, what didn’t)? *Please send any feedback to Megan, Steering Committee also to brainstorm*

CA FPC Update – Steve Schwartz

- List of CA FPC top 20 priority bills circulated. SB 252 (water wells bill): swing vote key person is Levine. Why wouldn’t Levine support it? State level big ag is opposing it, so perhaps he might as well? CA Climate Ag Network and CAFF supporting it. MFPC asked to endorse the bill today and tell this to Levine. **Vote to approve, with 3 abstentions (UCCE, SF-Marine Food Bank, and

HHS Public Assistance), leaving the Steering Committee the right to pull the vote if more information is learned by Thursday afternoon that is worrisome.

North Bay Food Policy Council Convening Update – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Thanks to the representatives who attended the event. Lauren Klein presented about MFPC, Liza Crosse shared useful information, Steve shared about how FPCs can engage with the Farm Bill, Julia Van Soelen Kim presented on the UC ANR FPC study Janet Brown gave a great closing keynote. We may revisit some of the information from the day and share with MFPC. Everyone (except for 1 participant) asked for it to happen again, so Julia will host another in spring/summer 2018. Notes from the day's sessions will be forwarded to MFPC.

Closing – Julia Van Soelen Kim & Lori Davis

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 18, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110