

7/21/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call

Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Bonny White (Marin County Free Library), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Lauren Klein (UC Cooperative Extension), Linda Jackson (Aging Action Initiative), Maggie Gori (Catholic Charities), Meg Davidson (SF-Marin Food Bank), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson

Introductions & Share a Word (*Announcements at end of meeting*) – Liana Orlandi

Policy Platform Development – Julia Van Soelen Kim introduce breakout rooms

Goals: increase efficiency, consistency, document what we learn and get down collective knowledge in one central space.

Create problem statement around topic, and specific sub-issues in this topic.

Initial topics to develop outline of the Policy Platform (with equity lens and older adults lens woven throughout):

- CalFresh
- Climate Change
- Food Equity & Racial Justice
- Older Adults

Additional topics: (local) food supply chain, food availability, food access as upstream health prevention strategy. Suggestion to rename the first category: Healthy Food Access. Nutrition security?

Breakout room feedback:

- Positive: participatory, able to have a good conversation, not awkward or clunky as feared, increase the speed and amount we could accomplish.
- Negative: we didn't know the groups we were in or necessarily have the content knowledge, no screen share option in breakout group, didn't totally understand the prompt

Policy Updates – Steve Schwartz & All

- (*old business*) Updates & Action Items on Pandemic EBT & Online CalFresh (All)
 - P-EBT put \$365 in hands of parents of low income kids, but 1/3 of eligible people were going to have to enroll. We put together a letter to the superintendent of schools about the extended deadline from June 30 to July 15, as well as option to double benefits through market match. The superintendent responded positively within 24 hours = success.
 - With the governor's announcement on Friday of no in-person instruction in schools, it will be more important to have a new chunk of P-EBT dollars. Heads-up to look for a potential opportunity there.
- (*old business*) Update on Marin Sheriff's budget reduction (Reba Meigs)
 - Thanks to folks for being willing to make a quick decision in a short amount of time due to relevancy. \$1.7 million reduction in the budget to be reallocated to address racial inequality issues in the county. Process of making comments around the sheriff's budget yielded additional work:

- Stop sheriff working with ICE
 - Request to closing down part of county jail
 - Exploring with HHS at how we respond to mental health calls to 911, looking at alternatives
- (old business) Update on Senior Farmers Market Promotion Program (Steve Schwartz)
 - Needs more funding, only serving 37,000 seniors statewide. Lots of effort over the last 3 years to improve the way the 500 seniors in Marin are served. This year CA decided to do things differently, not work with local county and regional folks, instead work with CA association of food banks. No advocacy asks at the moment.
- Senior Nutrition state budget asks (Steve)
 - Expand Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program. Letter ready for sign on. Contract with Rebecca (lobbyist) is up at the end of the month - we may want to extend for a couple months. Grow the number of eligible seniors from 37,000 to 147,000. Any risk to asking for more money given that the program isn't being run how it previously has been run? Supposedly these changes are just for this season, and if money is awarded it can be put towards Area Agencies on Aging.
 - \$5 million to launch a new senior serving institutions with fresh food (similar to Farm to School) - including skilled nursing facilities and long-term care facilities.
 - Lots are owned by larger corporations that are embedded with complicated decision-making structures and existing contracts for food procurement. Lot of work to be done with who to reach out to. Lots of hurdles including ownership of facilities and bureaucracy. Needs some thinking through to make it actually viable. No foundational work that has been done with that group of entities. We don't know if there is any demand in that group - we need buy-in first.
 - We do have someone on our team who has been talking with folks regional to get a sense - and short list - of interested parties. If you know of others, please let Reba and Steve know.
 - Does it make sense to limit aid to facilities operated by non-profits? Carve out some of the money for technical assistance providers?
- Federal advocacy opportunities (Steve)
 - CARES Act (3 different), Heroes Act in the House right now. Would like to see MFPC take a stand to expand P-EBT funding to offer it again in the fall?
- (new) SB 729 (Portantino) (Liana Orlandi)
 - Create a statute codifying Gov executive order extending paid quarantine leave to food sector workers.
- (new) AB 685 (Reyes) (Liana Orlandi)
 - Requires 24-hour notice to employees should COVID exposure occur, also requires employers to report positive tests to Cal OSHA & Department of Public Health.
- Child feeding sign-on letter circulated by CA Food Policy Advocates - asking USDA to waive remaining waivers. Deadline is Friday, July 24th

Linking our Work to Draw Down Marin (Wendy Tobiasson)

- Food is a good way to connect people to climate change - it isn't separate.
- There is still a lot of recoverable food going to the landfill.
- It is really hard to make a living as a farmer.
- DrawDown was set up to ID projects already happening that we can try to do more of - expand on what is already working rather than trying to reinvent the wheel
- Pillars identified: Grow food locally, encourage people to shop locally, and compost waste
- Local Food and Food Waste committee has identified 6 ideas:
 - Ag community events to do an online curbside pick-up
 - Healthy food videos made by students - contact Lori Davis with Sanzuma if interested

- AIM Center for Food and Agriculture endorsed by DrawDown committee
- Update on ExtraFood.org work and projects
- Organic disposal discussion - new requirements around reducing food waste are coming into effect... how to coordinate with ZeroWaste Marin to get more green material composted rather than head to the landfill
- More resilient food system concept - not clear enough yet on an ask. How can we bring groups together to talk about climate change? Add a sentence in letters of support on how work supports climate change, where appropriate?
- Are there opportunities for collaboration or approaches with MFPC and DrawDown Marin? Set up a focused activity to define how to create a more resilient food system in the county?

Food Justice as Social Justice (Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim) - *moved to August MFPC meeting*

- Determine next steps for Black Lives Matter Statement
- Share any anti-racism policy work locally

Announcements

- To get AAI's newsletter, email Sami at support@agingactioninitiative.org to be added to the list. Monday 2pm sessions on issues affecting older adults - food has been identified as a topic of interest.
- Food Bank Drive Thru Food Distribution: Northgate Mall. Please spread the word! Wednesdays 11:00-2:00pm -Weekly registration required. Registration opens at 10am on the preceding Thursday: <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/drive-thru-registration/>. No internet access? Call 628-272-8430.
- Webinar: July 23 12-1pm, Healthy Food Access Policies and Prioritizing Equity Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis https://www.vermontlaw.edu/news-and-events/event/hot-topics-2020-healthy-food-access-policies-and-prioritizing-equity-amidst?utm_source=Healthy+Food+Policy+Project&utm_campaign=e2bb0e409b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_12_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_19c261563e-e2bb0e409b-360895377.
- UC ANR 2020 Food Systems Resiliency Spotlight Webinar Series, including Webinar #2 - California Food Systems: Partnerships and Resources on July 28th from 10-11 am with Andy Naja-Riese with AIM. Get more information and register online here: <https://ucanr.edu/survey/survey.cfm?surveynumber=30590>.
- Move meetings to avoid zoom exhaustion?

Virtual meeting closed at 4:40 p.m.

Next virtual meeting scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m.