

## **8/18/20 – MFPC Meeting Notes ZOOM conference call**

*Attendees: Liana Orlandi (Agricultural Institute of Marin), Bonnie Nielsen (UC Cooperative Extension), Cathryn Couch (CERES Community Project), Felicia Chavez (Systems Thinking Marin), Hannah Appel (Ceres Community Project), Julia Van Soelen Kim (UC Cooperative Extension), Heather Gilardi (Innovative Health Solutions), Juliette Martinez (American Heart Association), Marchon Tatmon (SF-Marin Food Bank), Molly Maguire (Bolin Community Center Kitchen), Paula Freeman (Covia), Poco Giacommini (San Geronimo Community Center), Reba Meigs (Innovative Health Solutions), Reilly Briggs (CERES Community Project), Ryan Thayer (Marin County HHS), Steve Schwartz (Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative), Wendy Tobiasson (citizen)*

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

**Policy Platform Development** - Julia Van Soelen Kim introduce breakout rooms, facilitators take notes online [here](#):

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

Revisit problem statement and buckets:

- CalFresh (Reba)
- Climate Change (Julia)
- Food Equity & Racial Justice (Liana)
- Older Adults & Farm to Institution (Steve)

Tasks within groups:

- 1) Introductions (name, organization, role)
- 2) Re-visit and define the problem statement
- 3) Identify the key sub-issues that fall within the bucket.
- 4) Identify specific equity impacts on children, older adults, and BIPOC.

What is a policy platform, and what is a goal?

- Goal: collectively have a living document we have built together than inventories the topical areas that we have shared expertise in. If something is added to our policy platform, this enables our SC to weigh in and move more quickly rather than wait until the next monthly meeting. As we continue learning we can add to this living document. As members come and go, it gives us an opportunity to know that we don't lose that knowledge when someone needs to step away, can capture the knowledge in the policy platform.

**Policy Updates - Steve Schwartz & All**

- [AB 826 \(Santiago\) Food Assistance](#) (Marchon Tatmon) -- vital piece of legislation especially during this pandemic. Establishes a one-time emergency food assistance fund for Californians affected by COVID. It reaches everyone; does not depend on immigration status. Not federal govt assistance. Would be like a CA issued EBT card, separate from CalFresh. It passed through the Senate Human Services committee and is heading to the Appropriations committee now. SF-Marin Food Bank is accepting letters of support, has a template, Marchon will email the letter with instructions. Letter needs to be sent out by the end of business day tomorrow (Wednesday 8/19).
- [CA Master Plan on Aging letter on nutrition funding](#) (Cathryn Couch) -- over a year ago state agencies were charged to develop a Master Plan on Aging, there have been a series of

stakeholder meetings working on these recommendations. Distressed at lack of mention of food and nutrition in the conversation, no linking with health outcomes, quality of life, etc. No board statement that food security is a human right and underlies many other components of the recommendations. Drafted 4 overarching principles addressing food, nutrition security, and health, getting ready to send to the Director of Aging, to submit to the Master Plan. This is not legislation, but it is laying the foundation for how we approach policy opportunities going forward; this is the document that lays the groundwork for many other programs within CA and Marin County. Trying to roll something out in October. Asking partners and collaborators to sign on. If your individual organization would like to sign on, please email Reilly Briggs at [rbriggs@ceresproject.org](mailto:rbriggs@ceresproject.org) with your name, title, organization, and logo by COB Thursday 8/20. MFPC has a commitment to focusing on the needs of older adults, similar to many of our member organizations. Perhaps MFPC should do something in addition to this letter to make sure all programs, needs, and policy solutions are called out. Language in the letter allows space for other programs perhaps not mentioned yet. Comment that we may want to do an additional letter talking about other programs with specific asks.

**\*\*Vote to sign on to letter: APPROVED\*\***

- State funding for senior nutrition initiatives update (Steve Schwartz) <http://interfaithfood.org/static/media/uploads/finalseniornutritionletter8-7-2020.pdf> -- we've hired an advocate (lobbyist in Sacramento), letter went out, we have some 10 statewide groups signed on and it really started with the MFPC and our member orgs - total 55 groups, which builds momentum. Legislature will be in session a couple more weeks, thinking might be a smaller budget (impacted by CARES Act stalled currently in DC). Meeting with Sec of Agriculture and Albert Straus tomorrow, speaking with other reps - working on it from many angles. Still time for you and others to sign on - this is a long game. Question to Steve from Cathryn if he has asked CAFF and CCOF to sign on to this? (CAFF asked, no commitment yet. CCOF, not asked directly.)
- Pandemic EBT -- SF-Marin Food Bank working on advocating for another issue of PEBT in 4 areas: adjusting definition of school closures, establish standard benefit levels for modified school schedules, granting states discretion to establish eligibility and benefits for children in specified regions, and providing states options to address Unmet Need of Child care-eligible children. Successful thus far: approx. 90% of eligible applied for the current round of PEBT state-wide!
- Other CFFN Updates: Farm to school, and farm worker support -- state approved \$10 million for Farm to School funding (we had signed on this). Being asked for right now: support for bills supporting farmworkers in this COVID moment - contact Steve Schwartz if your organization is interested, Steve to share info with MFPC. Steve to communicate MFPC support directly with CFFN.

#### **Food Justice as Social Justice** - Liana Orlandi & Julia Van Soelen Kim

- Determine next steps for Black Lives Matter Statement: *tabled for next month*  
If you would like to help with this work and writing public comments, please reach out to Liana or any Steering Committee members.
- Share any anti-racism policy work locally: *none now, to remain a standing agenda topic*

#### **Virtual meeting closed at 4:35 p.m.**

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