

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
August 21, 2018
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the HHS campus, Room 110

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag.*		Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
X	Becky Gershon, SF-Marin Food Bank*	X	Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council
X	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE		Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
X	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness	X	Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gail Crain, CAM*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marin Food Bank
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Heather Bettini, CAM		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		<i>Guests:</i>
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*	X	Bruce Richard, Environmental Forum of Marin
	Karimah Hay, Ag. Institute of Marin	X	Jaqc Streur, Zero Waste Marin
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Julia Middleton, Conscious Kitchen
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative
	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*	X	Olivia Mendieta, Sanzuma
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Roxy Yekta, HHS Nutrition Wellness Program
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Sofia, Whistlestop Nutrition Program

Welcome and Announcements – Liana Orlandi

- Liana: Rollin' Root ribbon cutting happened at Whistlestop in San Rafael on Thursday 8/9, they have been visiting sites for 2 weeks and all is going well
- Paula: June 6 launch of shuttle from low income housing to Margaret Todd Center for market, information tables. Upcoming events: "Paperwork You Need to Have in Place" on 9/12 from 10-11:30am, "Transportation Options for Marin Older Adults" on 9/26 from 10-11am.
- Sofia: Nutrition Program Coordinator, Whistlestop
- Reba: Hunger Forum 9/24 from 9-12 noon with First 5 Marin. Food Now Task Force meeting on 9/10 and CalFresh Task Force meeting on 8/27 from 2-4pm.
- Julia: Pt Reyes Light – Socorro Romo ED of West Marin Community Services Center. Free book on working to end hunger, FPCs around the country.

- Steve: Disaster SNAP options for special benefits in fire regions, but only have 7 days to apply. Steve has been talking with people about extending the time window. No documentation requirement.
- Madelene: Marin Breastfeeding Coalition event this Thursday 8/23 from 3-6pm with food, info and resources on breastfeeding. October is Children's Environmental Health Month - program (Eco ChildCare) has lots of info and trainings. Childrean's Environmental Health Network website has more info.
- Becky Gershon has moved on from the SF-Marin Food Bank to a position with the CA Association of Food Banks, may not be able to continue coming to MFPC meetings, but it's an exciting opportunity and MFPC can keep her engaged in other ways.
- CA Food and Farming Network regional meeting to inform their policy agenda for the upcoming years. MFPC invited to host a regional meeting – interested to do so especially if the topic has to do with our three bucket areas of focus (seniors, urban ag, or farm to school). Commitment would be two 1-hour planning meetings and then one meeting which would be sometime this fall. Let Julia or Steve know if you or your break-out group is interested in being involved in this.

New Member Presentations – Julia Van Soelen Kim

- If you've recently applied for MFPC membership and haven't given a new member presentation yet, please let us know.
- It can be brief: introduce yourself and your organization, what issues you work on, relevant projects and programs, any funding associated with this work.
- **Paula Freeman, Covia** – non profit working with seniors. On-going care communities, affordable housing, and community services for seniors. Paula is working on a HEAL grant on reducing food insecurity for seniors. Programs: Market Day (1st and 3rd Wednesdays) senior produce market with lower costs and smaller portions; congregate meal program; home-delivered grocery program; Well Connected program connecting folks on the phone and online (workshops, discussions, support groups, etc.). Paula's interest in MFPC lies in coordinating the HEAL grant and getting people on CalFresh to be able to utilize their programs more. Advocate for people to help them navigate the application process. Covia does a good amount of fundraising (largely donations but also grants). Regional organization that extends a bit beyond the Bay Area, though Paula works just in Marin.

CA Food Policy Council Report – Steve Schwartz

- CA FPC merging with CA Food and Farming Network (CFFN)
- Last minute bill to ban municipal SSB taxes: silver linings -- there will be a statewide initiative to do SSB in 2020, AND Senator McGuire was one of just a handful who stood up against this and voted no.
- CA Nutritional Incentives program: If you have market match you get 2 for 1 on veggies. Now you can also get state funding to do this at smaller grocery stores. New pilot: if you're going to do that, the EBT incentive will be allowable to be put back on the SNAP card. If you buy veggies, the store will give you \$20 (which can be spent on anything in the grocery store, not just veggies).

- Legislative score card coming out in the next couple of weeks. Let Steve know if you are interested in tuning into some of these conference calls, there's room for more folks to be involved.

Systems Thinking Principles and Practices – Felicia Chavez

- Use Systems Thinking in our work as MFPC... what exactly is Systems Thinking? How can systems Thinking inform our upcoming small group work?
- Systems Thinking Marin under Marin LINK, promoting UN Sustainability goals of 2030
- Mission: to raise awareness of - and hopefully adoption of - Marin County in all sectors
- Systems Thinking definition: thinking in terms of systems, which inherently involve elements, interconnections, and purpose or function. Systems Thinking is about relationships (between people, the envi, and abstract things)
- Long-term vs. short-term, complexity and uncertainty vs. simplicity and certainty
- Three buckets: Meta (BIG viewpoint), Communities of Practice (more specific containers for action), and Authors
- Pyramid of Systems Thinking: Charitable (Act direct action) > Advocacy (influencing the system) > Systems Thinking (changing the system itself, "sustainability")
- Examples: Restorative Justice, Vermont Farm to Plate Network, Welsh Government National Sustainable Development Program
- Key Concepts: self-reflection, feedback loops; relationships (and the importance of tending to them); long, wide, and deep view
 - Feedback loops always exist, mapping them increases awareness and may identify good entry points to potentially make a change
- Go to www.SystemsThinkingMarin.org/mfpc for this presentation and other resources

Break-out group work

- Hone MFPC policy opportunities, asks, and actions to take
- Move from info gathering to some kind of action, if possible and appropriate
 - Can be flexible on how narrow or broad to interpret 'policy opportunities'
- Plan for the upcoming MFPC meeting your group is going to host
 - Design your group's meeting agenda, including learning opportunity, policy asks, and tasks such as set-up, clean-up, and snack duty
- **Urban Ag - September**
 - Next session: inviting Bob Brown back and San Rafael officials, as well as farmers like Anwen Bauermeister to present. Hoping for **September 18** meeting. Asked MFPC to submit an official letter of public comment saying MFPC is in support of Urban Ag and would like to see such policies in San Rafael code – doesn't need to be specific, just want an official letter to be on record. Example: could state that the current SR code doesn't allow for on-farm sales, and MFPC hope to work with them to change this. Ideal would be to survey urban farmers in the area of their needs and desires. Priority: ability to grow food for sale, and capacity for on-site sales. General Plan is trying to be a Climate Friendly Gneral Plan. Also could relate to state mandates to environmental justice.

- **Farm to School – October**
 - Begin with snapshot of where we are currently re: the food system for Marin youth from cradle to college, invite different areas of service community to collaborate on bigger goal of what is needed from MFPC – needs to be narrowed down
- **Seniors – November**
 - Data share, farmers market vouchers, SSI/CalFresh, Transportation, Becky, CA Association of Food Banks

Closing – Liana Orlandi

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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