



# Ottawa County Food Policy Council

## *Meeting Minutes*

### February 2, 2017

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**Present:** Sarah Suydam, Burch Partners; Mary Sherman; Lauren Grevel, Grand Haven Area Community Foundation; Christen Korstange, DHHS; Sean Little, Feeding America West Michigan; Amy Sheele, OCDPH; Katie Auwers, Feeding America West Michigan; Gordie Moeller, Food Security Advocate; Beth Eggleston, Holland Hospital Center For Good Health; Christi Demitz, MSU Extension; Patrick Cisler, Community SPOKE/LNA; Amy Flores, Senior Resources; Melanie Weaver, Salvation Army-Holland; Sarah Brody, Great Start Parent Coalition; Lindsay Sichta, Great Start Collaborative; Barry Andersen, MRC/HCG; Garrett Ziegler, MSU Extension; Marius DeBruine, Ottawa County Resident; Jay Riggs, WPF; Doug Bazuin, Herman Miller; Sara Cozolino, Holland Farmers Market; Ken Freestone, Green Michigan; Melissa Roessing, Community Action House/Eighth Day Farm; Ann Schutt, Community Member; Tracy Plummer, United Way; Amanda Telgenhof, United Way; Sandy Boven, OCDPH; Lyn Raymond, United Way; Lisa Uganski, OCDPH

#### **I. Introductions**

#### **II. Subcommittee Updates**

##### A. Local Foods – Garrett

- i. CSA to pantries – Currently working with 8<sup>th</sup> Street Farms and Blackbird Farms to provide 15 full/30 half shares to Harvest Stand Ministries in Zeeland and Christian Fellowship Assembly in Allendale, respectively.
- ii. U-Pick Farms – recruiting farms to allow customers to U-pick and donate specific produce to pantries. Pantries will need to pick up that day.
- iii. Reviewing other county's policies on purchasing local to see if OCFPC could promote something similar.
- iv. MSUE is working on a cooking curriculum that will be implemented with CSA programs at worksites.
- v. Recruiting subcommittee members – meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 1-2:30p.m. at the Holland health department

##### B. Hunger – Jay

- i. Recruiting for new co-chair-Kara took new position in Ann Arbor
- ii. Burch Partners was selected to develop marketing campaign. Great fit with what we are doing. Experience with the downtown market in Grand Rapids. Help FPC connect to businesses. Help with sustainability – key component will be to educate/train access points (e.g. care coordinators, churches, spectrum on food resources and the FPC.

iii. Created a food resource list in English/Spanish., due to requests from clients and agencies for a paper version. Will be distributed county wide. Lisa U sent it out electronically. Contact Lisa if you need hard copies.

C. Healthy Eating – Lisa U. for Stephanie

i. Survey sent out to food pantries to update resource list and to identify barriers and gaps the FPC can help address.

ii. Collaborating with Local Food committee on cooking CSA project targeting food pantry clients and businesses with CSAs.

iii. Focusing on our goal of increasing use of vegetable gardens, currently we are collecting resources and creating a plan for dissemination ahead of growing season.

### **III. Marketing campaign – Burch Partners**

A. Staff from Burch Partners will be attending each sub-committee meeting to learn about the initiatives being implemented

B. Ideas from the coalition included

- Visual aids to identify FPC as a sponsor for events (e.g. banner)
- Reinforce the collaborative efforts of over 35 non-profits involved with the FPC
- Tell the community what's in it for them. What are the benefits
- The need to toot our own horn – highlight success stories
- Network in other networks
- Identify Gaps in resources
- Branding of all the small initiatives to identify with FPC as a whole
- Link to other program websites – highlight the partnerships
- How do we get people to “desire” to be linked with or to become part of the FPC
- Educational piece – e.g. issue of hunger and college students, transportation, food inadequacy/needs looks different in Grand Rapids compared to Holland
- Get input from the advisory group

### **IV. Meet Up and Eat Up – Amy**

A. MUEU food sites for 2017

i. Grand Haven: River Haven Mobile Park, 5 days a week from 12-1. Need volunteers; Loutit Library (Location will be at Central Park-Grand Haven), 2x week. Need volunteers; Grand Haven Salvation Army, 5 days a week

ii. Coopersville : Need Volunteers

v. Hudsonville : churches/Love Inc

vi. Holland: Holland West Mobile Home, Leisure Estates, Pine Acres/Migrant Camp

vii. Allendale: may have a site in 2018

B. Activities for meal sites

i. Contact businesses to see about volunteering during lunch hour. Sustainability

ii. Give a Book A Home

iii. FPC purchased activity supplies (bubbles, kick balls)

iv. Contact Holland Art Council - grant for art supplies

### **V. Ottawa Housing Next presentation - Lyn Raymond**

(see attached)

## **VI. Gleaning Program Survey**

### **A. Evaluation – GH Farmers Market**

- i. GH Farmers Market – On Saturdays, nonprofit agencies volunteered to pick up produce donated by farmers at the end of the day and distribute at food pantries and meals sites.
- ii. GVSU students evaluated the program/studied impact at Community Action Agency: Findings showed a significant increase in vegetable intake after program initiation. In addition, 44% reported a decrease in blood pressure, and 32% were more satisfied with the foods provided after initiation of the gleaning program. A low percentage of participants were using other food resource programs, which indicates that client educations regarding available food resources is needed.

## **V. OCFPC Member Survey**

A. Survey completed annually. Lisa sent out the full results via email. Most areas are trending in the right direction or remaining the same.

B. The one area that has not had much improvement is “the OCFPC adequately represents the ethnic diversity of the county”. This is an issue we have tried to address for the past few years without much success. The Advisory Board suggested that we look within our own OCFPC members agencies for staff that may be may be willing to represent various ethnicities on the OCFPC. Please contact Lisa if you know someone interested in doing this.

## **VII. Subcommittee Funding**

A. County has funds for FPC activities that support the strategic plan- Start date April through September 30, 2017

B. Lisa shared the RFP that has been developed for subcommittees to apply for funds from \$500-\$1,000 (see attached). One proposal can be submitted per subcommittee. Proposals are due March 9.

C. Advisory Board will review proposals and will let subcommittee chairs know by March 24.

## **VIII. Coordinator Update**

A. MI Health Endowment Regranting Initiative Grant is moving forward.

i. Ottawa County Planning and Program Improvement (PPI) was chosen to evaluate the initiatives. PPI will conduct the evaluation for free leaving some funds available from the grant.

B. Evaluation from cooking supplies distribution

- i. Surveys sent out to the #250 people receiving cooking supplies/54% response rate.
- ii. 38% tried the recipes; 98% use the cooking supplies; pre-survey-respondents ate 2.4 cups of f/v, per day, post survey-respondents reported 2.8 cups; 52% felt they were eating healthier
- iii. If this initiative is repeated in 2017, the decision was made to purchase cooking supplies only (no cookbook) and just include a few basic recipes with the supplies.

C. Pathways to Better Health

i. A county-wide program will kick off next week utilizing Community Health Workers. The program assists people in accessing community services, to improve health outcomes and to reduce ED visits and unnecessary hospitalizations. There is no fee for qualifying individuals.

ii. Eligibility:

- 18 years or older
- Live in Ottawa County
- Enrolled in or eligible for Medicaid/Medicare
- Have two or more chronic disease have challenges overcoming barriers to managing health conditions

iii. Community collaboration –Pathways is a collaborative effort between hospitals, health care and human service agencies in Ottawa County.

iv. Taking referrals: Anyone can make a referral by contacting CareHub at (866) 291-8691, fax (517)394-4549 or go to [www.miOttawa.org/OPBH](http://www.miOttawa.org/OPBH)

## **IX. Member Updates**

A. Great Start-Help Me Grow is a program targeting prenatal – age 5. Offering parenting information preschool assessment home visits, and tuition assistance

B. Food Waste Subgroup– Working with health department food staff to develop a resource list and information on share tables for school food service staff. Food inspectors will share this information with school food service staff during routine inspections. Hopefully this will encourage more schools to implement share tables with the hope of reducing food waste.

**Next OCFPC Quarterly Meeting: May 4, 1:00p.m. – 3:00p.m.  
Fillmore Administration Building**