

Ottawa County Food Policy Council Subcommittee #2 Meeting Minutes

Chair: Amy Sheele	Meeting Date: 6/10/15
Priority: II. Improve food quality in the non-profit food distribution system	
Present: Amy Sheele, Katie Auwers, Deb Ralya, Kara Painter	

Goal: #3 Improve the quality of food donations on food trucks and at food pantries.

Action Step	Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
<p>a. Educate recipients about why and how to prepare healthy food.</p> <p>Action Step Target Completion Date: Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete</p>	<p>Amy discussed the Healthy Food Pantry Policy that several pantries across Ottawa County are looking into (His Harvest Stand, Community Action House, Christian Fellowship Assembly, Heights of Hope, Love INC Allendale and Feeding America West Michigan).</p>
<p>b. Identify gaps in donations and educate donors to increase targeted donations from non-food producers (i.e. churches).</p> <p>Action Step Target Completion Date: Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete</p>	<p>Planning a county-wide Give Fest for the first two weeks of August. The group will email Amy with a list of possible places to approach. Amy will also look into the top employers in Ottawa County as targets. Katie may be able to approach some stores they have relationships with. Recipient pantries will be those that have adopted the healthy pantry policy – as a way to kick start their policies.</p>
<p>c. Increase the amount of food coming from local farmers.</p> <p>Action Step Target Completion Date: Ongoing <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete</p>	<p>Planning to do the farmer’s market promotion program. Will have a table in GH (Wednesdays) and SL (Thursdays) on the following dates: June 24 (Kara and Deb), July 29 (Kara and Amy), July 30 (Katie), August 26 (need volunteers), August 27 (Amy and Lisa). If you can help on July 30 or August 26, please let Amy know. Amy will order bright OCFPC bags to hand out as a thank you to anyone that purchases produce at the market for pantry donation. Amy will also create a flyer for distribution and information at the market.</p>

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Goal: #4 Change/increase food storage facilities at food pantries

Action Step	Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
a. Survey pantries regarding current food storage to determine need(s). Action Step Target Completion Date: May 2015 X <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	-Action item completed (survey sent in February by Jane Hart)

Goal: #5 Implement the Plant a Row program in Ottawa County.

Action Step	Strategies/Person Responsible/Date Strategy to be completed
a. Implement the Plant a Row program's best practices. Action Step Target Completion Date: September 2015 <input type="checkbox"/> Check box when complete	Plant a Row campaign has 9 official registrations, but we heard of several more participants who did not take the pledge. Amy will email official participants as well as pantries at the end of the growing season to track our impact. Marinus recruited his daughter to help promote Plant a Row recently at a farm/tractor store in Jenison. She handed out a large stack of promotional flyers!

-Future meeting dates: July 8, August 12, September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9 from 11:30-12:30 PM at Ottawa County Department of Public Health.

**At this meeting, the group did review the Michigan Voices for Good Food Policy handouts from the last OCFPC meeting. The group agreed that we may be able to partner on advocating for healthier commodity distribution and streamlining that process a bit (there is a lot of confusion, even among agencies). Would also like to look into Farm to Table/Farm to School initiatives as a state as well.