

Marin Food Policy Council
Meeting Notes
November 20, 2018
HHS Wellness Campus, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 15, 2018, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. at SF-Marín Food Bank, 2550 Kerner Blvd., San Rafael

Attendance:

*** = Voting members**

X	Alexandra Danino, SF-Marín Food Bank*		Lorenzo Cordova, BOS*
	Audrey Peck, Redwood High Sus. Ag.*	X	Lori Davis, Sanzuma*
	Becky Gershon, SF-Marín Food Bank*		Madelene McCann, Marin Child Care Council
	Bonnie Nielsen, UCCE	X	Madeline Hope, West Marin Waste Education*
	Bonny White, West Marin Com Services*		Marv Zauderer, ExtraFood.org
	Casey Poldino, Zero Waste Marin*		Miguel Villarreal, Novato USD*
X	Elaini Negussie, HHS Nutrition Wellness	X	Paula Freeman, Covia
X	Felicia Chavez, Systems Thinking Marin		Rachel Stover, HHS Public Assistance
	Gail Crain, CAM*	X	Reba Meigs, HHS Public Health*
	Gueidi Beltran, WIC*		Sheila Kopf, SF-Marín Food Bank
	Heather Bettini, CAM	X	Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sus Food Collaborative*
	Janet Brown, AllStar Organics*		Susan Martinelli, WIC
	Jessica Bazan, YLI*		Teresa Fogolini, North Bay Children's Center*
X	Julia Van Soelen Kim, UCCE*		Terrie Green, Marin City Comm. Services District*
	June Farmer, Marin City CX3*		
	Karimah Hay, Ag. Institute of Marin		<i>Guests:</i>
	Kathy Carver, ExtraFood.org*	X	Meg Davidson, SF-Marín Food Bank
	Kathy Koblick, HHS Public Health	X	Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative
	Laura Hettwer, HHS Public Assistance*	X	Evelyn, Sanzuma
X	Lauren Klein, Comm. & School Gardens	X	Amanda Newman-Crucher, Ceres
X	Liana Orlandi, Ag. Institute of Marin*	X	Juliette Martinez, American Heart Association

Welcome and Announcements – Lori Davis

- Julia: Update regarding safety of eating produce exposed to smoke & ash: there is limited concern about eating this produce. Everyone is encouraged to protect your own lungs. Fresh fruits and veggies will continue to benefit health. Link to article on UCCE website.
- Paula: Workshops on cognition & wellness for older adults. Sign up with Well-connected. Open to the public
- Alex: Save the Date: 2019 CalFresh Forum on March 6 in Sacramento

Older Adult Project Updates – Informal Panel

Panel participants: Steve, Linda, Paula, Liana, Alexandra, Elaini

Steve Schwartz, Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative: Focus on increasing redemption of Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Vouchers – low redemption in Marin County. Farmers' market tours, market match-style incentives to go back to a farmers' market. Vouchers are provided by low-income housing. Question is transportation – working with Whistlestop. Season May-November, but incentives don't expire until May.

- Advocacy opportunities: change dates vouchers are redeemable, Farm Bill to protect SFMNP vouchers program.
- Growing opportunity: Find partners doing home-delivered meals who can help connect CSA boxes to seniors at home. Incentives available for CSA boxes.

Questions: How many seniors have been reached? Match: 270 adults, SFMNP vouchers: 500 recipients in Marin County.

How is it working to collaborate with all of the different players? – farmers markets, housing sites, government. ISFC acts as intermediary between these players. Can suggest policy updates to make program work more smoothly.

Suggestion for the date - County-level decision? HHS – make it year-round? Find out who at HHS - Aging Department or Food Distribution/Social Services? For follow-up – talk to Amy Dietz.

Steve will look into who takes care of this in other counties that have made changes.

Policy opportunity: Marin Country Mart farmers' market – only market that doesn't accept vouchers or CalFresh.

Linda Jackson, Aging Action Initiative – Live Long, Live Well – slogan of Commission on Aging. 25% Marin residents living below economic security line – people who rent, people who are isolated in the hills & homes. By age 80-85 health requires more money, house requires more money, may be moment that there aren't enough resources left. First Baby Boomer reaches 80 in 2026.

Inform & Connect Academies – Purpose: for Board members, staff, volunteers to know resources in Marin County. Can sign up for half day or full-day programs.

Detect & Connect – Training program for Board members, staff to learn what to say to people who are showing signs of confusion in public. 3-hour workshops. Schedule for work-places

Advocacy – building base: Aging in Community topic of advocacy. Grow older at home.

Economic Security Summit: February 1st - Marin Community Foundation pulled together speakers – where is money coming from, where it is going to help us understand how to best use resources.

Linda can add your name to the newsletter list for more information.

Older adult definitions: 50+, 62+ HHS programs, at age 65 sign up for Medicare, 70+ bonus on Social Security. Definition of "older adults" depends on services

Age-Friendly Planning: December 6 at Marin Valley Mobile Country Club. Network meeting 9am, 10am Changing program, 11am Rollin' Root, 12pm Commission on Aging meeting – reps from every jurisdiction will be present.

Questions: connection to food in Inform & connect Academy? Guests from food organizations share information to providers to better serve clients.

Paula Freeman, Covia – Residential communities & community services. Working on food insecurity & food access. EBT accepted at senior produce markets and volunteer grocery shopping service. Have grown participation. Just launched grocery shopping into San Rafael. Our Lady of Loretto – potential new senior produce market site. More multi-cultural outreach with the expansion. Assist & advocate for CalFresh enrollees. Advocacy important to close the loop & ensure those who are eligible get the support they need to complete the application process & get benefits. Working with Whistlestop to pass out 200 flyers to teach about home-delivered meal program. New program: Emergency funds – give money towards the purchase of produce. In process of starting this – vouchers for the Senior Produce Markets. Questions: Consider Steve’s concept of CSA boxes linked to home-delivered meal programs? Consider grocery shopping with other outlets for produce (farmers markets, independent markets)? Safeway is the local grocery store. Reach isolated older adults by connected through doctor’s office. Connection to all of Marin Community Clinics? Food Now Task Force – mapping home-delivered programs. Marin City Food Pharmacy, Health Hubs San Rafael. Roll-in services with home-delivered meal services. Boise – Idaho Food Bank – At day labor site: give meal, bag of food, promotores event, care at same time. Senior Produce markets – offer nutrition information, recipes.

Liana Orlandi, Agricultural Institute of Marin – Rollin’ Root mobile farmers’ market update: launched in August at 3 sites, added fourth site in Marin City in September. Also added ability to accept CalFresh benefits & Market Match. Received SNAP-Ed grant to add nutrition education twice per month at each site & Senior Ambassador program. AIM will add a second route early 2019 and a 3rd route to West Marin later in 2019. Question – What changed in Marin City to make it possible to add a stop there at this time? Community effort. Lori connected AIM with Marin City Community Development Corporation.

Alexandra Danino, SF-Marin Food Bank – Elderly Simplified Application Process – expanded recertification period, allowed for medical deductions, CalFresh program manager identified 300 seniors receiving minimum allotment of \$15 per month – target population for outreach. Working on client experience to help with enrollment. First outreach letter went out, second letter will go out, then SFM Food Bank outreach team will start meeting with clients. Beginning summer 2019 – people in California who receive SSI will be eligible to enroll in CalFresh. 1100 people in Marin may be eligible. MFPC can set policy and systems agenda to make changes that will benefit seniors. As we build on this work we may come back to MFPC with specific policy recommendations or requests for support.

MFPC Equity Report: Identified that we wanted to reduce CalFresh churn (number of people who were falling off of CalFresh at renewal periods). Now Marin County has been identified as using best practices to reduce churn. 30% reduction in churn. Systems change in CalFresh renewals – allowing clients to reschedule interviews

2nd win: Reduction in childhood obesity 5th, 7th, 9th grade obesity has gone down & fitness going up.

Elaini Negussie, Intergenerational Garden – Cx3 group developed container garden program. HHS supported vision for Intergenerational Garden. Garden received funding. Currently focus on building the garden. There was a standstill, but now have bids for contracts to prepare garden area. Fruit tree Planting Foundation came to Marin City to plant trees in October: Supervisor Sears, Health officer attended. Marin City wants an edible landscape. MFPC has been supportive in the policy realm. Evaluation of work has been helpful. Looking ahead, there is opportunity for all participant organizations to share their evaluations.

CA Food Policy Council Update

- Annual policy update – statewide meeting
- CA Food & Farming Network event – on the table – could fold MFPC work into CFFN if there's interest.

Public Charge

Meg Davidson: On Oct. 10 Department of Homeland Security posted rule change: changed public charge ruling, meaning that individuals accessing a wider range of benefits such as CalFresh may jeopardize their ability to gain citizenship. Formerly, SSI/Calworks/public assistance for long-term were considered public charge, now it includes CalFresh, MediCal, Medicaid & some low-income housing.

Chilling effect, many who are not affected will be fearful: analysis: low end estimate 20,000 people would drop out of CalFresh, high end – 44,000 people would drop off of CalFresh.

What we have done & what we can do: Mandatory public comment period. We can submit a comment.

72,000 individual comments to date. Goal 100,000. Federal government needs to review every unique comment before moving forward with the rule. There are precedents for public comment period to over-turn a rule.

Protecting immigrant families coalition: protecting immigrant families.org website. Flyers, best practices.

December 10th is last day to submit comments. Request for action: MFPC comment opposing new public charge rule and encouragement for all members to additionally submit letters.

Taking Action: Resources:

<https://protectingimmigrantfamilies.org>

cfpa.net/subscribe

<https://aapiprogressiveaction.salsalabs.org/publiccharge-ahs/index.html>

Submit comments: <http://bit.ly/CommentCA>

There is a public charge working group in Marin County to help debunk myths. Op-Ed in Marin IJ today, November 20th.

MFPC gave thumbs up to submit comment opposing public charge rule change. Meg Davidson will draft letter that will be distributed time permitting prior to the Council for approval.

Julia: Presentation of the draft process for seeking a letter of support from the Marin Food Policy Council was distributed. Submit comments if you have thoughts about changes that may be needed to this process.

Invitation to apply to MFPC and to make a new member presentation.

Working groups: Older adults, Urban Agriculture, Farm to School: MFPC will have opportunity in 2019 to assess these topics and decide how to move forward with these or other topics.

Steve: Farm Bill update: \$1 trillion over 10 years, 2 versions, Senate version most bi-partisan, House Bill least bi-partisan. Meeting happening this week to try to reconcile bills. Need to find solution before year-end. If it expires, CalFresh & SNAP-ed will continue, many other programs will not be funded. Steve will provide info if there is an opportunity to comment.