

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
October 17, 2017

HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Marin Food Policy Council meeting: November 21, 2017, 3:00 – 4:55 p.m.

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marín Food Bank*		Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*
X	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag, Pgm*	X	Lauren Klein, UCCE
X	Becky Gershon, SF-Marín Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
	Bonny White, West Marin Comm Services*	X	Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Cio Hernandez, HHS Public Health*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
	Davis Lewis, UCCE	X	Mimi Choudhury, AIM*
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness		Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
	Gail Crain, CAM*	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Sheila Kopf, SF-Marín Food Bank
X	Heather Bettini, CAM	X	Socorro Romo
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
X	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Susan Martinelli, WIC
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*	X	Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*
X	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm Services District*
X	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*		Veda Florez, Latino Marin*
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health		

24 voting members + 10 alternates = 34 total

Guests:

Chelsea Pearson (ISFC)
Edith Cadena (SF-Marín FB)
Karimah Hay (AIM)
Madelene McCann
Roxana Yekta (marin County- HHS?)
Sharin Vakharia (MCF)
Vince Trotter

Welcome and Announcements – Alexandra Danino and Lori Davis

Lori thanked all working on Fire Relief, and confirmed that we will not have a meeting in December, so that the last meeting of 2017 will Nov 21, and our next MFPC meeting will be January 16th, 2018.

MCF opened an LOI for Senior support in Marin the week of Oct 16

Updates:

Reba – Update on HEAL

- Hunger resolution adopted by Marin BOS in September
- Food access, food production, food assistance are the three areas of focus for HEAL collaborative.
 - o Cal Fresh Task Force – outreach meeting went well:
 - Will expand assistor network, were able to recruit a few more community organizations to join.
 - General CF outreach – they are developing some materials, which will be shared with the MFPC too.
 - o Built environment Task Force group – will be meeting in November. (Elaini to head up)
 - o Food Now – will be meeting in November.
- Reba will follow up with a little blurb that Bonnie will send around.

Karimah Hay – AIM mobile market update

- Trying to get the ball rolling again.
- Looking for host sites.
- Air bags fixed on the truck! Just waiting on permitting and SMOG check.
- Thinking about starting it two days a week, working up to five days a week.
- Will try to get all the goods from the Sunday and Thursday markets at Civic Center.
- Karimah is interested in joining MFPC – we should follow up with her.

Panel discussion:

General panel questions:

- **Who are you?**
- **What's your org do generally?**
- **What's an innovative program that you and your org does?**
- **How can MFPC support your work vis-à-vis policy?**

Edith Cadena – SF-Marin Food Bank

- Update about their mobile food pantry truck in West Marin.
- West Marin Collaborative is where the idea was born – challenges with families living on ranches in terms of food access. Getting to the already existing pantries is difficult because they are so far away from pantries – transportation is the biggest obstacle. The mobile pantry was the solution that felt like the best idea.
- Connected with people through the National Night Out – connected to 19 families initially. Currently it's a bi-weekly schedule.
- Weather conditions, flooding, trees blocking the roads... add more challenges to accessing food.
- Desire is to have it be a volunteer-run program. But not there yet.
- There isn't really a central drop-off location for a pantry in this area. Traveling between the ranches feels like the only option right now.

- Deliveries of food are pre-packaged bags of groceries.
- All the families have access to a full kitchen – some have a big freezer. All families have been asked what they like/eat/want.
- What can the MFPC do?
 - o Need volunteers! Bilingual is important. Will share information with MFPC soon to circulate.

Jessica Bazan: Youth Leadership Institute

- Organization was started 27 years ago.
- Offices in SF, San Mateo, Fresno.
- Process: Leadership development >> research >> campaigns
- Youth led policy change is the main focus.
- Programs in Marin: Marin County Youth Commission, Friday Night Live/Club Live, Student Advocacy Council, Peer Summit, Healthy Retail.
- 22nd annual Peer Summit coming up soon – some of the topics that will be addressed - Mental Health, Food Justice, etc.
- Marin Oaks Salad Program – only HS without a salad option for lunch in the Novato Unified School District. They did a survey, and they found that the students at Marin Oaks were most dissatisfied with the food options – they wanted more healthy options. They are still working on this.
- Healthy Retail in the Canal area – trained 9 youth from San Rafael on how to survey stores to understand availability of healthy options. They will be presenting their findings at the Youth Summit.
- Peer Summit: December 1st – we are invited to attend! They are looking for workshop ideas. At the College of Marin.
- What can the MFPC do?
 - o Jessica will follow up with a list of workshop ideas they are looking for. We are welcome to submit ideas.
 - o Think about incorporating youth voices in the leadership of the MFPC?

Terrie Green: Marin City Intergenerational Community Garden

- Created in 2014 out of a report.
- Purpose – to address overweight/obesity issue within the child population in Marin City. Wanted to give children the skills they will need to eat healthy throughout their lives.
- They started with container gardens. Children and parents often working together in the garden.
- For the last 3 years, 150 children enrolled each summer. They were given containers to take home too.
- Now it has expanded into the Intergenerational Garden – children all the way to seniors.
- Green house is up. Now they just need to get it connected to electricity. Some staff will be trained to be Master Gardeners (June Farmer). It's about 16 x 24 ft.
- The goal is to get their teams involved, and being able to sell some of the produce to generate income for the students.
- Want to get seniors to help teach cooking to parents and their children.

- Planting Justice is going to be designing the garden – design will be done soon.
- What can the MFPC do?
 - o Need funding! Especially to complete the IG garden. Any grant writers that can help? People who have funding?
 - o Volunteers – especially as they continue to build out the garden.

Heather Bettini: SparkPoint Marin

- Cut poverty in ½ is the goal.
- July 2010 was when the site opened in Marin. Part of Community Action Marin.
- 14 sites in the Bay Area now.
- Goal is for individuals to empower themselves financially to have:
 - o Self sufficient income (based on Insight Center calculation)
 - o 700 or higher credit score
 - o \$0 revolving debt
 - o 3 months of savings in the bank
- Financial counseling combined with career counseling
- They ask for a 6-month commitment to the process.
- Working with about 300 people in a 1:1 capacity.
- They also do housing counseling. E.g. navigating Section 8 and building a housing resume.
- Opened a food pantry – from Extrafood.org. They get about 7 deliveries a week.
- They also distribute EFB, and help people with CF applications, as well as Tax Returns.
- They will be relocating soon – not sure where exactly.
- SparkPoint also partners with “Respecting Our Elders”
- What can the MFPC do?
 - o Need to be thinking about how people’s finances affect their food security.
 - o They are hiring for a bilingual financial coach. Heather will send us the job description to circulate within our networks.
 - o Making sure that people in our community know about their services.

Steve Schwartz – Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative

- Steve introduced Chelsea Pearson (Outreach Program Assistance, AmeriCorps Vista)
- Working with faith communities to increase food access in four counties now.
- A reminder to us that the faith community has a strong voice in DC - 200+ faith based offices in DC.
- Making CSA’s accessible for CalFresh recipients.
- Senior farmers market nutrition program. Really low in Marin in terms of redemption. Trying to get the redemption rate up.
- Policy issue – some markets don’t accept the coupons.
- Bolder Advocacy trainings – webinars, in-person trainings, etc. They will be doing a training in Marin next month, all MFPC members are welcome to attend. Will be at the Unitarian Congregation of Marin, on November 16th, 11am-2:15pm.
- Support congregations in doing gleaning and reducing food waste.

- Most congregations have a wide range of members in terms of income.
- Community Food Projects grant from USDA – they applied and didn't get it.
- What can MFPC do?
 - o Come to the Bolder Advocacy training! Need to get the info from Steve to email everyone.
 - o Policy issue – get an amendment in the Farm Bill so that farmers markets accept senior nutrition program benefits (?)
 - o Policy issue – get ALL farmers markets in Marin to accept the senior nutrition program benefits!

Vince Trotter – UC Cooperative Extension

- He wears two hats:
 - o Agriculture Ombudsmen – helps farmers in Marin to navigate the permitting/licensing process and systems that can be a little confusing.
 - o Sustainable Agriculture Program Coordinator – outreach to the ag community to make them more sustainable (not just in terms of environmental sustainability, but also financial)
- Also working on on-farm poultry processing. There is a need for policy change at the State level. This is one of several policy changes that allows for more diversity on small farms, helping to make them more sustainable financially
 - o Handout – explains policies – federal, state, local that affect farmers ability to do on-farm processing of their poultry.
 - o Marin BOS passed regulation in March to create an easier pathway for poultry farmers in Marin to be able to do their own processing.
 - o Policy issue – need to get CA Food & Ag Code to allow for, 1) Sales to HRI (hotels, restaurants, institutions), 2) Use of employees, as well as family to process. Vince is working with staff from Sonoma County Cooperative Extension along with Roots of Change to shop around this issue with legislators in Sacramento – maybe a bill next year? 3) Small scale farm on-site processing (?)
 - o What can MPFC do?
 - Assist in development and promotion of legislative change to CA state law. Express support when/if bill is introduced.
 - MFPC is interested in learning more and supporting this effort
- Agricultural worker housing? County is committed to streamlining its permitting process – both to renovate and replace already existing farmworker housing, and also bringing in new housing. Seems like it's not funding that's the biggest obstacle, but permitting is the bigger issue for the owners of the farms.